

## Loutolim, Borim farmers inspect proposed bridge site to safeguard their livelihood

**Fear even if the new Borim Bridge passes over the fields on stilts, it would still adversely affect the khazan lands; show their lawyer the fields filled with debris during the construction of the missing link that rendered a portion of khazan fields uncultivable**

Team Herald

**MARGAO:** In a bid to safeguard their livelihood and protect the region's ecological heritage, farmers from Loutolim and Borim conducted an on-site inspection of the proposed area for the new Borim Bridge and approach roads on Sunday, and expressed apprehension that even if the bridge passes over the fields on stilts, it would still adversely affect the khazan lands.

Accompanied by their lawyer, Adv Ronita Bhattacharya, who has filed a petition on their behalf, along with the farmers of Borim, with the National Green Tribunal (NGT), the farmers expressed grave concerns over the potential impact of the project on their precious and vast khazan fields (saline flat lands used for agriculture) and the local fishermen community.

During the inspection, the farmers showed the advocate the khazan fields where the proposed high



Adv Ronita Bhattacharya with the farmers of Borim and Loutolim during their visit to the khazan fields where the proposed high level Borim Bridge is to be constructed



Debris lying in the fields adjoining the 'missing link road' in Loutolim

### NEW BORIM BRIDGE IMBROGLIO

level Borim Bridge and approach road is proposed to be constructed.

Later on, to demonstrate a potential future, the farmers drew attention to another section of their khazan fields, which, although not part of the proposed alignment for the Borim bridge, was adversely affected during the earlier construction of the missing link road in Loutolim. Even after the com-

pletion of the link road, debris from that construction work continues to litter these fields, rendering portions of the khazan lands uncultivable. The farmers expressed grave apprehensions that similar devastation would befall their remaining khazan fields once the new Borim Bridge construction commences.

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### APPREHENSIONS ABOUT FUTURE DEVASTATION

During the inspection, the farmers showed the advocate the khazan fields where the proposed high level Borim Bridge and approach road are proposed to be constructed

They drew her attention to another section of their khazan fields, which, although not part of the proposed alignment for the Borim bridge, was adversely affected during the earlier construction of

the missing link road in Loutolim

Even after the completion of the link road, debris from that construction work continues to litter these fields, rendering portions of the khazan lands uncultivable

Express grave apprehensions that similar devastation would befall their remaining khazan fields once the construction of the new bridge commences

## DANGEROUS COMMUTE



Villagers use a temporary bamboo bridge to cross a river after the RCC bridge over it washed away in flood waters, at Subankhata village in Baksa district, Assam, on Sunday

## Limbs found at Mandur are of stillborn foetus, not of an infant: DGP

### Agasaim Police register offence against an unknown accused under Section 318 of IPC

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** Director General of Police (DGP) Jaspal Singh on Sunday disclosed that the limbs found at Mandur are of stillborn foetus which was disposed of improperly and not of an infant as has been quoted by the media.

Taking to microblogging site 'X' (formerly Twitter), the DGP said, "It was a case of still born fetus and not an infant as quoted. Since the

birth was concealed and it was improperly disposed of, a case under Section 318 IPC stands registered."

Meanwhile, Agasaim Police have registered an offence against an unknown accused person for concealing the birth of an unknown infant baby and secretly disposing of the body.

As per the police, information was received at around 8 pm, on June 15, 2024, that in Mandur-Dongri locality, near the

sluice gate, limbs of newborn were found, which were prima facie bitten by animals.

Therefore, an offence of concealing the birth of an unknown infant baby by secretly disposing of the body has been made out and in this connection an offence under Section 318 of IPC has been registered, police said.

LPSI Nehanda Tavares of Agasaim Police Station is conducting further investigation, the police added.

## Guv, CM greet Goans on Eid al-Adha

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** Governor, P S Sreedharan Pillai and Chief Minister Pramod Sawant have extended their greetings to the people of Goa on the festive occasion of Eid al-Adha.

In his message, the Governor said, "I extend my greetings and best wishes to all the people of Goa, especially the Muslim brethren. The sacred festival of Eid al-Adha is celebrated by millions of Muslims across the length and breadth of India. It reminds us of the values of sacrifice, compassion and brotherhood, which are essential in building a peaceful and inclusive world that we all aspire for."

"Goa has inherited a rich and glorious legacy of peace and communal harmony. We should endeavour to further enrich this unique tradition," he said.

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## Officials to meet South Collector today to keep a tab on Margao's traffic congestion

The meeting is a response to O Herald's campaign 'Throttled by Traffic', which highlighted traffic congestion in the town during school hours; Margao Traffic Cell intends to address the issue and find solutions

Team Herald

**MARGAO:** Taking cognisance of O Herald's campaign 'Throttled by Traffic' highlighting the traffic congestion witnessed during school hours in the State's commercial capital of Margao, the traffic police



including a senior traffic officer are likely to meet South Goa Collector Asvin Chandru, on Monday, June 17, to discuss and put in place mechanism to keep a check on the growing traffic congestion in the town. Margao traffic cell sources



Residents complained no policeman deputed to control the traffic on the narrow Fatima Convent High School road; complain that traffic congestion near the school is so bad that vehicles are parked on both sides of the road

es stated that senior police officers and other staff will meet the South Goa Collector on June 17. Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Rahul Gupta has directed South Goa DySP (Traffic) Prabodh Shirvoikar to meet South Goa Collector with regards to the traffic congestion connection with

### MEET AIMS TO ALLEVIATE TRAFFIC CONGESTION

Margao Traffic Cell sources stated that senior police officers and other staff will meet the South Goa Collector on June 17, on the traffic congestion issue

SP (Traffic) Rahul Gupta has directed the DySP (Traffic) South Goa Prabodh Shirvoikar to meet the Collector

Sources said that the Traffic Cell officers will meet the Collector with a suggestion to convene a meeting of principals of the

schools of Margao and PTA officials to discuss the issue in detail

The Traffic Cell intends to solve the major issue of traffic congestion at this meeting

The venue and the date for the above meeting will be fixed as per the requirement, sources said

There are five schools in the heart of Margao besides two higher secondary schools and two colleges, contributing to the traffic volume

There are metrics of vehicular flow. During a certain peak hour, if more vehicles enter a narrow stretch, the average speed would come down, causing congestion. The issue is there should be school buses rather than every parent picking and dropping his/her ward

—Jaspal Singh, Goa DGP, IPS, on 'X'

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## No need to teach about riots in schools: NCERT chief

### Saklani rejects accusations of saffronisation of school curriculum

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** Rejecting accusations of saffronisation of school curriculum, NCERT's director has said that references to Gujarat riots and Babri masjid demolition were modified in school textbooks because teaching about riots 'can create violent and depressed citizens'.

In an interaction with PTI editors at the agency's headquarters here on Saturday, National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) director Dinesh Prasad Saklani said the tweaks in textbooks are part of annual revision and should not be a subject of hue and cry.

Asked about references to Gujarat riots or Babri masjid demolition being tweaked in NCERT textbooks, Saklani said, "Why should we teach about riots in school textbooks? We want to create positive citizens not violent and depressed individuals."

"Should we teach our students in a manner that they become offensive, create hatred in society or become victim of hatred? Is that education's purpose? Should we teach about riots to such young children ... when they grow up, they can learn about it but why school textbooks. Let them understand what happened and why it happened when they grow up. The hue and cry about the changes is irrelevant," he said.

The comments by Saklani come at a time when new textbooks have hit the market with several deletions and changes. The revised Class 12 political science textbook does not mention the Babri masjid but refers to it as a 'three-domed structure'. It has pruned the Ayodhya section from four to two pages and deleted details from the earlier version.

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## Of 7,869 turtle eggs laid at Morjim, 2,095 go 'stolen'

Residents demand action from Forest Dept under the Wild Life Protection Act 1972; lament people managed to steal the eggs despite turtle guards' presence

AUGUSTO RODRIGUES

**MORJIM:** Despite 446 Olive Ridley turtles coming on shore from Galgibaga in South Goa to Morjim in North Goa to lay 24,564 eggs - red flags are being raised in the figures released by turtle guards in Morjim.

### TOTAL TURTLE

In a shocking revelation at the Morjim nesting site it has come to light that 7,869 eggs were laid, 5,435 hatchlings released, 334 eggs dead and 2,095 were reported to have been stolen. Of the 446, 230 turtles visited Galgibaga and 216 turtles came to Morjim.

"That means poaching has been allowed and it is a crime. It is sad that despite the turtle guards being there, people managed to steal the eggs. This is a crime



Forest Department enclosure for eggs re-nested in Morjim

Book maintained by turtle guards in Morjim indicating the number of stolen eggs

NO	DATE	TIME	PLACE	NO OF EGGS	NO OF HATCHLINGS	NO OF DEAD EGGS	NO OF STOLEN EGGS
1	12/12/24	10:00 AM	MORJIM	10	10	0	0
2	12/12/24	11:00 AM	MORJIM	15	15	0	0
3	12/12/24	12:00 PM	MORJIM	20	20	0	0
4	12/12/24	1:00 PM	MORJIM	25	25	0	0
5	12/12/24	2:00 PM	MORJIM	30	30	0	0
6	12/12/24	3:00 PM	MORJIM	35	35	0	0
7	12/12/24	4:00 PM	MORJIM	40	40	0	0
8	12/12/24	5:00 PM	MORJIM	45	45	0	0
9	12/12/24	6:00 PM	MORJIM	50	50	0	0
10	12/12/24	7:00 PM	MORJIM	55	55	0	0
11	12/12/24	8:00 PM	MORJIM	60	60	0	0
12	12/12/24	9:00 PM	MORJIM	65	65	0	0
13	12/12/24	10:00 PM	MORJIM	70	70	0	0
14	12/12/24	11:00 PM	MORJIM	75	75	0	0
15	12/12/24	12:00 AM	MORJIM	80	80	0	0
16	12/12/24	1:00 AM	MORJIM	85	85	0	0
17	12/12/24	2:00 AM	MORJIM	90	90	0	0
18	12/12/24	3:00 AM	MORJIM	95	95	0	0
19	12/12/24	4:00 AM	MORJIM	100	100	0	0
20	12/12/24	5:00 AM	MORJIM	105	105	0	0

Book maintained by turtle guards in Morjim indicating the number of stolen eggs

under the Wild Life Protection Act 1972 and I hope the Forest Department will initiate action," former director, Morjim Sea Turtle Trust.

Under the Wild Life Protection Act, sea turtles are classified as "Schedule I" species, which means they are accorded the highest level of protection. The Act strictly prohibits the hunting, poaching,

trade, or any other form of exploitation of these animals.

The figures from the Galgibaga turtle nesting site released by the Forest Department indicate that 22,852 eggs were nested and 13,185 hatchlings were released with 7,053 eggs being hatched and 1,115 dead.

The story is different at the Morjim nesting site with 7,869

eggs being laid; 5,435 hatchlings released; 334 eggs dead and 2,095 stolen.

"I am not surprised. If tourists were allowed to drive right up to the nesting site in their cars and clubs on the beach allowed to blast music right through the night with no one bothering, this is bound to happen and even more can be expected," snarled Albert Fernandes,

resident of Morjim. "The government now, wants to start a parking space near the turtle nesting site. They are verbally ordering us to demolish our traditional structures to raze sand dunes and build a parking space against the wishes of locals," Fernandes added.

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### SHOCKING FIGURES

446 Olive Ridley turtles came on shore from Galgibaga in South Goa to Morjim in North Goa to lay 24,564 eggs

Of these, 230 turtles visited Galgibaga and 216 came to Morjim

Forest Dept figures from the

Galgibaga turtle nesting site indicate that 22,852 eggs laid, 13,185 hatchlings released, 7,053 eggs hatched and 1,115 dead

At Morjim nesting site, 7,869 eggs were laid; 5,435 hatchlings released; 334 eggs dead and 2,095 stolen

That means poaching has been allowed and it is a crime. It is sad that despite the turtle guards being there, people managed to steal the eggs. This is a crime under the Wild Life Protection Act 1972 and I hope the Forest Department will initiate action

—Sarita Fernandes, former director, Morjim Sea Turtle Trust

I am not surprised. If tourists were allowed to drive right up to the nesting site in their cars and clubs on the beach allowed to blast music right through the night with no one bothering, this is bound to happen and even more can be expected

—Albert Fernandes, Morjim resident

GOA, MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2024

## A JOURNEY INTO THE HEART OF GOA

In our continuous efforts to put people at the center of our journalism, we bring to you a weekly collection of stories, specially curated from our ground-level reportage which celebrates the joys, and shares the sorrows of people in their grassroots. These are, at heart, very simple stories, simply told. Interesting initiatives, out-of-the-box thinking, dogged persistence on any issue, and the struggles of people over the years as they try and put their disrupted lives back together are not just news stories.

Each is a document from the wards and vaddos of Goa, a postcard, a letter, a share. This collection is brought to you from O Heraldo's team of reporters who have been given one simple mandate - go out, travel, and speak to people about their lives.

From Wards and Vaddos is as much your project as O Heraldo's and we welcome all of you on this journey into the heart of Goa.

Pls email editor@herald-go.com or reach us on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

# Vincent Condillac, the farmer pioneering solar power in Aldona

ERWIN FONSECA

ALDONA: After 15 years of working in Bahrain, Vincent Condillac decided one day that it was time to return to his roots. "We had a good family background and inherited a rich legacy from our ancestors. Many of our relatives are well-known, and our ancestors were highly regarded in society. I moved to Bahrain soon after I completed my education but after 15 years abroad, I decided to come down and look after our family properties as my parents were also getting old," Vincent explains.

Though he had a good vision for his ancestral legacy, it was not all smooth sailing. "After clearing all legal tangles when the property where I am staying now actually became mine, it was hard work to build everything from scratch," says Vincent. He recalls that the house was in shambles when he took over, and a vast land in front of his house was lying barren and threatened by encroachment. "With the support of my wife Maria and daughter Lara, I did up the house, brick-by-brick, and preserved all old things as I have a penchant for them. On the other side, I began cultivating the land and growing vegetables organically. Thereafter, I began raising hens, ducks, and fish, and adopting rescued stray dogs as I have a great liking for nature."

**“First and foremost, I managed to get a subsidy for my solar installation. Secondly, now the government pays me whenever excess power is supplied to the grid from my solar installation. This aligns with my aim of promoting green and clean energy. We need to understand that solar energy can be tapped and used for our benefit, reducing our dependency on conventional electricity”**  
Vincent Condillac

Putting all these things in place consumed a lot of time, energy, patience, and money. "We required a lot of wood for our house which we bought at a very costly rate. Since we were determined to do organic farming, we went everywhere possible to get organic manure for our farm," he recalls. Finally, when his house and farm saw the light of day, he was a relieved man. With the able assistance of his daughter, he created a mark for himself by being among the rare farmers growing food grains organically. "About 12-15 years back, when I

started farming, organic farming was the norm. There have been instances where we have grown almost 30 different types of vegetables after treating the soil well, and there would be a rush to buy our vegetables," Vincent, who is now in his late seventies, shares.

However, everything changed two years ago when porcupines started invading and destroying the crops. Despite repeated complaints to the Forest Department, no action was taken, and his fields were overrun with destructive porcupines. "When I started farming about 13 years back, things looked quite bright for me. I took up farming in a professional manner through drip irrigation to minimise water usage. Since I had a big farm, I couldn't waste time watering it every day. Once I hired labourers, it became easy to get work done. But for the last two years, farming has been a non-lucrative business as porcupines come and feed on all my vegetables. The Forest Department has prohibited me from even trapping them. I just can't understand the mentality and attitude of this government towards farmers. It's just ridiculous. We are not killing porcupines, just trapping them, and even that, we are not allowed to do. So should we abandon farming? The Forest Minister and Agriculture Minister must reply to this," he vents.

Unable to earn from such a big farm, Vincent was puzzled about how to generate income until a new opportunity presented itself. "Nothing was planned. Everything just happened. One day, a lady and her daughter visited my farm, and during our discussion, I discovered that her husband, Anant Kochar, was into the solar energy field. I was curious about it and assured her I would get back to him. I began consulting my family and well-wishers about the idea of installing solar panels. All were quite supportive, and then it was just the word 'go' for me," he recalls.

Studying all aspects of solar lighting, Vincent, with the help of Kochar, installed 30 solar panels on his rooftop at a cost of Rs four lakh and switched his entire installation to solar. "If I have to switch over to solar, I thought I should

For many, age is just a number, and growing older doesn't deter their spirit from achieving their goals. They believe that, regardless of age, their minds are still young and ready to embark on new ideas and innovations. One such person who embodies this ideology is Vincent Condillac from Quitla, Aldona. Despite reaching a ripe old age, Vincent feels that there is no age bar for creativity and technology

switch over the entire installation. With Kochar's help, I managed to do it. Now power failure is a thing of the past for me, and sometimes, I even get a zero bill." As the 30 panels generate a high electricity output of 10KW, Vincent got his solar panels connected to the power grid. Whenever there is excess power generated, it feeds the grid, resulting in the government buying power from Vincent and paying him for it.

With this giant step, Vincent feels satisfied as he has created a mark for others to follow, demonstrating that it is easy to generate clean and green energy. He hopes others will follow suit.

## Even after six decades as a dhobi, Juliana D'Costa refuses to hang up her clothesline

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ALDONA: At 77 years old, Juliana D'Costa from Cottorbat-Soddo in Aldona remains dedicated to her lifelong profession as a dhobi. She began this work at the tender age of 10, following in the footsteps of her mother, who herself practiced the trade for over 70 years. Despite her age, Juliana continues to work diligently, determined to carry on the tradition for as long as she is able.

Juliana recalls her early days in the profession, which started while she was still in school. After completing her studies up to the 5th standard, she left school to fully commit to the family business. "My mother and I would go house-to-house, collecting clothes, making bundles, and delivering them on foot, carrying the loads on our heads," she recalls, misty-eyed. The absence of vehicles made the work physically demanding, yet they persevered.

In those days, they received a substantial number of clothes from a nearby convent, boys boarding school, and local residents. Juliana describes the meticulous process they followed: separating clothes for washing, drying, ironing, and packing for delivery. They used soaps that were chemical-free and effective in cleaning, unlike the modern products that are often harsh and cause allergies.

Juliana reminisces about the simplicity and hard work of hand-washing clothes. Each garment was soaped, washed, dried, and ironed by hand, a labour-intensive process that she believes preserved the quality of the clothes better than modern washing machines. She fondly remembers using an iron heated by burning coconut shells, a treasured possession, akin to a family heirloom, she still holds on to.

The work, though challenging, was rewarding. Juliana's services were highly valued by her customers, who appreciated the dedication and quality she provided. Despite the rise of modern conveniences and changes in society, she remains committed to her work, believing it to be more fulfilling than many modern office jobs. "I used to launder 500 to 600 garments a week, and make multi-

**“While I cannot force my children to follow my footsteps and become dhobis, I hope they will understand the importance of my work and the role it played in their family's history. I may not have as much energy now, but I have no plans to retire and sit idle; I shall continue my life's work for as long as I am able to”**  
Juliana D'Costa

ple trips to

Throughout her career, Juliana faced numerous challenges, including the lack of transportation and the use of rudimentary tools. "Today, everything has become so costly, that it is difficult to make ends meet. In my youth, there were plenty of financial hardships, I used to earn as little as 50 paise to 1 rupee per job, yet, somehow, I managed to support my family. The work was not just a means of income but a way of life that keeps me active and connected to my roots," she says.

Juliana's children have often suggested she retire, but she continues to wash clothes by hand, convinced that this method is gentler on the fabric. She laments the loss of traditional soaps that were made with natural ingredients and were cost-effective and efficient to use. "Washing clothes by hand is gentler on the fabric and keeps it looking new for longer. Washing machines cause clothes to become discoloured and the soap required for machine-wash are harsh and laden with chemicals that are not good for the clothes or the environment either," she quips.

As she looks to the future, Juliana hopes that the next generation will recognise the value of this age-old profession and the fulfilment of hard, physical labour. She acknowledges that times have changed, and children today have different ambitions. "While I cannot force my children to follow my footsteps and become dhobis, I hope they will understand the importance of my work and the role it played in their family's history. I may not have as much energy now, but I have no plans to retire and sit idle; I shall continue my life's work for as long as I am able to," says Juliana.

## Curtorim's teen thespian Laneesa Mascarenhas shines in comic roles

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MARGAO: A rising star in tiatr, 14-year-old Laneesa Melanie Mascarenhas is a resident of Curtorim and currently a Class IX student at Our Lady of Carmel High School in Curtorim. "Inspired by my parents, I began acting when I was just eight years old," says Laneesa. "Watching other actors perform on stage with confidence and style from a young age, I was also motivated to act," she says. When acting, she prefers being part of funny skits. In addition to acting, Laneesa also sings songs that are both serious and comic.

It is noteworthy that in just six years, she has participated in fifteen theatre performances. "My costumes are taken care of by my parents, who

**She has secured several awards over the years, including the Best Child Artist Award in the Amar Sawant competition show called 'Kanvilea Kiteak Rodtai Daran' and comedian Domnic's tiatr called 'Housewife', where she played a serious role. In addition to participating in tiatrs, Laneesa is also part of her dad's carnival khell tiatr as a comedian**

help select them with love," she says, pointing out that her entire family is involved in Konkani tiatr and has always been very supportive of all her endeavours. "The number of hours I invest in practice depends on the director I am working with," she elaborates.

At times, tiatrs finish late at night, and Laneesa must attend school the next morning. This is quite a challenge for her, but she has never missed her classes to date. "No matter how late a show ends, my

parents come to pick me up at the auditorium and I ensure I make it to school the next day," she says. Further, she mentions, "I thank God for this opportunity to contribute to the Konkani stage at such a young age and feel very proud because, at this tender age, people recognise me as a tiatrist." Laneesa expresses heartfelt gratitude towards her mother Priscilla Mascarenhas and father Xavier de Maina, stating that she owes all her achievements to them.

"As a teenager, I would like to say something to young children out there: if you love to act in a tiatr, please go ahead and follow your dreams. However, at the same time, concentrate on your studies and do not neglect them in any way. I want to emphasise that Tiatr is part of intangible Goan heritage, and I will always give my best to continue and support its upkeep," says Laneesa. Goan tiatr may have originated during the Portuguese colonial era but has since become an integral part of Goan culture, she explains. Tiatr performances typically feature a combination of music, dance, drama, and satire, often focusing on social and political issues. The music in tiatrs is usually lively and incorporates elements of Goan folk music, Laneesa elaborates.

She has secured several awards over the years, including the Best Child Artist Award in the Amar Sawant competition show called 'Kanvilea Kiteak Rodtai Daran' and comedian Domnic's tiatr called 'Housewife', where she played a serious role.

In addition to participating in tiatrs, Laneesa is also part of her dad's carnival khell tiatr as a comedian. In a competition organised by the Tiatr Academy of Goa (TAG), she has won first place in the Best Comedian category, three times.

In her free time, Laneesa loves singing and cooking.



## TURNING EXCESS INTO EXCELLENCE: Retired school principal Eunice de Sa's quest to preserve Goan bounty

From the velvety Orchata of her childhood to the tangy kokum syrup and love apple chutney, Eunice's creations have not only found a loyal following in Goa but have also traversed the globe

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MARGAO: If there's one pet peeve Eunice de Sa has, it's seeing fresh produce go to waste. Goa's homes and streets are filled with fruit trees, producing an abundance of tropical fruit, but not everyone has the time, inclination, or resources to harvest, store, and distribute them. As a result, during the summer and monsoon seasons, heaps of ripe fruit simply rot or wither away.

"At a time when most of us are battling nutrition deficiencies and are low on vital vitamins and fibre conducive to good health, allowing perfectly good fruit to go to waste is simply criminal," says Eunice, who is using traditional Goan recipes and techniques to create a stunning array of jams, pickles, squashes and syrups championing local produce at her home in Ribandar.

Eunice, who retired as the principal of Sharada Mandir School about 10 years ago, turned her quest to preserve her fami-

ly's recipes into a small business during the long, dull days of the Covid-19 lockdown. "A friend called to tell me that a massive branch of her mango tree had fallen after an overnight storm. She had 300 mangoes on her hands in various degrees of ripeness, and we simply couldn't let them go to waste. So, we turned them into raw mango panna, mango pickles, mango jam, and even sun-dried satta or fruit leather," she recalls.

Soon, friends and family began to supply her with all the excess produce from their fruit trees - from sweet limes to bimbli, jackfruit and passion fruit to star fruit and even figs and love apples. Eunice has managed to come up with ways to preserve and enjoy them at leisure - without adding any chemical preservatives. This set into motion her



journey into entrepreneurship. She launched the brand ELFS (an acronym for Eunice Lima Fernandes Sa), and her preserves have now travelled all over the world, even to countries like New Zealand and Australia, which are known for their strict customs policies restricting food brought in from overseas. "There are many Goans in New Zealand and the UK who crave the flavours of home. As my daughter lives in New Zealand, I've developed a decent network there and declare all my pickles and syrups at the airport. The officers may open one bottle just to check, and then allow them through," she says.

Amongst her array of products, Eunice's velvety Orchata is probably the most unique and luxurious. It harks back to Goa's colonial days when the almond-based cooler was a staple in affluent households. "I recall drinking Coelho's brand Orchata during my childhood. It was a

treat, and even years after they stopped making it, the taste of their orchata was burned into my memory. Over the years, I tried many recipes for the almond drink, experimenting with different proportions of sugar, adding Goan cashewnuts - I was set on bringing it back in vogue," she says. Through trial and error, Eunice reverse-engineered the orchata, finally arriving at a concoction that she feels does justice to her childhood favourite - and it's one of her most popular products today.

"I have a kokum tree at home, and Xarope de Brindao, or kokum syrup, is a cooler that is always on hand and can be

spiked to make delicious cocktails. Some of my recipes have been passed down several generations, like our prawn and bimbli pickle, and the pork pickle. Kokum jam, love apple chutney, and jackfruit cheese are two other traditional delicacies that cannot be found easily in the market," she says.

"I ask young people not to let their fruit go to waste - it's best to eat it whole and fresh, but if you have excess, use traditional recipes to preserve these powerhouses of nutrition. The process isn't difficult, and it's a great way to bond with the family as you can recruit everyone at home to help with the prep of the fruit. Just remember that everything should be clean and sterile, your jars need to be boiled well and dried, and in the case of pickles, ensure that the fruit is immersed in oil for a longer shelf life," she advises.

# Chinchinim farmers to bring in additional 15 ha of fallow land under paddy cultivation

## GREEN REVOLUTION: Buyoed by last year's bumper harvest, farmers, CAC join hands; aim to achieve a target of 100 hectares

Team Herald

**MARGAO:** The Chinchinim Agricultural Club (CAC), buoyed by the success of last year's bumper harvest, in cooperation with local farmers, has undertaken the cultivation of an additional 15 hectares (150,000 sq metres) of paddy fields (rice cultivation) at a place called 'Bodem fields', which is located near the Dandevad junction along National Highway (NH) 66. Buyoed by last year's bumper harvest, ryots have now set a target to bring 100 hectares of fallow land under paddy cultivation in the kharif season. "Fr George Quadros, the

'paddy man' of Goa, along with his associates from Goencho Xetkar (Jovito Lopes, Stanley Fernandes and Neville Luis), took on the responsibility of reviving paddy cultivation on fallow land in the village and reaped a bumper harvest. This boosted the morale of the farmers. They were aided by a young agriculture graduate, Joyd Simoes, who owns and operates a well-maintained fire engine red tractor for ploughing," said CAC President Agnelo Furtado.

Incidentally, Furtado is also the President of the Chinchinim Comunidade and has been hailed across Goa, for the initiatives by CAC and Co-



munidade that have not only revived vast tracts of fallow land but have also brought in additional land under cultivation, like this latest project.

While addressing the gathering, Furtado explained that the total area under cultivation in Chinchinim village is about 80 hectares, which includes Diguam Band fields (25 ha),

Patto (30 ha), Deussua (10 ha), and Bodem (15 ha).

"The plan is to eventually reach a target of 100 hectares under cultivation," he announced.

Earlier, the inauguration function was done at the hands of Water Resources Minister (WRD) Subhash Shirodkar, in the presence of Velim MLA Cruz Sil-

va, Chinchinim Sarpanch Valentino Barretto and his team members.

Both the MLA and the Sarpanch spoke on the occasion where they praised Shirodkar for deploying machinery to clean lakes ponds and nullahs (drainage channels) in the village.

"A total of 50 water bodies were cleaned in the village, which were not touched for many years. This initiative will enhance water harvesting capabilities and water storage capacity of the village, and it will help bring down the temperatures of the sweltering heat in the next summer. Maintaining a blanket of water in the lakes

also helps in maintaining the level of water in the village wells," Furtado added.

Furtado also expressed gratitude to the Salcete Zonal Agriculture Officer (ZAO) of Agriculture Department for providing subsidies for fencing and the department's Mechanical Cultivation Officer (MCO) for providing machinery for ploughing. He also praised Shirodkar and the engineers and staff for clearing the water bodies.

The program concluded with the distribution and planting of fruit and flowering saplings by Evonne Cardozo, the Chairperson of the village's Biodiversity Committee.

# High speed ferries to replace existing ones on Panjim-Betim route

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** The River and Navigation Department (RND) will introduce two new high-speed ferries which will replace the existing ones along the Panjim -Betim route from December this year.

Speaking to **O Herald**, River Navigation Director Vikramsingh Bhosle said, "Two new high speed ferries running at a speed of 10 knots each, will offer commuters a faster, smooth and efficient journey across the Mandovi. The vessels fitted with twin engines will have more carrying capacity than the existing ones."

"The vessel can carry eight cars or 150 passengers while the current carrying capacity is six cars and 100 passengers. The speed of current boats is

six knots per hour while the new boats will run with a speed of ten knots per hour," he said.

Singh said the decision to replace the existing ones has been taken keeping in mind the impending construction of a flyover at Porvorim which will lead to traffic diversions which in turn increase the number of passengers using ferry service from both Betim and Panjim side.

On an average, over 7000-8000 passengers and around 5,000 two wheelers travel using the services of the ferries. Currently, out of the two vessels, only one is fitted with two engines.

According to the official, the process for issuing technical bid is underway. The new vessels will not require maintenance for at least two years, he added.

## BOVINE BOTTLENECK

SAGUN GAWADE



A herd of stray cows lounges under a tree opposite Goa Medical College hospital in Bambolim, obstructing road-users and putting themselves at risk of being run over

## Cops raid casino over illegal gambling; arrest 11; seize articles worth Rs 33 lakh

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** The Crime Branch of Goa Police arrested 11 persons for allegedly operating an illegal live cards game following a raid at a casino at Bambolim and also seized articles worth Rs 33 lakh.

Police stated that eight gambling customers, two dealers of the tables and one shift manager, were caught-red handed.

During the search, two tables of live card gambling, 14 tabs, two sets of 52 playing cards, two live card shufflers, two card scanners, two cash chip floats containing different amounts of chips worth over Rs 28 lakh and other gambling articles, all worth Rs 33 lakh were seized.

An offence under sections 3 and 4 of The Goa, Daman and Diu Public Gambling (GDDPG) Act 1976 has been registered and the case is being investigated by PI Kishor Ramanan under supervision of DySP Crime Suraj Halarnkar and SP Crime Rahul Gupta, IPS.

## Snubbed by PWD, River Navigation Dept turns to Smart City mission to repair Ribandar ferry point

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** Miffed over the indifferent attitude of the Public Works Department (PWD), the River Navigation Department (RND) has approached the Imagine Panaji Smart City Development Limited (IPSCDL) to carry out repair works of Ribandar ferry point.

Speaking to **O Herald**, a senior RND official on condition of anonymity said, "The PWD has stopped showing any interest in the repair work of the ramps at the ferry despite writing to them on several occasions. Neither have they given us the estimate for the work nor do they have issue tenders. The ramps have to be repaired on a timely basis but for the last five years, they have not been touched. That's the reason the condition of the ramp keeps on deteriorating."

According to the official, the RND has unveiled plans to introduce roll-on, roll off (RoRo) ferries on the Ribandar-Chorao route for which bigger ramps are required but for the last eight months, there has been no initiative from the PWD to do any work here.

## Forest Dept bans venturing into rivers and waterfalls

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** The Forest Department has banned people from venturing into rivers and waterfalls in view of arrival of monsoon.

In an order, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden has said, "On account of arrival of monsoon in the State of Goa, there is likelihood of rise in water levels in rivers and waterfalls in forest areas. Therefore, venturing into rivers and waterfalls inside all protected areas shall be prohibited with effect from June 6, 2024, until further orders."

The order has directed

By Conservator of Forests to re-evaluate the situation and report.

On May 26, Collectors of both the districts had also issued orders prohibiting swimming in waterfalls, abandoned quarries, and rivers, among other water bodies.

The Collectors had warned that non-compliance with the directive would constitute a violation of Section 188 of the Indian Penal Code.

The administration cited numerous drowning incidents in waterfalls, quarries, rivers, lakes, and other water bodies as the rationale for the ban, stating that swimming in these areas poses significant risks.

## Goa clergy shower praise on Bishop-elect Simião ahead of Episcopal Ordination

Team Herald

**MARGAO:** The Archdiocese of Goa and Daman is all set for a highly anticipated ecclesial event - the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop-elect Rev Simião Purificação Fernandes on Monday. This sacred ceremony holds profound significance for the Church, as it has been three decades since such an event occurred in Goa. In 1994, during the late Archbishop Raul Gonsalves' episcopacy, the present Archbishop of Goa and Daman, Filipe Neri Cardinal Ferrao, was appointed as an Auxiliary Bishop. Gonsalves was later succeeded by Ferrao, who became the Archbishop in 2004.

Two months ago, Pope Francis named Fr Simião Fas the Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese. Ahead of Monday's consecration ritual for the Bishop-elect at the Sé Catedral in Old Goa, that will take place in the presence of around 15 bishops from across India, clergy members from Goa have sent heartfelt tributes, which were earlier shared in the Archdiocese's pastoral bulletin, 'Renovacao'.

Fr J Loiola Pereira, the Secretary to Filipe Neri Cardinal Ferrão recalled that he was Fr Simião's Prefect and Teacher at the Seminary of Our Lady High School, Saligão-Pilern, more than 40 years ago.

He recalled how Fr Simião was the best student in his class, and remained humble, prayerful, and ever ready to help others. He believed that Fr Simião had inherited these qualities from



his saintly mother, who raised him. Fr Pereira says he is glad that Fr Simião has kept those qualities untarnished to date.

Fr Lucio Dias, the Episcopal Vicar (South) showered praise on Fr Simião for being a multifaceted personality, known for his organisational skills, meticulous planning, and intelligence. He recalled Fr Simião's appointment as the Convenor of the Coordinating Committee Synod 2023 for the Archdiocese. He added that as the people of Goa thanked the Lord for the gift of the Bishop-Elect, they prayed that he might lead the Church with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Fr Tomas Lobo, said he knows Fr Simião since seminary days and was closely associated with him in the formation of future priests. He vouched for Fr Simião as a synodal priest who embraces and journeys with the young and old. "His style of functioning

could be summed up in the maxim: 'simple living, high thinking'. It is a joy to witness his handling of multiple tasks with adroitness and élan," he said.

Fr Walter de Sa praised Fr Fernandes' caring approach and joyful priesthood, saying these qualities will serve him well in shepherding the Church in Goa during difficult times.

Fr Kenneth Teles, noted that Fr Simião, has a close bond with Sancoale Parish, the homeland of St Joseph Vaz. He served as President of the 'Cofre do Servo de Deus, Pe Jose Vaz' and 'Causa of Canonization of Blessed Jose Vaz' committees from 2008 to 2016. During his tenure, Pope Francis canonized Blessed Joseph Vaz in 2015.

Fr James Torres da Silva, recalled how the appointment of Fr Simião as the new Auxiliary Bishop was a joyous moment not only for Fr Simião's family but also for the entire village of Guirdolim, where Fr Simião's hails from. "We also remembered Fr Simião's mother Ana Santana, who was a devout woman. Fr Simião's family members, including sisters are all actively involved in the activities of the St Francis Xavier Chapel in Guirdolim," he said.

Several other priests, including Fr Victor Ferrão, Fr Melito D Costa, Fr Bolmax Pereira, Fr Leslie Rego and Fr Elvis Fernandes SFX, and Fr James Torres da Silva, praised Fr Simião's compassion, pastoral approach, approachability, devotion to the Church and scholarly acumen and expertise.

MAX. TEMP 32.0°C  
MIN. TEMP 25.8°C

idharudhar



I called the police long ago but they're stuck in a traffic jam.

## Conservationists shell shocked as dead dolphin washes ashore on Benaulim beach

### Experts raise concerns about potential threats to marine ecosystems; call for thorough investigation into causes behind these deaths

Team Herald

**MARGAO:** Goa's coastline witnessed yet another distressing incident as the carcass of an adult Indian Ocean Humpback Dolphin washed ashore at Benaulim beach. This residential species, known to frequent the state's near-shore waters, has become the latest victim in a series of marine life tragedies plaguing the region.

The recent incidents of marine carcasses getting washed up along the shore is a matter of concern to conservationists as it points to the dangers that marine life is facing in Goa.

The discovery comes just a week after a large whale carcass was found at Vagator beach. Local residents reported a strong stench emanating from the resurfaced whale carcass, which had initially been buried but was unearthed by strong waves.

These incidents are part of an alarming trend that has seen multiple dolphin strandings across Goa's coastline over



the past several months, sparking outrage among wildlife conservationists. Conservationists have also highlighted that dolphins are not the only affected species, with reports of deaths and injuries to turtles and seabirds surfacing too.

The recurring incidents have raised grave concerns about the potential threats to marine ecosystems and the need for urgent action to protect these vulnerable species. Experts are calling for a thorough investigation into the causes behind these deaths, which could range from environmental pollution, human activities, or other underlying factors.

Authorities and stakeholders are urged to collaborate on sustainable practices and stringent measures to safeguard the state's rich marine biodiversity before it's too late.

On that note, the Baina Watersports Association launched the 'Mogache Baina' campaign to promote sustainable, ocean-friendly tourism while rediscovering Baina as a biodiversity hotspot. The initiative aims to enable sustainable livelihoods supported by conservation action through collaborative partnerships with stakeholders like tourism operators, government departments, experts, and local communities. Key goals include capacity building for responsible marine tourism, developing infrastructure for waste management and public awareness, and enabling better market visibility. This initiative witnessed participation from stakeholders like fishing associations, panchayat members, municipality officials, forest department, wildlife conservation organizations, and tourism industry representatives.

**Dr. Merlyn D'Costa**  
FOUNDER / EX-PRINCIPAL  
St. Anthony's High School, Margao

For all that you have done and for all that you are still doing for the betterment of the School and its students, may God shower his choicest blessings upon you.

Here's wishing our dearest Founder a very Happy Birthday. Lots of Love and good wishes.

Best Wishes from Students and Parents Teachers Association of St. Anthony's High School Margao.

**Dr. Merlyn D'Costa**  
FOUNDER / EX-PRINCIPAL  
St. Anthony's High School, Margao

Your vision, creativity and innovation have shaped our school and its thriving community. You have always been kind, considerate, supportive, inspiring, and encouraging. We are proud to have you with us. May God bless you and your family. We will miss your presence and leadership. May God make each day of your life as beautiful and golden as you are.

Happy Birthday Madam.

Good wishes from Staff: Anah, Taty, Reema, Hanisha, Janira, Samira, Resma, Shradha, Sabina, Seneca, Vinda, Niketia, Sonah, Merina, Reshma, Shagufa, Samiksha, Rukhsana, Jayashree, Camilo, Hasina & Gulzar

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Wanted experienced Girl for Backup Office work. Also wanted Accountant experienced in Tally, ERP, GST at Margao Office. 7972921776.

Wanted Truck Driver, Event Executive, Sound/Light Technician in Panjim. Contact 8806014400.

URGENT REQUIREMENT FOR TOURS AND TRAVEL AGENCY Sage MANAGER with 5-6 years' experience EXECUTIVE with 2-3 years' experience Location: Calangute, North Goa Graduation with Fluent English speaking skills Contact: +91 7887875111/7887876111

Wanted sales girl for a cake shop in Navelim, Margao, Benaulum, 9637912721

Current vacancies at Brit's Palace Hotel Receptionist (Male or Female) Waiter (Male) Housekeeping staff (Male) Bell boy Candidates living in and around Agassaim with own transport preferred. Freshers may apply. Email resume britispalace@gmail.com or contact 9158857777.

Urgent requirement & hiring for multiple positions. Broadband & IT Service Provider North Goa. Salary as per industry Standards or Experience based. Benefits- Salary + Bonuses + Medical + PF + (Leaves, EL, CL, Sick). Drop your CV on email: hr@infinetgoa.com, Call or WhatsApp 8007107090. Senior Account Executive/ Assist-2+2 Customer Care Executive-3 Technical Support Engineer-5 Inventory assistant-2 Sales Executive-5 Drivers-5

Advocate LLB/LLM wanted full-time experienced Realstate, Property verifications, saledeeds, listings Brokerage, startup Digital Platform Margao. Whatsapp 750-767-0077.

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Wanted Assistant Manager- Accounts (Male) for Automobile Dealership in Verna. Candidate having 4-5 experience in Accounting will be considered. Email your Resume to sanjay.gawas@chowguleind.com

Wanted Cashier cum receptionist for Trinity Hospital Miramar, to workon Day/ night shift with computer basic knowledge. For detailscontact 9823313344

Required Food Production and Food and Beverage Faculty for Gesto, Margao & Dona Paula. Minimum 1 year Industry experience and 1 year Teaching experience. Contact : 9764471988

Wanted Waiters, Dishwasher, Goan and Allrounder Cooks in Porvorim. Food and accommodation provided, Call 9890422440.

US company looking for serious people to work from home. Part time/ full time. Any one can join retired working person, students. One call may change your life. Ph. 9767570783/ 8329165735.

Wanted Female Cashier for Retail Store in Borda and Arlem. Salary upto 18,000/-. Timings 9am to 8pm Contact: 8788227154 or email sunworldhr@gmail.com

Female Tally Operator with min 2 years experience required in Margao. Salary 20,000/- . Contact: BOSS Advertising, Margao. 9822100065

Staff wanted for Resort in South Goa. Driver and Kitchen Helper. Interested candidates may contact on Mobile number: 8806971616

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Job Opportunity for leading MNC Company. Looking for Candidates. Retired Govt Officials, Senior Citizen. Freshers Can also apply. PF, ESI, Gratuity, variable incentives. Walk-in interviews on 18-06-24. Venue: Hotel Satya Heera Mapusa, Near Maruti Temple @ 10:30 am. 8459499014 /9923655165

Wanted housekeeping staff having experience in hospital work for Borkar Multispeciality hospital Margao Goa. contact: 7620978396/ 8805232222

Urgently wanted sales girl for garments shop in Margao, with or without experience. Also require female tailor. Contact 9326055699

Chef Needed- Need Goan / Indian chef For Restaurant and cafe in Chandor, accommodation provided. Contact- 9527267607

Wanted a taxi Driver with a badge in North Goa. contact 9766526403 / 9689471140

Requirement for Gas Plants Male/ Female, 8th, to, Graduate, ITI. Diploma, Accountant, Supervisor, fireman junior technician' diesel planning officer, Data-entry, Electrician, wireman, Fitter, Welder, Plumber, Driver, Gard Salary 27k to 74k +all facility, send c.v.-sureshjobs01@rediffmail.com 9821890984, 9654766802 what's up

Vacancy for Restaurant in Candolim, wanted experienced and professional employees. Captain, Stewards, Bartender, Indian-Tandoor cook, Chinese -Goan Cook, Italian Cook, Kitchen, helpers. Dishwashers. Attractive Salary+ Food & accommodation+tips Contact: 9637808430, 9764934942.

Wanted Front Office Manager for 18 Rooms Hotel in Calangute, Min-2 Years Experience, Salary Rs. 18,000/- to 24,000/-. Call 8788227154 or email CV on sunworldhr@gmail.com

Urgently required Internal Auditor for IT Company in Porvorim North Goa. Requirements- Qualified with proven working experience having knowledge of accounts upto finalization, GST inventory and taxation desired 2years and above of working experience. Write at -hr@expl.in or call at +917350008054

Wanted For twelve month running restaurant in South Goa. Experienced, Honest, Hardworking Stewards with knowledge of making Cocktails. Food and accommodation provided. What's App/ Call: 7057953704

Urgently Require- Female/ Male Admin cum Accountant for a reputed business unit in Saligao B. Com with 3-4 years of working experience on Tally accounting system and GST. Candidate should also be well verse with MS Office and other day to day admin job. Interested candidate may kindly contact us on- 9821138801

Sales Girls/ Boys required urgently for readymade garment shop in Panjim. Mobile: 9967001773, 93226863637

Wanted Room boys, room maids & cook for Hotel- The Menino Regency, Dr. Dada Vaidya road, Panjim, Goa 403001. Walk in interview from Monday to Saturday, between 9am. To 5pm.

Reputed Restaurant in South Goa requires Manager & Waiters. Food, Accommodation provided with good Salary. Contact: 9049158277.

Wanted urgently experienced Dishwashers. Contact Bar & Restaurant Godinho Panaji. 9923749971 / 9049189520

Urgent hiring for Sales Staff & Cashier for branded retail stores in Margao and Bambolim Competent salary, benefits plus incentives offered. Candidates email resume at 'hr@nixretails.com' or whatsapp 9307383416.

Wanted female assistant for Porvorim office. Excellent English and two wheeler Compulsory WhatsApp 8975105287 Salary 25k.

# In wake of road fatalities, Ponda locals demand signboards to alert commuters of infra work

Team Herald

PONDA: Residents of Ponda are expressing anxiety and frustration over the lack of cautionary signboards at the interstate KTC Bus stand where the widening work of the four-lane National Highway is currently underway. This issue has gained heightened attention following a tragic accident on June 11, when a motorcycle pilot lost his life after being crushed under a crane at the site.

The absence of essential signboards such as 'work in progress' and 'go slow' has sparked outrage among Ponda residents. They argue that these signboards are necessary for alerting commuters about road construction activities, preventing accidents, and ensuring safety on the roads.

Vishal Fadte, a concerned resident, criticized the authorities and contractors for not taking adequate measures despite the



SANTOSH NAIK

fatal accident and the risks posed by heavy machinery used for the construction work. "Fatal accidents are occurring at an alarming rate in Ponda. In the last twenty days, six people have lost their lives here, including one at this bus stand. The authorities must direct the contractor to display sign boards and cordon off areas where heavy machinery is being operated," said Fadte. Currently, the widening work spans from Safa Masjid to Farmagudi, involving infrastructure developments such as landfilling and

construction of underpasses and flyovers near the KTC Bus stand. These activities have added to the complexity and potential hazards for commuters and passengers visiting the interstate bus stand.

In response to these concerns, local residents and community leaders are urging authorities to immediately intervene. They are calling for the prompt installation of cautionary sign boards to alert everyone about the construction activities and associated risks.

## PONDA BUS STOP GETS TOILETS, BOARDS DISPLAYING BUS TIMINGS

PONDA: Following O Herald's coverage highlighting commuter issues at the KTC Bus Stand, several improvements have



been initiated. Initially, the toilet facilities, which had been closed to commuters, were reopened, addressing a key concern raised by Goa Can Convenor Roland Martins and reiterated in reports by O Herald.

Subsequently, there has been progress in displaying destination boards at the bus bays within the bus stand premises. Roland Martins expressed satisfaction with these developments, emphasising the importance of clear bus bay signboards that indicate bus routes and destinations. This ensures that passengers are well-informed about departure and arrival points for specific destinations.

Martins had previously lodged complaints about the lack of facilities at the Ponda Bus Stand and engaged in discussions with officials, who assured to address these deficiencies promptly.

HERALD IMPACT

# TERI to collect discarded fishing nets from beaches

Team Herald

MARGAO: The initiative to prevent marine pollution by collecting discarded plastic fishing nets is set to expand across Goa's entire coastline. Spearheaded by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), the project initially targeted four beaches - three in North Goa and one in South Goa - collaborating with stakeholders like the state fisheries department and the Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB).

According to GSPCB Chairperson Mahesh Patil, the project has been a success, prompting its expansion. "We have coordinated with the fisheries department to identify locations along the coastline where fishermen can deposit their discarded nets, streamlining the collection process."

TERI estimates that discarded fishing nets contribute approximately 40 to 50 tonnes of plastic waste each month to Goa's coastal areas. This year-long initiative, funded by the European Union-Resource Efficiency Initiative (EU-

REI), TERI, and GIZ, has partnered with local industry to ensure the permanent collection, recycling, and scientific processing of discarded nets.

The project began as a pilot in small fishing communities in the Siridao, Cakra, and Odxel belt in North Goa, as well as Talpona in South Goa. While scrap dealers at larger jetties were already collecting nets, smaller fishing villages lacked such systems. Fishermen had to dispose of unwanted nets due to limited storage space in their small homes, often resorting to burning them, causing air pollution, or discarding them into the sea.

These discarded nets, known as "ghost nets" not only degrade into microplastics that enter the food chain but also pose a threat to marine life, particularly sea turtles, which can become fatally entangled in them. The expanded initiative aims to address this issue by providing a streamlined system for collecting and processing discarded fishing nets throughout Goa's coastline.

# Margao block Cong scoffs at BJP

## Tells saffron party to stop casting aspersions on religious heads for loss of South Goa Lok Sabha seat

Team Herald

MARGAO: While condemning the allegations levelled by BJP leaders against the religious heads for the loss of the South Goa Lok Sabha seat, Margao Block Congress Committee has charged that BJP is trying to camouflage its failures.

While addressing the media, Margao Congress leader Savio Coutinho and other members, revealed that immediately after the polls, all the BJP heads of the 20 Assembly constituencies of South Goa were given directions to count and verify only the number of Catholics and Muslims who had cast their votes.

The formula adopted by the BJP was to deduct 80% of the number of minority votes cast from the total number of votes

and thereafter, reduce the difference by 10 to 15%.

"The BJP was under the impression that only 10 to 15% of the majority community would vote for the Congress, sadly, a huge number of majority community voters voted for the Congress candidate in utter disgust of the divisive agenda of the BJP," Coutinho said at a press briefing along with South District Congress members Anil Alvares, Lalan Parsekar, Anwar Naroo, Camilo Camara, Sujata Parsekar, Domic Coutinho, Iftiyaz Sayed and others.

Citing details of the various statements made by the Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and BJP South Goa campaign in charge boasting about BJP's victory in South Goa, Coutinho said that the CM and BJP leaders were so confident of their formula for

calculations of expected votes that the Chief Minister even declared that the exit polls results for South Goa were wrong.

Coutinho alleged that for over a year prior to the Lok Sabha elections, systematic campaigns were conducted to polarise and divide the people based on religion.

"Goa has always been a peace-loving state and people preferred to live in harmony with each other irrespective of religion," Coutinho said.

"If the minorities are not in excess in Margao, then how did the Congress poll over 10,000 votes," questioned Coutinho.

Coutinho warned the BJP that when all the Goans strive to maintain peace and harmony, it should avoid driving a wedge into the harmonious state of Goa.

## shorttakes

### LOADED CONCRETE MIXER SINKS INTO ROAD, FALLS INTO GUTTER AT SAVOI-VEREM

SANTOSH NAIK



PONDA: A concrete mixer truck sunk into the road and fell over on the roadside near Savoi-Verem Bazaar, causing a traffic jam on the stretch on Sunday morning. The incident occurred during the construction of a retaining wall at the bazaar, for which the truck had arrived loaded with concrete for the repair work.

Residents reported that as the driver attempted to manoeuvre the vehicle to the roadside, the ground gave way, causing the truck to sink in. Subsequently, around 11 am, the loaded concrete mixer truck collapsed into a roadside gutter. Due to the truck's position in the gutter and the subsequent drying of the concrete inside, efforts to move it became complicated. Despite bringing in two cranes, attempts to remove the truck were unsuccessful until late evening due to the precarious condition of the roadside. The prolonged operation to clear the truck caused extensive traffic congestion in the area throughout the day. Eventually, authorities decided to wait until late night when traffic volumes were lower to successfully remove the truck and clear the roadway.

### GOLD ORNAMENTS WORTH RS 1.5 LAKH STOLEN FROM CARANZALEM FLAT

PANJIM: The Panjim Police have booked unidentified persons for allegedly stealing gold ornaments worth Rs 1.5 lakh from a flat in Caranzalem. According to the police, Valentino Felix Esteiberio 48, resident of Alisha Repos, Nagali Hills, Caranzalem, lodged a complaint stating that unidentified persons entered his flat on June 5 by breaking the door lock and stole gold ornaments worth Rs 1.5 lakh belonging to his wife.

An offence has been registered under sections 454 and 380, read with 34, of IPC and the case is being investigated by PSI Viraj Naik.

### MAN HELD FOR TRANSPORTING BEEF WITHOUT PERMISSION

VALPOI: The Valpoi police arrested Mehboob Subhani, 29, from Karnataka for allegedly transporting beef without having an authorised permit from the competent authority. According to the police, Subhani was allegedly found carrying the beef weighing 2920 kg worth Rs 6 lakh in a pick up without having a bill or authority letter from the competent authority at Keri.

An offence has been registered under section 8 of Goa Animal Preservation Act 1995 and the case is being investigated by LPSI Sanisha D Naik.

## citizenherald

# Power dept should respect the law in letter and spirit



A few days back, the South Goa District Magistrate and RTO booked a truck transporting power poles in a vehicle that it is not supposed to do so.

Despite being penalised, the Electricity Dept with whom the contractor has been appointed to transport such poles continues to do his business by flouting the law.

CITIZEN GREGORY D'SOUZA Siolim

Looks like such contractors have connections with some high and mighty politicians to circumvent the law.

Another contractor was seen in Siolim transporting electric poles opposite the St Francis Xavier's High School and the Pre-Primary

school this week. The traffic rules can be violated by the Dept but the common man if he does not wear a helmet is not let to go without a challan or greasing the palm of the law enforcer.

Will the RTO or traffic police book this truck owner and will the district magistrate issue a warning to the department and ask them to respect the law in letter and spirit?

# Interior road in Salvador do Mundo needs repairs

This interior road at Gangoz Vaddo in Salvador do Mundo village needs to be hot mixed as it gets flooded and re-

CITIZEN AYRES SEQUEIRA Salvador do Mundo



mains submerged under water during the monsoon. School-going children are the most affected during the season. This problem seems to have been brought to the attention of the panchayat but the locals have been taken for

granted. One wonders how long it will take for the civic body and the ward representative to take up the issue.

It is time for elected representatives to reach out to the people in the public interest.

# BSNL, worst network provider in Collem

The BSNL has become the worst service provider in Collem. The telephone exchange has been closed as cables have been damaged by a private contractor.

CITIZEN ELVIS COLACO Collem

Bank of India which happens to be the only bank in the area stops services due to network failure. The services at the only post office which is dependent on BSNL network are affected too. Very often passports to Mollem and Collem are not delivered on time due to the malfunctioning of the BSNL.

The government is just paying lip service to the public and the day is not far when the BSNL will be sold to crony capitalist.

# Vasco's Maimollem lake covered with water hyacinth

The Maimollem lake in Vasco was to be restored and developed into a

CITIZEN ADELMO FERNANDES Vasco



tourist attraction. The plan was disclosed in January last year.

However at present, the lake is completely covered by a thick layer of water hyacinth. It can be a perfect breeding place for mosquitoes. Will the authorities please do the needful and restore the glory of the lake?

# Will the Siolim-Sodiem panchayat act against this violator?

Mud and gravel from a mega project in the village of Siolim-Sodiem keep flowing on the road with every shower rendering it slippery. Pedestrians and two-wheeler riders keep falling all over the road and get injured.

Sodiem is a beautiful village but with the coming up of mega projects, these sick sights are common. The high and mighty builders have taken the silence of the voiceless villagers for granted and brazenly continue to do as they like. Neither the village panchayat nor the panch who lives next door has the guts to take on the violators of law and pe-

CITIZEN SABINA DE SOUZA Siolim

nalise them. Have the villagers elected you to see no evil?

Why do the grassroot level politicians maintain a stoic silence when they see such illegalities galore by the roadside? Is the income for the village panchayat from the builders more precious than the lives of villagers who travel and keep falling along this slippery road?

It is high time the panchayat imposes hefty penalty on the builder and directs him to stop the flow of the mud on the road be-



# Cuncolim bus stand in pathetic state

Photo shows the pathetic condition of the road at the entrance of the KTC bus stand, Cuncolim.

CITIZEN JOEL MORAIS Cuncolim



# Unhygienic conditions in and around SGPDA market

The SGPDA market is one of the most frequented markets in Margao but sanitation there is non-existent. Discarded vegetable waste and rotting fruit jostle for space with packing crates, overflowing drains, cows and dogs. Vehicles are parked haphazardly adding to the clutter, a strong stench pervades the whole area. How are the health inspectors allowing the market to function? The conditions during the monsoons becomes worse, the government authorities should do something to improve the hygiene standards.



CITIZEN VINAY DWIVEDI Benaulim

Shopping there is a very unpleasant experience.

## ANANB UPTOWN

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## O HERALDO

The Voice of Goa - since 1900

## Crackdown on corruption in healthcare

The Pune Porsche accident where an allegedly intoxicated 17-year-old hit and killed two techies has thrown up a new twist.

As per latest revelations by media, Dr Ajay Tawade, head of Pune's Sassoon Hospital's Forensic Medical Department, who has been arrested in this case for allegedly switching the minor's blood samples with his mother's to ensure that alcohol would not show up in the test report, reportedly provided the same 'service' to numerous people through a broker network in other high-profile cases involving drunk drivers running over and killing others.

The doctor's brokers, who are spread across Pune and four other Western Maharashtra districts, would reportedly contact the families and offer to swap the blood samples with clean ones so the accused could get off on a milder charge.

If this report is true, then it is a matter of grave concern, though not surprising because corruption in the country is deep rooted in every sector, including the healthcare sector.

Imagine, there must be many such doctors in positions of authority, who are involved in similar such malpractices, but have gone undetected so far. In fact, hadn't there been this accident in Pune involving a drunk minor and media attention, many more drivers accused of crushing people on the streets, would have continued to get away scot free.

So many families, hoping for justice, must have gone back empty handed after years of frequenting the court. When people in positions of authority, especially in such critical positions, abuse their power for a little extra money, it puts the entire society in harm's way.

The concern here is, in other sectors, it is not a matter of life and death. But in healthcare, it is.

For a little extra money, there are doctors who even sell their souls. Their greed has led to so many deaths on the operation table and health complications due to wrong medication.

The nexus between doctors and pharmaceutical companies is well known. Payments to physicians by the pharmaceutical industry are common, but recent evidence shows that these payments influence physician prescribing behaviour in the form of increased prescription of branded drugs, which are quite expensive.

The Indian healthcare system is rife with corruption, and much of this corruption arises from the way that healthcare is regulated. This is applicable for both - public and private sector healthcare institutions.

A survey by Transparency International, a global coalition against corruption, revealed India has the highest bribery rate in Asia, and 24 per cent Indians admitted they bribed healthcare workers, clinic or hospital staff to get medical care.

In the survey, it was revealed that 39 per cent of the respondents had paid a bribe for public services in the country, especially health and education.

With 24 per cent, India was the second-highest country in terms of medical bribes in a list that was topped by China. According to the survey, 26 per cent of Chinese said they had paid a bribe for medical care.

As per this study, 43 per cent of respondents felt the quality of service in government hospitals was poor. In low performance states, 53 per cent felt service was poor. 67 per cent felt corruption was widespread in government hospitals and 45 per cent said hospital staff frequently demanded bribes.

Another research put out by the National Library of Medicine in 2022, shows an alarming annual incidence rate of up to 5.2 million cases related to medical malpractice across various healthcare settings in India.

The rising cases of medical corruption in courts show the growing distrust of patients with doctors. This is a serious issue because traditionally, doctors have been considered next to God. The question is, how much money is enough? Is money so important that a patient's life can be jeopardised willingly?

The multiple and ever serious allegations and indictments related to corruption shows that the Medical Council of India (MCI), the statutory body responsible for regulating medical education, professional and ethical standards in the medical profession, has clearly failed in its duty.

The controversy raging over the irregularities in results of NEET-UG 2024 (mandatory national entrance exam for MBBS degree) just shows that the disease of corruption has spread its tentacles far and wide. Even the young medical aspirants have not been spared.

Corruption affects the health sector in many ways. It can take money away from healthcare, lead to poorer quality care and make access to healthcare unfair, and often affects poor people the hardest.

It is important to investigate and punish corrupt doctors. Political interference in every aspect of governance has affected the entire governance system in every sphere. It is therefore important to delink political influence on appointment of doctors in various key positions. That should be left to a team of experts.

Political appointees tend to act with high handedness and throw the ethics code out of the window. People's lives are at stake. It cannot be taken lightly anymore.

## comment



SHANTI MARIA FONSECA

Vocation promotion is the responsibility of every human being. Instead of reducing our belief to a collection of rules and norms to observe, we can help young people ask the right questions, set out on their journey and discover the joy of life and living



Everybody loves the beginning of an academic year because it holds the chance for new beginnings. As students, June is a month which always brings deep feelings of nostalgia. The monsoon rain hitting the soil, the scent of mother earth, the smell of new books and uniforms. It is at this time our educational institutions re-open for a new academic year. The new academic year is not only about new uniforms, books, bags, raincoats, teachers and time-tables but also a time when students discuss their prospective future plans for the year ahead. The beginning of every academic year offers the chance of a fresh start. Every student starts the beginning of their academic year with wild imaginations, fertile minds and a willingness to take risks with what they think. With every new day comes new strength and new thoughts.

Our creator is patient and always ready to present us with an opportunity to start a new chapter in life. When seeking to discern our vocation, there are certain questions we must ask ourselves. We should not start with wondering where we could make more money,

or achieve greater recognition and social status. Neither by asking what kind of work would be most agreeable and convenient to us. If we are to follow the right path, we need a different starting point. We need to ask: Do I know myself, quite apart from my illusions and emotions? Do I know what brings joy and sorrow to my heart? What are my strengths and weaknesses? These questions immediately give rise to others: How can I serve people better and be more helpful in our world where millions lie torn and broken. What can I offer to society so as to make this world a better and happier place to live in?

The initial foundation for a person's meaning in life is built in and around her/his vocation. Many an illustrious person in society never dream

that they would be responsible to illumine the lives of others until they found and chose their life defining vocation. A Vocation does not come from a voice out there calling me to be something I am not. It comes from an inner voice within me to be the person I was born to be. With the birth of Artificial Intelligence, we are constantly being bombarded with images and options and there is almost no space to find our true self or to let the Master of this Universe to find us. We often don't know or drown out our own desires, our passions and a sense of our true vocation.

Vocation promotion is the responsibility of every human being. Instead of reducing our belief to a collection of rules and norms to observe, we can help young people ask the right questions, set out on their journey and discover the joy of life and living

Discernment requires contemplative habits woven through the fabric of our daily lives and habits that include prayer, listening and reflection, awareness and surrender. At each stage of life, discernment may include identifying patterns of thought or behaviour that we need to face and change, choosing the best out of multiple good options, and dealing with unhealthy attachments. Discernment is simply listening to the voice of my Master through the movements of life and of my heart. It helps us in recognizing the signals with which God makes himself known in unexpected, even unpleasant situations, as the broken leg would be for Ignatius. A life changing encounter can arise from them, forever as in the case of Ignatius.

Discernment is a way of being, that leads toward greater cooperation while we allow the creator of this universe to work in our lives. In such a state, we constantly ask ourselves "What is HIS presence inviting me to be or do in this situation?" Discernment is that reflection of the mind, of the heart, that we have to do before making a decision. Discernment is demanding but indispensable for living. It requires that I know myself, that I know what is good for me here and now. Above all, it requires a filial relationship with my creator.

The Pallottine community do not specialise in any particular ministry. It is their firm belief that the universality of their charism calls them to use the talents of their members to respond to the needs of the world. Inspired by St Vincent Pallotti's motto, "The love of Christ impels us", Pallottine priests, brothers and sisters work as partners with the laity throughout the world. Let today be the start of something new in a special way for the students of Pradeepa Pallotti Institute of philosophy and Religion, Casa Pallotti situated in the picturesque village of Asagao who inaugurate and begin a new academic year today. Best wishes for a memorable and successful start to all students who have started their new academic year and those who are about to start a new scholastic year. Embracing the beauty of new beginnings, may this academic year be full of joy, growth, and wonderful experiences.

(The writer is a social scientist and a practicing criminal lawyer)

Justice - striving to be transparent and trustworthy in actions with clear communication. There are few who disguise themselves as ethical humans and win the hearts of the lay segment of society - not being honest or truthful and feeling happy that they have won innocent hearts wearing sheep's coat, sad! Our behaviour involves treating others fairly with just, regardless of race, gender, religion, rank, beliefs and status. On the flip side there are some who live a ethical life until they come across a situation that they instantly switch to please others to enable them to remain "Good" on their faces, but they get derailed of their responsibility for their actions and care less of their guilty consequences and accountability - in sane!

Ethics are not just injected or infused, but these individuals are born with, as they listen to understand and understand to live a life in balance with others. As always, let's end with a beautiful quote: "Principle and Integrity are the cornerstones of any ethical life, let us lead to respect our own life and that of others". Stay blessed and happy!

Gaston Dias, Sarzora

## Goa's biodiversity in danger

A few days ago, the Governor was appealing to the experts to look

## Ambitious projects in a super mess

This has reference to the report 'Andheri or Porvorim? If you are lucky, Porvorim to Panjim is 45 mins.' (Herald June 14, 2024).

How smart can one get? We are trying to turn existing cities into so-called SMART cities but we are actually becoming dumb.

You've compared the traffic situation in Panjim-Porvorim to Andheri in Mumbai, yes you may be right. In fact, there seems to be absolute lack of planning in such Infrastructure projects, whether it is in Goa or elsewhere.

Panjim is one of the latest on the list. Referring to traffic chaos in Mumbai, there is another talking point, viz, Malad-Mith Chowki Junction signal where it is said, one can travel to Pune & back but you can barely make much headway at this signal!

At the end of the day, what we need is proper, detailed study before embarking on such ambitious Infrastructure projects.

Melville X. D'Souza, Mumbai

## Do we surrender ethical values?

In our personal experiences, we meet "Ethics" as a branch of philosophy that deals with questions about what is right and wrong, good and bad and how we should handle situations with principles and moral values. Being ethical, has a clear set of principles that guide our actions, include honesty, promote equality, maintain integrity, fairness, compassion, respect and give

## letterstotheeditor

For letters to the editor contact us at editor@herald-goa.com.

All letters must contain correct postal address and telephone number. Letters are liable to be edited for brevity.

into the decline of cashew in Goa.

Yes, he has said it right. But his very government has brought in 39A amendment in the TCP Act to finish the hills which once had abundant cashew plantations.

Some forests are set a fire so that the real estate builders are allowed to convert the land into settlement. What more do we expect of Goa's natural biodiversity to remain?

The tigers and other wild animals are now migrating into human habitation causing conflict. Cases are piling in the High Court and NGT where environmentalists are battling to save the environment which is in peril.

God and nature should not spare such environmental destructors even their next generations as they have amassed filthy wealth by destroying and allowing Goa's biodiversity to be plundered. Soon we may have to plan for wax or clay museums to showcase Goa's biodiversity for the tourists and the generations to come.

Gregory E D'Souza, Siolim

## Ethical use of Artificial Intelligence

In an address at the outreach session of the summit of G7 advanced economies in Italy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reportedly said on Friday that India will work with all countries to make Artificial Intelligence (AI) transparent, fair, secure, accessible and responsi-

ble. Raising alarm about AI, Pope Francis challenged leaders of the world's wealthy democracies to keep human dignity foremost in developing and using Artificial Intelligence. His holiness warned that such powerful technology risks turning human relations into mere algorithms. Today's AI technology has a range of use across various industries. Businesses use AI to minimize human error, reduce high costs of operations, provide real-time data insights and improve the customer experience, among many other applications.

In government it can be used to further public policy objectives. It enables multi-tasking and eases the workload for existing resources. AI enables the execution of hitherto complex tasks without significant cost outlays. It can do repetitive work, eliminate human error, perform risky jobs, available round the clock and involves fast decision-making. However the disadvantages include costly implementation, potential human job loss, ethical concerns about bias and privacy, security risks from hacking, a lack of human-like creativity and empathy. With growing concerns that AI could disrupt elections, it's becoming clear that certain organizations aren't employing the technology for the common good. It is important to approach AI with caution and responsibility, ensuring that it is developed and used in an ethical

and transparent manner.

Adelmo Fernandes, Vasco

## National litigation policy in limbo

Government is the largest litigant in the Supreme Court and High Courts. Tricky interdepartmental cases are filed at the drop of a hat in High Courts. Obviously, the governments of the day, in inconvenient and unfavourable cases, may be quite averse to their quick disposal. When a government, that is expected to aid smooth justice delivery at various points in the system, itself becomes a roadblock towards the same, something has to be done.

The aim of a robust legal policy is to infuse transparency into the whole process and be responsible as well as efficient. Other than this, the stakeholders are also seized of the burdensome legal cost for the litigants, and lack of access to appeals. Against this backdrop, the "National Litigation Policy" of the NDA government appears to be a step in the right direction.

The Union Law Ministry has finally approved the policy document that will be placed before the cabinet soon. However, it is intriguing that such an important policy matter that could have been a game changer in the Indian judicial system has been drafted and redrafted over the years with no concrete consensus. Infact, the policy was said to have been taken stock by the NDA government in 2014. But the entire process has been in a limbo since then with no appreciable efforts to revive it.

Ganapathi Bhat, Akola

## people'sedit

## PRESERVATION OF 'IDENTITY' AND XENOPHOBIA

HARSHAL DESAI

The form of xenophobia I wish to discuss here, is one that is rampantly prevalent among the denizens of various states, amongst each other.

Much can be discussed on what we mean by the words 'preservation' and 'identity', though the kind of identity whose discussion should suffice us here, should be 'regional identity'.

By regional identity, we should be meaning to something that characteristically 'binds' the individual to the region, i.e. to say by a form of organic habitation translates some of its own regional attributes and attitudes into the individual and thereof makes them, a 'native'. Anyone wanting to seriously contemplate how it is that something like xenophobia emerges in the first place, would naturally identify an economic - basis for this attitude. I.e. to say, the limited presence of resources (of natural, man-made etc.) that the particular region offers, necessitates (or at least does not make it sound unreasonable) the preferential treatment of 'natives', in its allocation. But sadly, this is only a poor makeover which the prejudice seeks to pass itself off as.

Were the question of 'preferential treatment' (in resource allocation) really only an official policy- stance and nothing else, the attributes (of natives and non- natives) would soon cease to be of any consideration as soon as the question of allocation were determined. But when has this been?

Xenophobia, symptomizes an essentially prejudicially attitude, the sickest of parochial ills that equates the degradation and censure of another (identity) with the preservation of one's identity. Since what I write, draws legitimacy from my experience, and since my experience has been in this state (Goa), I speak of how xenophobia subtly colours what is sought to be idealised as 'Goenkarponn' (Goan-ness).

Who does not know the condescending labelling of 'outsiders' as Ghaati or Bhiknaa? Not only do those who harbour such an attitude feel it is their right to use such labels which have gained the rancour and acidity of expletives, but such an attitude is welcomed and relished as an indispensable part of being a Goan!

Which is to say that 'the assertion of one's identity as a native, must imply the negation of another's' and always is this negation, this refusal to identify, accept and treat the other as a fellow equal (national), endowed with a learned violence of sorts. A violence in speech (among other things) seems the modicum minimum.

Identity preservation and xenophobia mustn't go hand in hand. Our 'preservation' must be an active, productive effort that must aim at the realisation of those values in everyday living. The erroneous understanding of 'preservation' as 'compositional purity' (as though identity were a liquid) must be done away with, for it then produces the false notion of 'adulteration'. If anything, xenophobia produces a dangerous monotony and intolerance of thought and empathy; a diseased inbreeding of thought and experience; this eventually has debilitating effects, all of which are products of the same bandwagon effect.



Leader of Opposition in West Bengal Assembly Suwendu Adhikari with victims of the post-poll violence after a meeting with State Governor C V Ananda Bose, in Kolkata



Union Minister of State (I/C) for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal and Calcutta HC Chief Justice T S Sivagnanam at a programme, in Kolkata



Rajasthan CM Bhajanlal Sharma with BJP MP Mahima Kumari during a mahasammelan ceremony, in Beawar



Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries H D Kumaraswamy meets Pontiff of Sri Adichunchanagiri Mahasamsthana Math, in Karnataka

alloverindia



A vendor with his goat at a livestock market ahead of Eid al-Adha in Nagpur, on Saturday

Coal minister Kishan Reddy meets Assam CM, discusses ways to extract minerals

**GUWAHATI:** Union Coal and Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy on Sunday met Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma here to discuss harnessing the state's mineral potential. "Had a detailed deliberation on the roadmap to harness the rich potential of various minerals in the state and their optimum utilisation towards growth with sustainable practices," Reddy said. The two ministers have decided to appoint a high-level committee to take this preliminary discussion forward to extract the minerals in Assam, he posted on X. "Today, Hon'ble Union Minister for Coal and Mines, Shri G Kishan Reddy, met with HCM Dr. @himantabiswa to discuss various issues," the Chief Minister's Office said in a post on X. Reddy met Sarma at the latter's residence in Guwahati.

NRI assault in Himachal: Punjab Police registers Zero FIR; Dhaliwal writes to CM Sukhu

**CHANDIGARH:** The Punjab Police on Sunday registered a Zero FIR in connection with the alleged assault on a Punjab-origin NRI, who alleged that he was beaten by a group of men over parking in Himachal Pradesh's Dalhousie. Punjab NRI Affairs Minister Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal also wrote to Himachal Pradesh CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, seeking his intervention for a thorough inquiry. The Punjab Police registered the Zero FIR under sections 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 341 (wrongful restraint), 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 506 (criminal intimidation) and 148 (rioting) of the Indian Penal Code. The case has been registered at the Ranjit Avenue police station in Amritsar.

Two Army jawans killed, seven persons injured in bus-auto collision near Nagpur

**NAGPUR:** Two jawans of the Indian Army were killed and six others, two of them critically, wounded after a private bus collided with the autorickshaw they were travelling in near Nagpur on Sunday evening, police said. The auto driver also suffered grievous injuries in the accident that took place on the Kanhan river bridge near Kamptee town around 5 pm, they said. What led to the collision was not immediately clear, they said. According to senior police officials from Nagpur, the seven injured persons are being treated at different hospitals. Altogether, 15 jawans from Army's Guard Regimental Training Center (GRC) at Kamptee, about 20 km from Nagpur, had gone shopping to Kanhan in two autos.

# Cops, poll officials deny media report about EVM 'unlocking'

## NCP (SP), Congress express concern

**PTI, MUMBAI:** A poll official on Sunday said an EVM was a standalone system with "robust administrative safeguards" to protect it from any kind of manipulation and that there was no need of an OTP to unlock it.

### EVM TAMPERING

Vandana Suryavanshi, returning officer of Mumbai North West Lok Sabha constituency, was reacting to a report in newspapers about a kin of Ravindra Waikar, the Shiv Sena candidate who emerged victorious there by a wafer thin margin of 48 votes, using a mobile phone connected to an EVM during vote counting on June 4.

"The EVM is a standalone system and there is no need for an OTP to unlock it. It is not programmable and has no wireless communication capabilities. It is a lie being spread by a newspaper," Suryavanshi said in a press conference on Sunday.

Suryavanshi said notices had been issued to Mid-day and Marathi daily

Lokmat for allegedly publishing false news, adding they have been asked to respond within 24 hours as to why criminal proceedings under section 499 and 505 should not be initiated.

As per Vanrai police, Mangesh Pandilkar, brother-in-law of Waikar, was booked under Indian Penal Code section 188 (disobeying official order) on Wednesday for allegedly using a mobile phone at a counting centre in Goregaon on June 4, when results of the general elections were announced.

Speaking at the press conference, Suryavanshi said the personal mobile phone of one Dinesh Gurav, the data entry operator of Jogeshwari assembly constituency, was found in the hands of an unauthorised person and action is being taken in this regard.

"Data entry and vote counting are two different aspects. An OTP enables the ARO to open the encore login system for data entry. The counting process is independent and has nothing to do with unauthorised use of mobile phone, which is an unfortunate inci-

dent and is being probed," Suryavanshi added.

"Advance technical features and robust administrative safeguards are in place to rule out any possibility of manipulation. Safeguards include conducting everything in the presence of candidates or their agents," she said.

The official said neither Waikar or losing candidate Amol Kirtikar of the Shiv Sena (UBT) had sought a recount but verification of invalid postal ballots was demanded and it was done.

"The counting ETPBS (electronically transmitted postal ballot system) happens in physical form (postal ballots) and not electronically as is being spread as part of a false narrative. Every counting sheet at every table for ETPBS, EVM and postal ballot counting (including ETPBS) is signed by counting agents after due diligence," Suryavanshi asserted.

Suryavanshi said CCTV footage in connection with the issue cannot be given unless there are orders from the competent court.

A Mumbai police official also refuted the news report and said no personnel

### Black box?: Rahul, Akhilesh question credibility of EVMs

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday said EVMs in India are a "black box" which nobody is allowed to scrutinise, and asserted that "serious concerns" are being raised about transparency in the country's electoral process.

Congress' ally and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav also questioned credibility of electronic voting machines (EVMs) and demanded that all future elections should be conducted through ballot papers.

"Democracy ends up becoming a sham and prone to fraud when institutions lack accountability," Gandhi said in a post on X and tagged a media report which claimed that a relative of Shiv Sena's candidate, who won the polls from Mumbai's North-West seat by 48 votes, had a phone that unlocks an EVM.

The former Congress president also

tagged a post by Tesla CEO Elon Musk in which he talked about eliminating EVMs. "We should eliminate electronic voting machines. The risk of being hacked by humans or AI, while small, is still too high," Musk had said in his post.

In a post on X in Hindi, SP chief Yadav said, "Technology is meant to solve problems, if it becomes the cause of problems then its use should be stopped." Targeting the BJP over the issue, Yadav said, "Today, when fears of EVM tampering are being expressed in many elections of the world and the world's renowned technology experts are openly writing about the danger of EVM tampering, then what is the reason behind the insistence on using EVM, BJP should clarify this." Yadav also tagged the Musk's post and reiterated his party's demand that all future elections be conducted using ballot papers.

attached to Vanrai police station had given such information (about Waikar's kin's mobile phone being used to generate OTP to unlock EVM).

Meanwhile, senior Congress leader and former Maharashtra chief minister Prithviraj Chavan said the poll result of Mumbai North West Lok Sabha seat must be stayed.

The Election Commission of India must call a meeting of all parties and

discuss this issue thoroughly, he demanded.

"There must be a probe into the unauthorised use of the mobile phone. The FIR report has not been made public," Chavan said.

Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) spokesperson Clyde Crasto said the fact that a relative of Ravindra Waikar had access to the mobile phone of an Election Commission official is a cause for concern.

The EC's polling officer has said OTP is required only for data entry of the vote counting process, which means generation of this OTP can also give access to data to Waikar's kin and it can be manipulated by him or his team, Crasto asserted.

"This is very serious. The ECI needs to come clean on what transpired in the time the phone was with Waikar's team," he said.

## New case registered

### Rajasthan man held; cops get his custody till Jun 18

**PTI, MUMBAI:** The Mumbai Police registered a new case in connection with firing outside actor Salman Khan's residence here in April and arrested a 25-year-old man from Rajasthan on charges of criminal intimidation, an official said on Sunday.

### FIRING AT SALMAN'S HOME

The accused, identified as Banwarilal Laluraj Gujar (25) hailing from Bundi in Rajasthan, was brought to the metropolis where a court remanded him in police custody till June 18, the Crime Branch official said.

Gurjar had allegedly uploaded a video on his YouTube channel in which he

said "Lawrence Bishnoi, Goldy Brar and other gang members are with me and I am going to kill Salman Khan as he has not apologised as yet", the official said.

The accused made the video on a highway in Rajasthan and uploaded it on his channel. The official said the case has been registered at a cyber police station in Mumbai.

"We are checking if accused Gujar having any previous criminal background. He has been arrested under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code, including 506(2) (punishment for criminal intimidation), and provisions of the Information Technology (IT) Act. Further investigation is underway," the official said.

## MANALI RAPIDS



Tourists engage in river rafting in Manali, Himachal Pradesh, on Sunday

## Sibal demands probe by SC-appointed officials

### Calls for consulting with states in future

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** Amid the raging row over medical entrance exam NEET, former HRD minister Kapil Sibal on Sunday demanded a probe by Supreme Court-appointed officials into allegations of irregularities and called on the government to have a thorough consultation with all states as to how this examination is to be held in future.

### NEET SCANDAL

The Rajya Sabha MP also hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the issue, saying if the testing system in any examination becomes corrupt then it is "not really neat for the PM to remain silent".

Sibal urged all political parties to raise the matter strongly in the upcoming session of Parliament but was not optimistic about it being taken up for discussion, predicting that the government will not allow

it citing that the matter is sub-judice.

"The present National Testing Agency (NTA) has really bungled and corruption has been brought to light on media platforms, such as providing solutions for question papers for something like becoming a doctor," Sibal, who was the Human Resource Development (now the portfolio is Education) minister from May 29, 2009 to October 29, 2012, said.

"Some of these incidents in Gujarat have perplexed me and are a matter of great national concern. I think NTA should answer some of these very serious questions," he said.

Sibal said what is even more surprising and disappointing is that whenever something like this happens and there is corruption under the aegis of the present government, the "andh bhakts" start blaming the UPA for it and that is most unfortunate because they don't seem to be fully educated before making state-

**"The present National Testing Agency (NTA) has really bungled and corruption has been brought to light on media platforms, such as providing solutions for question papers for something like becoming a doctor. Some of these incidents in Gujarat have perplexed me and are a matter of great national concern. I think NTA should answer some of these very serious questions"**

— Kapil Sibal, Rajya Sabha MP

ments of this nature.

He pointed out that the NEET regulation was introduced in 2010 by the Medical Council of India (MCI) through its board of directors. The MCI was under the ministry of health and not under the ministry of education.

"So, I as the minister of HRD had nothing to do with this. The medical council of India board of governors introduced a regulation, saying there should be a national eligibility test for students getting admitted to MBBS course. The regulation was challenged by writ petitioners and it was struck down by the Supreme Court on July 18,

2013, saying the MCI has no legislative competence to introduce NEET which is an all India eligibility entrance test," he said.

"So, after this was struck down, on April 11, 2014, a review petition was filed. The review was allowed and the order of 2013 was withdrawn," he said.

"The BJP govt came to power and on April 28, 2016, a writ petition was filed in Supreme Court, saying since the order striking down the NEET regulation has been withdrawn, why isn't the regulation issued by MCI under board of governors, not being implemented," Sibal said.

Thereafter, on August 4, 2016, the then BJP gov-

ernment introduced section 10D and the Indian Medical Council Act was amended, he noted.

"On August 8, 2019, the National Medical Council Act was passed replacing the Indian Medical Council Act of 1956. It contained another section 14 which provided for the NEET examination. On October 29, 2020, the SC upheld this legislation," he said.

"The legislation was introduced by the present government...This had nothing to do with UPA," he added.

Sibal also hit out at Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan for his remarks rejecting allegations of paper leak or rigging in the exam.

"Let him go on social media and see how this is happening in Gujarat itself. The state of Gujarat is one of the progressive states, even in respect of corruption it seems to be somewhat progressive," he said, taking a swipe at the BJP.

## Held discussions with stakeholders: LS speaker on relocation of statues

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** Statues of freedom fighters and national icons spread across the Parliament complex have been relocated to a new enclosure on its premises, Prerna Sthal, following discussions with different stakeholders, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said on Sunday.

### STATUES AT PARL COMPLEX

The relocation of the statues, he said, were done as part of a landscaping and beautification exercise.

Addressing reporters here, Birla also asserted that discussions were held from time to time with different stakeholders on the relocation of statues as such decisions were within the purview of the Office of the Lok Sabha Speaker.

"None of the statues

have been removed, they have been relocated. There is no need to indulge in politics on this," the Lok Sabha Speaker said when asked about the opposition criticism on the relocation of the statues.

"From time to time, I have been discussing these issues with different stakeholders. People were of the view that having these statues at one place will help disseminate information about their lives and achievements in a better way," Birla said.

The statues of Mahatma Gandhi and B R Ambedkar, earlier located at prominent places on the Parliament premises, were places where opposition leaders gathered to protest against the government.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh had said the whole idea of this relocation and

giving it a grandiose name was to ensure that the statues of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr Ambedkar were not in a prominent place right in front of Parliament House where MPs could hold peaceful and democratic protests as and when required.

Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated the Prerna Sthal on Sunday in the presence of Birla, Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Hariwansh, and Union ministers Kiren Rijju, Ashwini Vaishnav, Arjun Ram Meghwal and L Murugan. Lok Sabha member Jagdambika Pal and Rajya Sabha member Rakesh Sinha also attended the function.

### CHANGE IN NAME

I, HAZEL MARIA FERNADES, No Block C, Flat No. 502, C D Diva, Near Westside Mall, Gogol, Margao, Goa - Goa 403401, have changed my name from HAZEL MARIA PEREIRA to HAZEL MARIA FERNADES. Hereafter, in all my dealings and documents I will be known by the name Hazel Maria Fernandes. Sd/- Hazel Maria Fernandes

diya 9763824344



Germany's Chancellor Olaf Scholz speaks during the opening plenary session of the Summit on Peace in Ukraine, Switzerland, on Saturday



Prez Joe Biden arrives for a campaign event with former Prez Barack Obama moderated by Jimmy Kimmel at the Peacock Theater, in Los Angeles



Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump arrives at a campaign event at 180 Church, in Detroit, Michigan



Israeli police disperse a protester against Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu's gov't during a call for the release of hostages held in the Gaza Strip in Tel Aviv, Israel

# Nations discuss nuke safety at talks on peace in Ukraine taking place without Russia



Participants pose for an official family photo session during the Ukraine peace summit in Buergenstock, Switzerland. It is hosting scores of world leaders this weekend to try to map out the first steps toward peace in Ukraine

AP, OBBERGEN: Countries resumed talks Sunday on how to iron out issues of nuclear safety, prisoner exchanges and exports of food from Ukraine that have arisen due to Russia's two-year war there, and ways to bring peace to Ukraine - even though Moscow is not represented.

hope that Russia will join in one day, but say it needs to agree to respect Ukraine's territory - about one quarter of which it occupies. "If we reverse, to a global system where the organising principle is might is right," the independence we enjoy today as free nations will be at serious risk," said Irish Prime Minister Simon Harris, as leader's speeches continued for a second day. "This is an existential issue."

cause the country leading and continuing it, Russia, was not invited - for now. Its key ally, China, which did not attend, and Brazil, which was on hand at the meeting as an "observer," have jointly sought to plot alternative routes toward peace. The meeting also endeavored to return a spotlight to the war at a time when conflict in Gaza, national elections and other concerns have seized global attention.

statement. Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said they amounted to "minimum conditions" for negotiations with Russia, alluding to how many other areas of disagreement between Kyiv and Moscow will be harder to overcome. Qatar's prime minister, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, noted a day earlier how his rich Gulf country hosted talks with both Ukrainian and Russian delegations on the reunification of Ukrainian children with their families that has so far resulted in 34 children

being reunited. White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan, speaking to reporters at the resort on Saturday, said it's "going to take work" and countries stepping up to build on efforts by nations like Qatar. "It's going to take a spotlight from the international community, not just from only voices from the United States or Europe, but from unusual voices as well to say what Russia has done here is more than reprehensible and must be reversed," he said.

The Ukrainian government believes that 19,546 children have been deported or forcibly displaced, and Russian Children's Rights Commissioner Maria Lvova-Belova has previously confirmed that at least 2,000 were taken from Ukrainian orphanages. Montenegro Prime Minister Milojko Spajic told the gathering Sunday: "As a father of three, I'm deeply concerned by thousands of Ukrainian kids forcibly transferred to Russia or Russia-occupied territories of Ukraine."

## Russian forces storm detention facility to rescue staff taken hostage

PTI, MOSCOW: Security forces stormed a detention center in southern Russia on Sunday, killing inmates accused of links to Islamist terror cells who had taken two staff members hostage, state-funded news channel RT reported. Journalists on the scene reported the sounds of gunfire, while multiple ambulances were seen arriving at the prison in footage on social media.

IS have carried out a number of attacks on Russian soil in recent years. An affiliate of IS claimed responsibility for the most recent attack in March, when gunmen opened fire on a crowd at a concert hall in suburban Moscow, killing 145 people

The hostages at the pre-trial detention center in Rostov-on-Don were uninjured, Russia's Federal Penitentiary Service said in an official statement. It said that the hostage takers had been liquidated, but did not comment further. A number of local news outlets, including RT, reported that at least some of the prisoners had been killed. Earlier, state news agency Tass, citing unnamed sources in law enforcement, had said that six hostage takers were in the central courtyard of the Rostov region's Detention Center No. 1, armed with a penknife, a rubber baton and a fire ax. The prisoners include men accused of links to the Islamic State group, it said.

Images posted on social media appeared to show at least two of the hostage-takers wearing a headband that resembled the Islamic State's flag. Other images showed prisoners wielding knives. RT reported that three of the hostage-takers had already been sentenced on terrorism charges, including disseminating extremist information and plotting to blow up a Russian courthouse. IS has carried out a number of attacks on Russian soil in recent years. An affiliate of IS claimed responsibility for the most recent attack in March, when gunmen opened fire on a crowd at a concert hall in suburban Moscow, killing 145 people.

## US military targets Houthi radar sites in Yemen after merchant sailor goes missing

PTI, DUBAI: The US military unleashed a wave of attacks targeting radar sites operated by Yemen's Houthi rebels after one merchant sailor went missing and the vessel he was on caught fire in the latest Houthi strike on shipping in the crucial Red Sea corridor, authorities said Saturday.

The attacks come as the US Navy faces the most intense combat it has seen since World War II in trying to counter the Houthi campaign attacks the rebels say are meant to halt the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip. However, the Iranian-backed rebel assaults often see the Houthis target ships and sailors who have nothing to do with the war while traffic remains halved through a corridor vital for cargo and energy shipments between Asia, Europe and the Mideast.

The Houthis, who have held Yemen's capital, Sanaa, since 2014, did not acknowledge the strikes, nor any military losses. That's been typical since the U.S. began launching airstrikes targeting the rebels.

## Pakistani Taliban announce three-day cease-fire on Eid al-Adha

PTI, PESHAWAR: The banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) on Sunday announced a three-day cease-fire with the Pakistani government during the Muslim festival of Eid al-Adha. Eid ul-Adha is being celebrated in Pakistan from June 17-19.

## FUN AND FROLIC



Women dancers perform during a parade at the opening of the Bali arts festival in Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia. The Island of Bali is currently holding a month-long annual arts festival from June 15 until July 13

U.S. strikes destroyed seven radars within Houthi-controlled territory, the military's Central Command said. It did not elaborate on how the sites were destroyed and did not immediately respond to questions from The Associated Press. These radars allow the Houthis to target maritime vessels and endanger commercial shipping, Central Command said in a statement. The U.S. separately destroyed two bomb-laden

drone boats in the Red Sea, as well as a drone launched by the Houthis over the waterway, it said. The crew abandoned ship and were rescued by USS Philippine Sea and partner forces, Central Command said. The Tutor remains in the Red Sea and is slowly taking on water.

In a statement, the TTP said that it has decided to announce a cease-fire on the demand from the Pakistani people. The outlawed group said its fighters would defend themselves if attacked by security forces. The one-page statement was signed by TTP Emir Mufti Abu Mansoor Asim. It was the second occasion when TTP announced a cease-fire, after 2021. The previous cease-fire ended in 2022.

## Pilgrims commence the final rites of Hajj as Muslims celebrate Eid al-Adha

PTI, MINA: Masses of pilgrims on Sunday embarked on a symbolic stoning of the devil in Saudi Arabia. The ritual marks the final days of Hajj pilgrimage and the start of the Eid al-Adha celebrations for Muslims around the world. The stoning is among the final rites of the Hajj, which is one of the Five Pillars of Islam. It came a day after more than 1.8 million pilgrims congregated on a sacred hill in Mount Ararat outside the holy city of Mecca, which Muslim pilgrims



Muslim pilgrims pray at top of the rocky hill known as the Mountain of Mercy, on the Plain of Arafat, during the annual Hajj pilgrimage, near the holy city of Mecca, in Saudi Arabia

where they collected pebbles they have used in the symbolic stoning of pillars representing the devil. The pillars are in another sacred place in Mecca, called Mina, where Muslims believe Ibrahim's faith was tested when God commanded him to sacrifice his only son Ismail. Ibrahim was prepared to submit to the command, but then God stayed his hand, sparing his son. In the Christian and Jewish version of the story, Abraham is ordered to kill his other son, Isaac.

Pilgrims will spend the next three days in Mina, where they walk long distances on pedestrian-only streets toward a multi-story complex housing large pillars. There, they cast seven pebbles each at three pillars in a ritual meant to symbolize the casting away of evil and sin. Once the Hajj is over, men are expected to shave their heads and remove the shroud-like white garments worn during the pilgrimage, and women to snip a lock of hair in a sign of renewal and rebirth.

## Over 19 hajj pilgrims dead in S Arabia: Jordan, Iran officials

AFP, AMMAN, JORDAN: At least 19 Jordanian and Iranian pilgrims have died while on the hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia, authorities from their countries said on Sunday, as temperatures soar in the kingdom. "Fourteen Jordanian pilgrims died and 17 others were missing" during the performance of hajj rituals, Jordan's foreign ministry said in a statement. The ministry later confirmed the 14 had died "after suffering sun stroke due to the extreme heat wave". Iranian Red Crescent chief

Pirhossein Koolivand separately said "five Iranian pilgrims have lost their lives so far in Mecca and Medina during the hajj this year", without saying how they died. The hajj, one of the world's biggest religious gatherings, is one of the five pillars of Islam and all Muslims with the means must perform it at least once. Temperatures have pushed well past 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) during the annual pilgrimage that around 1.8 million Muslims are taking part in this year. Many of the rituals are

performed outdoors and on foot, creating challenges especially among the elderly. Saudi Arabia has not provided any information on fatalities. But the kingdom has implemented heat mitigation measures, including climate-controlled areas. It distributes water, and offers advice to pilgrims on protecting themselves from the sun. During last year's hajj at least 240 people - many from Indonesia - died, according to figures announced by various countries which also did not specify causes of death.

## Authorities evacuate 1,200 people as wildfire spreads in Los Angeles

PTI, GORMAN: Authorities evacuated at least 1,200 people on Saturday as a wildfire in Los Angeles County spread over thousands of acres near a major highway and threatened nearby structures, officials said. The blaze being called the Post Fire burned more than 3,600 acres (5.6 square miles or 14.5 square kilometers) near the Interstate 5 freeway in Gorman, about 62 miles (100 kilometers) northwest of Los Angeles, according to the California

California State Park Services evacuated 1,200 people from the Hungry Valley recreation area in Gorman and both Hungry Valley and the Pyramid Lake reservoir were closed as a result of the fire threat. Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. California State Park Services evacuated 1,200 people from the Hungry Valley recreation area in Gorman and both Hungry Valley

and the Pyramid Lake reservoir were closed as a result of the fire threat, the Los Angeles County Fire Department said in an 8 p.m. update. The flames broke out at around 1:45 pm, authorities said. The fire was moving southeast toward Pyramid Lake and crews were constructing perimeter fire lines while aircraft worked against limited visibility to stop the fire's progress, the fire department said.

## Despite improved WHO regulations, the world remains ill-prepared for the next pandemic

AP, DUNEDIN/HAMILTON (NEW ZEALAND): The international community's recent failure to conclude a global pandemic agreement leaves large gaps in our capacity to deal with the next major infectious disease emergency. The risk of another pandemic like COVID - the worst in a century - is increasing. The World Health Organization (WHO) took an important step by adopting useful revisions to the exist-

ing legally-binding International Health Regulations. But while this advance is something to celebrate, it is not enough. Even if governments approve the revised regulations, our best chance of preventing history repeating itself lies in a pandemic agreement. Global responses to health hazards that cross borders date back to an international sanitary conference in 1851 which focused on measures to limit the spread of cholera. Since



then, several initiatives have aimed to improve global health security, including the formation of the WHO itself in 1946. The International Health

Regulations of 2005 were a major step in this evolution. They ushered in the modern era of risk assessment and created a global surveillance system for public

health emergencies of international concern. Nonetheless, it was soon evident the new tools were limited in dealing with the increasingly complex and fast moving threat of zoonotic diseases (when an animal pathogen "spills over" to infect people). Earlier this month, the 194 members of the WHO World Health Assembly passed by consensus several important amendments to the International Health Regulations.

allovertheworld



A dancer reacts during a parade as part of the Olympic torch relay in Basse-Terre, in the French overseas territory of Guadeloupe, ahead of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. The Olympic flame began its journey overseas on June 9 in Guiana, as part of the 'Ocean Relay' which will then take it to Reunion Island, French Polynesia, Guadeloupe and Martinique

**Israeli Defence Minister to visit Pentagon: US**

WASHINGTON: Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant will visit Washington soon for talks with his US counterpart, the Pentagon said Saturday as the war in Gaza rages on. President Joe Biden's administration is pressing for a ceasefire deal which it says is backed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu but has drawn fury from some of the Israeli leader's far-right allies. In a formal response this week the Palestinian militant group Hamas stopped short of accepting the plan, making counter-proposals on several points. In a call Tuesday with Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, Gallant accepted an invitation to visit the Pentagon, press secretary Major General Patrick Ryder said in a statement.

**Pope Francis appeals for halt to DR Congo violence**

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis on Sunday deplored a surge of violence in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, the victims of which he said included many Christians who had been killed for their faith. "Painful news continues to arrive of clashes and massacres in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo," the 87-year-old pontiff said at the end of Sunday Angelus prayer. "I appeal to the national authorities and international communities to do everything possible to stop the violence and safeguard the lives of civilians." Francis said "many Christians" were among the victims of the recent bloodshed, "killed in hatred of the faith", describing them as "martyrs".

**Tourist found dead off Greek island, three more missing**

ATHENS: An American was found dead near the Greek island of Corfu on Sunday, media reported, the latest tourist fatality during an unseasonal heatwave as three other visitors were missing. A tourist found the missing 55-year-old man in the sea near the old port of Mathraki and informed the police, public broadcaster ERT and Athens News Agency reported. The man was last seen alive on Tuesday and his body will be transferred to Corfu hospital for an autopsy. According to Athens News Agency, he was at Mathraki for a holiday with a Greek-American friend.

**Mongolia opposition candidate killed during election campaign**

ULAANBAATAR, (MONGOLIA): A Mongolian opposition candidate was beaten to death, authorities said Sunday, ahead of parliamentary elections due this month. The victim was a member of the Democratic Party (DP) and a governor of Sant Sum in central Mongolia, police said in a statement without revealing his identity. The man was killed on Saturday, police said, adding that the circumstances surrounding the attack have yet to be clarified. Local media named the man as B. Bayanmunkh, while a statement by his party identified him as "BB". The DP said it was saddened that "a star of democracy... has lost his life at the hands of others". Mongolia, which is three times the size of France but has a population of 3.5 million, is due to hold parliamentary elections on June 28.

**Stud farm fire kills 70 horses in France**

RENNES, (FRANCE): A fire that broke out at a stud farm in northwestern France killed 70 horses, an initial report from the local government said Sunday. The fire burnt through a 500-square-metre shed located at the Bernesq stud farm early Sunday in Calvados, Normandy, which was dedicated to breeding racehorses. Firefighters were still on site late Sunday morning. The local authority told AFP that "checks are necessary, but 70 horses were reported dead", including mares and foals that were in the stable. It added that the cause of the fire is believed to have been accidental but that police would be investigating the incident to determine the precise cause.

**Earthquake of magnitude 6.3 strikes off southern Peru**

LIMA, (PERU): A 6.3 magnitude earthquake struck off the coast of southern Peru on Sunday but there was no immediate threat of tsunami, government scientists said. The Geophysical Institute of Peru said the quake was centered in the Pacific at a depth of 25 kilometers (16 miles) off the coast of Arequipa department. The government decided against activating the tsunami warning system. The US Geological Survey put the magnitude 6.0 and said the epicenter of the quake was 19.9 kilometers deep. "At the moment no material or personal damage is reported," the National Institute of Civil Defense said in a statement. The event was perceived as being "between moderate and strong by the population," the official report added.

**Singapore rushes to clean-up oil slick after boat hits stationary fuel supply ship**

PTI, KUALA LUMPUR: An oil spill caused by a dredger boat hitting a stationary cargo tanker has blackened part of Singapore's southern coastline, including the popular resort island of Sentosa, and sparked concerns it may threaten marine wildlife as a clean-up operation was underway Sunday.



Workers clean oil spill along Sentosa's Tanjong Beach area in Singapore, on Sunday

The Netherlands-flagged dredger Vox Maxima struck the Singaporean fuel supply ship Marine Honour on Friday. It damaged the cargo tank on Marine Honour, which leaked oil into the sea. Singapore's Maritime and Port Authority said in a statement late Saturday the oil leak from the vessel had been contained, and that the oil that es-

aped from the damaged tanker had been treated with dispersants.

But due to the tidal current, it said the treated oil had landed along shorelines including at Sentosa

and other southern islands, a nature reserve and a public beach park.

Sentosa, which attracts millions of visitors annually, houses one of Singapore's two casinos, golf

courses and Southeast Asia's only Universal Studios theme park.

Part of the beachfront at the public park and at the nature reserve have been closed to facilitate clean-up efforts, it said. The Sentosa beach will remain open to the public but sea activities and swimming are prohibited.

On Sunday, workers in orange suit were seen scooping up sand in a clean-up operation at an empty beach in Sentosa. Black water washed up on the oil-stained shore.

Authorities have deployed 18 crafts for the clean-up efforts and laid close to 1,500 meters of container booms, temporary floating barriers to trap the oil spill.

More will be laid over the next few days to prevent further spread of oil onto the shore, and facilitate the recovery of the trapped oil off the affected shorelines and lagoons to prevent them from going back to sea, the statement said.

Conservationists and biologists are monitoring the full extent of the damage on marine and wildlife.

Local conservation group Marine Stewards reportedly said there were photos of dead fish, otters and kingfishers covered in oil slick.

Group founder Sue Ye told Singapore Straits Times that oil spills smother and suffocate fish, birds and marine animals that have to go to the surface for air, such as turtles and dolphins.

**Key TTP commander killed in Pakistan**

PTI, ISLAMABAD: A top militant commander of the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) was killed on Sunday in an encounter with security forces in Pakistan's restive Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province.

TTP commander Waliullah was killed by the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) of Bannu in an intelligence-based operation in the Lakki Marwat district in the province, the Express Tribune newspaper reported.

The operation was conducted in Tajuri Road near Malang Adda following which the armed terrorists opened fire on the police.

Waliullah was killed in retaliatory firing by the security forces, the paper said.

He was a local commander of the TTP Tipu Gul group and was the son-in-law of Commander Atiqur Rahman alias Tipu Gul Marwat, the paper said.

**Police shoot man for threatening them with axe in German city hosting Euro 2024 match**

PTI, BERLIN: German police said Sunday they shot and wounded a man who was threatening them with an axe and a Molotov cocktail in the northern city of Hamburg, hours before it hosted a match in the European Championship soccer tournament.

Police officers opened fire after the man refused to put down the axe and a Molotov cocktail, hitting him in the leg, police spokesman Thilo Marxsen said. The man was hospitalized with his injuries, Marxsen said. No one else was hurt.

The incident occurred in the St. Pauli area of the northern port city, which was thronged with fans

before Sunday's Group D match between the Netherlands and Poland. Marxsen said that there was no initial indication that it was related to the Euro 2024 game.

German authorities have put police on high alert during the tournament, which began on Friday and runs through July 14, for fear of possible fan violence and extremist attacks.

On Friday, police fatally shot an Afghan man after he killed a compatriot and later wounded three people watching the televised game between Germany and Scotland in a town in eastern Germany. Police said Sunday that the motive for that attack was still unclear.

**2 killed, several wounded in shooting during Juneteenth celebration in Texas park**

AP, TEXAS: A shooting in a Texas park left two people dead and several wounded on Saturday, authorities said.

The victims were shot shortly before 11 pm Saturday during a Juneteenth celebration at Old Settlers Park in Round Rock, about 19 miles (30.5 kilometres) north of Austin.

An altercation began between two groups during a concert at the event and someone started shooting, Round Rock Police Chief Allen Banks said during a news conference at the scene.

The two victims who were pronounced dead at the scene were not in-

cluded in the altercation, Allen said.

The shooting occurred near a vendor area away from the stage set up for the concert, Allen said.

Police officers and fire department personnel who were attending the event immediately began providing emergency medical care to multiple wounded victims, who were then transported to local hospitals, Allen said.

Police do not have a suspect in custody and investigators do not know how many shooters were involved. The investigation is ongoing, he said.

"It breaks your heart for a family that was coming

**SHOOTING IN DETROIT SUBURB INJURES 9, LEAVES 8-YR-OLD IN CRITICAL CONDITION**

PTI, ROCHESTER: Nine people were injured, including two young children and their mother, after a shooter opened fire at a splash pad in a Detroit suburb where families gathered to escape the summer heat Saturday. Law enforcement tracked a suspect to a home, where the man died by a self-inflicted gunshot wound, authorities said. An 8-year-old boy was shot in the head and in critical condition Saturday night, Oakland County Sheriff Mike Bouchard said during a news conference. The boy's mother also was in critical condition after being wounded in the abdomen and leg, and his 4-year-old brother was in stable condition with a leg wound. Authorities initially said they believed as many as 10 people had gunshot wounds from the shooting in Rochester Hills, but that number was revised after they checked with area hospitals.

out to enjoy their evening and now their life is forever changed as a result of

somebody who could care less about somebody else's life," Allen said.

**How DNA analysis of our rivers and lakes can reveal new secrets about their biodiversity**

PTI, BANGOR UNIVERSITY BANGOR (UK): Freshwater ecosystems are the lifeblood of the natural world, yet they are facing a silent crisis.

A 2022 report by the World Wildlife Fund revealed a staggering 83% decline in global freshwater vertebrate

populations since 1970, a rate far exceeding that of any other habitat.

The level of degradation to nature is alarming, but ecosystems are complicated, as are the effects of human activity. So, the story is often more nuanced.

Our research shows how analysing environmental DNA (eDNA) the DNA left behind by organisms in life and death could unlock the secrets hidden within freshwater streams, rivers and lakes. This offers hope for a more efficient monitoring of

these vital ecosystems.

While fish and birds usually grab the spotlight, freshwater biodiversity is a hidden metropolis teeming with lesser-known residents. Macroinvertebrates such as mayflies and midges, visible to the naked eye,

play a vital role in healthy ecosystems. They have been monitored for decades and can give us a more representative view of how freshwater habitats are responding to human pressures.

But this good news only goes so far. Since 2010, im-

provements in freshwater biodiversity have plateaued. Meanwhile, the environmental pressures of old are being replaced by new pressures ranging from climate change to emerging pollutants released from archaic sewage systems.

**FROM PAGE 1 OFFICIALS TO MEET SOUTH COLLECTOR TODAY TO KEEP A TAB ON MARGAO'S TRAFFIC CONGESTION**

It is pertinent to note that there are five schools in the heart of Margao besides two higher secondary schools and two colleges. The Margao Traffic Cell intends to solve the major issue of traffic congestion at this meeting.

The venue and the date for the above meeting will be fixed as per the requirement, sources said.

Meanwhile, the Margao Traffic Cell is facing a staff crunch with only 65 staff to man the traffic in Margao besides home guards. The traffic cell caters to the needs of 25 Margao Municipal Council wards besides Navelim and other places.

Considering the rise in vehicular population and in the population, traffic cell staff allotted to manage the traffic in Margao appears to be far less, said a retired head constable of Traffic Cell.

The reopening of educational institutions has led to traffic congestion in the town, which has inconvenienced the students and other commuters visiting the town.

Despite efforts from the Margao Traffic Cell, the situation appears to have gone out of control, with some parents and others displaying total 'disregard' to the traffic rules and exacerbating the chaos.

The traffic congestion issue has plagued government authorities for years, which needs urgent attention.

The congestion near the Margao Police Station, where five schools including Fatima Convent High School and Loyola High School are located, had reached such a critical point that even pedestrians struggled to navigate the streets. Sometimes parents and others, who come to pick up children, add to the chaos as many are noticed in parking their vehicles in a haphazard manner at any available places without considering the inconvenience posed to the commuters.

Few years ago, there was a proposal to shift or relocate petrol pumps situated in the heart of town to ease traffic congestion but no decision was taken.

"There are metrics of vehicular flow. During a certain peak hour, if more vehicles enter a narrow stretch, the average speed would come down, causing constriction. The issue is there should be school buses rather than every parent picking and dropping his/her ward," Goa DGP Jaspal Singh, IPS, posted on 'X'.

**LOUTOLIM, BORIM FARMERS INSPECT PROPOSED BRIDGE SITE TO SAFEGUARD THEIR LIVELIHOOD**

"She was shown the fields which were filled with debris during the construction of the missing link, which has rendered a portion of the khazan fields uncultivable. Farmers are apprehensive that if the bridge passes over the fields even on stilts, then this would be the fate of the khazan," said Albert Pinheiro, Chairman of the Loutolim Tenants Association.

It may be recalled that NGT's Western Zone Bench had issued notices to the State and Central governments in response to the petition, seeking their responses to the concerns raised by the farmers and fishermen.

The petitioners argue that the River Zuari is a lifeline for the agricultural activities of local farmers and traditional fishermen in the region. Despite the existing two-lane Borim Bridge being recently approved for repairs to extend its lifespan by 20 years, the State government and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) are pushing ahead with plans to construct a new high-level bridge, citing the need for better connectivity between Ponda and Margao towns.

The farmers and fishermen fear that the construction of the new bridge will destroy vast stretches of ecologically sensitive lands, including khazan lands, mangroves, and fish breeding water bodies, which are their primary sources of livelihood. They have also questioned the selection of the proposed alignment (Alternative Alignment No 7), alleging that no consideration has been given to the environmental impact while choosing this option, and no Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies have been carried out.

The petitioners allege that the proposed new bridge project, with an estimated area exceeding 1.50 Lakh square metres, requires prior Environmental Clearance (EC) under the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006. However, the respondents claim that no EC is required as the project length is less than 100 km, and the additional right-of-way is less than 60 metres.

The NGT has given the petitioners until July to submit evidence to substantiate their claim that the project area exceeds 1.50 Lakh square metres, necessitating prior EC. The farmers have been opposing this project since last year and had recently approached the Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) with their objections filed with the land acquisition officer, and held several meetings with the environment minister.

The next hearing in the case has been scheduled for July 24, 2024, when the NGT will consider the admissibility of the petition based on the evidence provided by the petitioners.

**“She was shown the fields which were filled with debris during the construction of the missing link, which has rendered a portion of the khazan fields uncultivable. Farmers are apprehensive that if the bridge passes over the fields even on stilts, then this would be the fate of the khazan”**

- Albert Pinheiro, Chairman of the Loutolim Tenants Association

**GUV, CM GREET GOANS ON EID AL-ADHA**

"I hope that the celebration of Eid al-Adha, this year, will further contribute to this noble cause," the Governor added.

In his message, the Chief Minister said, "On this joyful occasion let us come together to build our society more strong



**SAD DEMISE**  
**MARIA (ASSUNTA) FRANCESCA D'SOUZA**  
 (Calangute)  
 Daughter of the late Jose Anton and Arcangela. Wife of the late John Lawrence D'souza. Beloved mother of Clema/Denzyl Fernandes, Priscilla/Michael Lobo. Grandmother of Jenessa/Trevor, Jeremy, Rachel and Rochelle. Great grandmother of Roman Alexander. Sister of the late Tome/Paulina, Bernadette/late Francis Baretto passed away on **June 14, 2024**.  
 Funeral cortege will leave her residence on **18th June, 2024 at 10.15 a.m.** for Eucharistic Celebration at **St. Alex Church Calangute (Tomorrow)** followed by burial.  
*Friends and relatives kindly accept this as the only intimation.*  
 JJ undertakers Calangute, 9823012874

**THREE YEARS WITH THE LORD**  
 IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
  
**LIGORIO CRUZ AFONSO**  
 Requiem Mass on **Tuesday, 18th June 2024, 7.45 am** at **St. Inez Church, Panjim**, followed by Prayers & Blessings of the grave.  
 A LOVING TRIBUTE FROM  
 His beloved wife: **Ciza** and Children: **Christopher / Oana, Cienna / Eleuterio, Christabel / Clayton**  
 Grandchildren: **Carla & Oliver**

**MONTH'S MIND**  
 In loving memory of  
  
**JOSE FERNANDES**  
 -: Vasvaddo, Benaulim -:  
 There will be a Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved **JOSE** at **7.45 a.m.** on **Tuesday, 18th June 2024** at **St. John the Baptist Church, Benaulim**, followed by prayers & blessing at the grave, offered by his loving wife, children & family.  
*Relatives and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.*  
 Confidant Advtg. & Funeral Service, Margao 9823022194

**SAD DEMISE**  
**RUI ALEXANDRE FRANCISCO MENEZES E MONTEIRO**  
 Born : 29/01/1962 — Died : 16/06/2024  
 Beloved husband of Creolinda De Melo e Monteiro. Father/Father-in-law of Rieni/Christine, Raniel. S/o late Prof. Bernardino & late Cecilia Menezes e Monteiro. Son-in-law of late Amphicyon & late Maria Tereza De Melo. Brother/Brother-in-law of Fatima/Rui Menezes, late Maria De Lourdes, late Maria do Carmo, late Orlando/Linette, Diana, Lucia/Teodosio Cardoso. Brother-in-law of Aristobulo/Muriel De Melo.  
 Funeral cortege will leave his residence at **Kamat Complex, Tonca** on **Monday 17th June, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.** to **St. Michael Church, Taleigao-Goa** for Eucharistic Celebration at **4.30 p.m.** followed by burial.  
*Relatives, friends & neighbours kindly accept this as the only intimation.*  
**NO CONDOLENCE VISITS PLEASE**

**FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY**  
 In Everloving Memory of  
  
 Born: 10/12/1940 Died: 27/05/2023  
**MARIA REMEDIANA VALERIA PEREIRA**  
 'VIVENDA VIEGAS', GALLI - TALEIGAO  
 There will be Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved **MARIA** on **Tuesday, 18th June, 2024 (tomorrow)** at **St. Michael's Church, Taleigao** at **7.30 a.m.**, followed by prayers at the grave, offered by her sorrowful husband and family.  
*Relatives & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.*  
 romeo ads

**LORD, I'M COMING HOME**  
  
 BORN: 18.09.1956 DIED: 28.05.2024  
**FRANCISCO XAVIER FERNANDES**  
 (Ribandar / Kuwait / UK)  
 Cherished Son of Anna Rosa / Late Luis Fernandes. Beloved Husband of Maria Flora Araujo E Fernandes. Loving Father / Father-in-law of Luis/Vanessa & Linn. Doting Grandfather to Delilah Rose. Brother / Brother-in-law of Late Roque (Paulo) / Cinthia Fernandes, Conceicao / Santan Dsouza, Pedro/Esperanca Fernandes, Antonio (Zuzu) / Jenny Fernandes, Micael / Caetano Rodrigues.  
**Funeral will be held in UK on 18th June, 2024.**  
 There will be a Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved Francisco on **18th June, 2024 at 8:30 a.m** at **Our Lady of Help (Ajuda Church, Ribandar)**.  
*Relatives, friends & neighbours kindly accept this as the only intimation.*

**DEATH**  
**LOURENCA PAES**  
 (PADDEWADO-CURTORIM)  
 BORN: 10.08.1956 DIED: 16.06.2024  
 Beloved wife of **Domnic Fernandes**. Mother/mother-in-law of **Antoneta/Frankey, Angelina/Juzin, Rosario/Filu, Savio/Joycee**. Loving grandmother of **Vally, Cifa, Nevish, Swezel, Austin, Misty, Seejoy & Fanocha**.  
 Funeral cortege will leave her residence on **17th June 2024 at 9:35am** for Eucharistic celebration at **10:00am** at **St. Alex Church Curtorim** followed by burial.  
*Relatives, friends & neighbours kindly accept this as the only intimation.*  
 BOOKIES 9822129657

*Returned To The Lord*  
**FLORENCIA AURELIANA MAGDALENA D'SILVA**  
 Nerul/ Porvorim/ St Inez  
 15.12.1939 - 16.06.2024  
 Wife of late Lucas D'Silva. Mother/mother-in-law of Lavin/ Cynthia & Leona. Grandmother of Crescentia & Lindsey; Mitch & Ethan. Died peacefully at home. The funeral cortege will leave the residence on **17th June 2024 at 10:00 a.m (today)** for the Eucharistic Mass at **10:30 a.m** at **St Agnes Church, St Inez-Goa** followed by burial.  
*Relatives & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.*  
 GOAN RITES 9822136397

**"Timai" We Will Miss You**  
*"Our dead are never dead to us until we have forgotten them"*  
  
 Born: 29.11.1963. Died: 11.06.2024  
**ARUNA RODRIGUES**  
 "George Ward Carmona"  
 Beloved wife of **Nelson Silveira** (Proprietor of ROAD SHADE BAR & RESTAURANT) Loving Mother/Mother-in-law of: **Nelruna / Sweedon, Savio / Sonia, Suzail / Valison**. Grandmother of: **Senisha, Sebania, Swenelia** and **Senan**.  
*"WE are heartbroken to hear your sudden death. 'TIMAI' you will be always remembered for the great memories we had together and you will be forever in our hearts"*  
**Deeply Mourned and Remembered by:**  
 Brother-in-Law / Sister-in-Law **Late Antonio Paul / Cristalina**. Nephews / Niece **Kevin, Clena / Xavier, Lenny / Roshan**. Grandnephews **Clevier/Cain**.

*In loving MEMORY*  
  
**Marcus J. D'Souza**  
 "10th June 1935- 18th June 2023"  
 (Ex. Employee of SBI)  
**First Year Remembrance Service**  
*The family requests you to join them for a service to remember*  
**Marcus J. D'Souza,**  
*a cherished Husband, Father/ Father-in-law, Grandfather and friend.*  
**Tuesday, June 18, 2024, 4:00 PM**  
 at **St. Inez Church.**  
*Your presence and prayers will be greatly appreciated as we come together to honor his memory.*  
**With Heartfelt, thanks,**  
**The D'Souza Family**

**RETURNED TO THE LORD**  
  
 Born: 9.6.1979 Died: 16.6.2024  
**STEPHEN CARVALHO**  
 -: Mahadevmoddi, Tilamol -:  
 Son of late **Santana Carvalho/ late Sebastiana Lucas**. Loving brother/ brother-in-law of **Staney/ Esma Noronha, Suciroma Anita/ Leo Rebello**. Uncle of **Valenson**.  
 Funeral rites will be held on **Monday, 17th June 2024 (TODAY)** at **10.00 a.m.** to **Our Lady Mother of Poor Church, Tilamol**.  
*Relatives and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.*  
 Confidant Advtg. & Funeral Service, Margao 9823022194

**RETURNED TO THE LORD**  
  
 Born: 30/03/1933 Died: 14/06/2024  
**MILTON SEBASTIAO JOSE COUTINHO**  
 -: Sirvodem - Margao -:  
 (Ex-Mayor of Margao Municipal Council)  
 Son of late **Dr. Jose Claudio Augusto Coutinho/ late Maria Felinta De Sena Furtado**. Beloved husband of **Mercia Francisca Alemao**. Loving father/ father-in-law of **Dr. Maxford / Dr. Hazel, Millford/ Melanie, Mlandford/ Dr. Sevia, Sena/ Oswald Antao, Marlonford/ Marifi** and his loving grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Brother/ brother-in-law of late **St. Imelda, late Hugo/ Propercia, late Ophelia/ late Euleterio Lobo, late Antonio/ Palmira, late Sr. Sira, late Nemesia**. Brother-in-law of late **Isidorio Alemao/ Irene, Ines/ late Joao Brito Rodrigues, Ceada/ Ratisbon Fernandes, Felix Alemao/ late Alice**. Passed away peacefully after a brief illness. Funeral cortege will leave from his residence at **Sirvodem** at **3.30 p.m.** on **Tuesday, 18th June 2024** for Eucharistic Celebration at **Our Lady of Grace Church, Margao** at **4:00 p.m.**, followed by burial at **Holy Spirit cemetery, Margao**.  
 Relatives and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.  
 The Funeral can be seen Live on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/live/uCLVbgY3mJc?si=nLn84CdqkNPu7jTG>  
 Confidant Advtg. & Funeral Services, Margao, Ph. 9823022194

**3rd Death Anniversary**  
 In Loving Memory of  
  
 Birth: 15-07-1970 Death: 18-06-2021  
**Catarina Rodrigues e Vicente**  
 Romans 14:8  
*"For whether we live, we live unto the Lord, and whether we die, we die unto the Lord, whether we live or die, we are the Lords."*  
 A beautiful life deeply missed and cherished by her loving parents, Husband, Children, Brothers/Sisters & in laws.  
 there will be eucharistic celebration for her soul on **18th June 2024 At 7.30 am** At **Our Lady of Ajuda Church**  
*Relatives and friends accept this as the only intimation.*

**THREE YEARS WITH THE LORD**  
 In Loving Memory of  
**DOLOROSA VAZ**  
 (Ansabat / Alto Duler, Mapusa)  
 Born: 11/08/1957 Died: 18/06/2021  
*Gates of memories will never close, How much we miss you, no one knows, Days will pass into years, and we will always remember you with silent tears.*  
 There will be a Eucharistic celebration for the soul of our beloved **Dolorosa**, on **Tuesday, 18th June 2024 at 8.00 a.m.** at **St. Jerome Church, Mapusa**. Offered by her sorrowful husband **Julio Vaz**, Children **Janifa/ Victor & Jessica/Anthony** and Grandchildren **Jayden & Alora**.  
*Relatives & Friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.*

**THIRD DEATH ANNIVERSARY**  
 In loving and cherished memory of  
  
 Born: 14-8-1955 Died: 18-6-2021  
**MANUEL XAVIER EUSEBIO COLACO**  
 Ex-Chairperson of Quepem Municipal Council  
*It's been three years and we miss you dear, In joy and sadness we feel you near. Cherished memories of you bring a smile, only if we could have you back for a little while. In our hearts you'll forever live, Our guiding light forever be.*  
 There will be a Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our most beloved **Manuel** on **Tuesday, 18th June 2024 (Tomorrow)**, at **8 am**, at **Holy Cross Church, Quepem**, followed by prayers and blessing at the grave. Offered by his sorrowful wife: **Vida Colaco**, Son / Daughter-in-law: **Clive / Nelvita Colaco**, Grandchildren: **Cayden & Claira Colaco**  
*Relatives, Neighbours and Friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.*

**First Death Anniversary**  
 In Loving Memory of our beloved  
**JULIET ROSE TAVARES**  
  
 Born: 28 July 1940 Died: 16 June 2023  
*But God will redeem my soul from the grave; for He shall receive me. Ps 49:15*  
 Although we know that you are in the presence of God and our Savior Jesus Christ, free from all pain and suffering; our hearts mourn the loss of your presence everyday. Our lives have forever been changed.  
 There will be a Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved **Juliet Rose**, on **June 18, 2024** at **St. Michael's Church, Taleigão** at **7:30 am**, followed by prayers at the grave.  
 Offered by her sorrowful husband **John**, children **Joey, Jeannette/ Michael, Jennifer, Janice/ Joseph** and grandchildren **Andre, Rebekah, Shayne & Christopher**

**THIRD DEATH ANNIVERSARY**  
 In Ever Loving Memory of Our Most Beloved  
  
 (04.02.1954 - 18.04.2021)  
**JOAO BRITO ALMEIDA (JAMA)**  
 Tontem Morod, Cansaulim/ Hamburg, Germany  
*You left this world behind, but in our hearts you will always shine. Though the years keep rolling by, our love for you will never die. Memories of happy days bring smiles, memories of you bring tears. Your place no one can fill, in life we loved you dearly, in death we love you still for all the coming years. There is a light that streams from the heavens, to lighten our darkness and maybe our hearts. It shines on the place where you lie, in the ground since we parted.*  
 Third Death Anniversary Holy Eucharist will be offered for the soul of our beloved **Mr. Joao Brito Almeida (Jama)** on **18th June 2024 at 8:00 a.m.**, **St. Thomas Church, Cansaulim- Goa**, followed by prayers at the grave. Mass offered by: Beloved wife: **Carmina Almeida** Children: **Teotonio/Pallavi, Jessica/Royden, Janifa/Myron** Adorable Grandchildren: **Turquoise, Twanishqa, Ryle, Stanislaus**  
*Relatives and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.*



# Italy recovers to beat Albania 2-1

**AP, DORTMUND (Germany):** By conceding a goal after just 23 seconds, Italy made the worst possible start to its European Championship title defense. Thankfully for the Azzurri, it soon got much better.

Italy recovered from letting in the quickest goal in the tournament's 64-year history to beat Albania 2-1 in Dortmund on Saturday in an atmospheric Adriatic derby that immediately threatened an upset.

Nedim Bajrami thrilled a heavily pro-Albanian crowd at Westfalenstadion by pouncing on a throw-in by Italy left back Federico Dimarco that failed to reach teammate Alessandro Bastoni, before taking a touch and smashing a rising shot inside the near post. Within 16 minutes, the Italians were ahead as Bastoni headed in Lorenzo Pellegrini's cross to the back post in the 11th then

goals by Russia's Dmitri Kirichenko in 2004.

Yet they controlled the game after that, dominating possession to a backdrop of jeers and boos from a sea of red in the crowd.

It's now just one loss in 12 matches under Spalletti, who took over last August three months after leaving Napoli following its Italian league triumph and was tasked with restoring national pride after Italy failed to qualify for the World Cup for a second straight time. Italy is clearly more at home in the European Championship as it goes for a record-tying third title.

Christian Eriksen scored for Denmark in a 1-1 draw with Slovenia at Euro 2024 on Sunday, almost three years to the day since he nearly died in his team's opening game at the last tournament. The Manchester United midfielder fired his team ahead



Nicolo Barella struck home a swerving first-time shot from the edge of the area.

Barella was one of five survivors from the team that started for Italy in the penalty-shootout win over England in the 2021 European Championship final.

The pressure was on Italy's new-look side under Luciano Spalletti to win its opener given the other teams in Group B are three-time champion Spain and Croatia, a World Cup semi-finalist in 2022. Spain beat Croatia 3-0 earlier Saturday.

Bajrami's goal gave the Azzurri a jolt and created some history it was much quicker than the previous fastest in the tournament's lifespan, which was 67 sec-

ond on 17 minutes in front of a Stuttgart stadium filled with overwhelmingly by Denmark supporters, but Erik Janza's late deflected effort earned Slovenia a point in their first match at the Euros since 2000.

Denmark go on to play England in their second Group C game in Frankfurt on Thursday, while Slovenia continue their campaign against Serbia in Munich.

**RESULTS**  
**Italy 2 (Bastoni 11, Barella 16) Albania 1 (Bajrami 1), Poland 1 (Buksa 16) Netherlands 2 (Gakpo 29, Weghorst 83), Slovenia 1 (Janza 77) Denmark 1 (Eriksen 17)**

### TODAY'S FIXTURES

**Romania vs Ukraine, Allianz Arena, 6.30 pm**  
**Belgium vs Slovakia, Deutsche Bank Park, 9.30 pm**

### GOA DIARY

**St Anthony Festival Cup 2024 at Assolda**  
**RAIA:** The 19th St Anthony Festival Cup 2024 organised by St Anthony FC, Assolda, at Moll ground, Assolda, will commence from first week of July. The winners will get Rs 60,000 and a trophy, while the runners-up will take home Rs 40,000 and a trophy. Other individual prizes will also be awarded. Interested teams should contact Custodio Fernandes, Christo Fernandes and Victorino Fernandes.

### TODAY'S SPORTS

**13th Cana-Benaulum Panchayat Cup 2024 (quarter-final):** Don Bosco Oratory, Fatorda, vs Varca SC, at St John de Baptist ground, Dando-Benaulum, 4.30 pm  
**Piyush Arambol Football Cup 2024:** Bhaie Curtorim vs SSV0, at Mount Carmel Church ground, Arambol, 4.30 pm  
**Sporting Club Virabhat 9-a-side football:** Corjem SC vs SFX Camarxett SC, at St Alex Church ground, Curtorim, 5 pm

## GBA hosts interactive meet with parents of State ranked players, coaches



An interactive meeting of the Goa Badminton Association with parents and coaches at the indoor stadium, Campal, Panjim, recently

**Team Herald**  
 sports@herald-goa.com

**RAIA:** The Goa Badminton Association organised a highly interactive meeting involving parents of the State-ranked badminton players and coaches at the indoor stadium, Campal, Panjim, recently.

During the meeting, parents were briefed about

improvements such as enhancing infrastructure and repair works at the stadiums, including parents in the consultative processes, formulating a concrete policy regarding the participation of non-Goan players, and seeking exemptions from schools during tournaments and camps.

Goa Badminton Association President Manoj Patil

### FOR BADMINTON'S PROGRESS

the association's upcoming activities, tournament protocols, selection procedures, upgradation programmes, academy plans, and other initiatives.

The forum also provided an opportunity for parents to voice their suggestions and concerns.

Many expressed their satisfaction with the initiative and suggested im-

provements such as enhancing infrastructure and repair works at the stadiums, including parents in the consultative processes, formulating a concrete policy regarding the participation of non-Goan players, and seeking exemptions from schools during tournaments and camps.

Goa Badminton Association President Manoj Patil

provements such as enhancing infrastructure and repair works at the stadiums, including parents in the consultative processes, formulating a concrete policy regarding the participation of non-Goan players, and seeking exemptions from schools during tournaments and camps.

Goa Badminton Association President Manoj Patil

# Vinayak emerges chess champion



The winners along with President of Ponda Taluka Chess Association Sagar Sakordekar, Joint Secretary Sandesh Naik, Arbitrator Milind Gaude and committee members of Matruchhaya's Bal Kalyan Ashram, Talaulim

**Team Herald**  
 sports@herald-goa.com

**PANJIM:** Vinayak Gaonkar emerged champion in the chess tournament organised for boys of Matruchhaya's Bal Kalyan Ashram, Talaulim, by the Ponda Taluka Chess Association, recently.

Narayan Pagad, Hardik

### MATRUCHHAYA'S BAL KALYAN ASHRAM CHESS TOURNAMENT

K C, Shaurya Naik, Sandeep Salgaonkar and Vinod Chawadi were the other winners from second to sixth.

Arbitrator for the tournament was chess coach from Ponda taluka Milind Gaude.

Joint Secretary of Ponda Taluka Chess Association Sandesh Naik was present for the prize distribution function which was held at the prayer hall of the ashram. Others present were - committee mem-

bers of Matruchhaya's Bal Kalyan Ashram, Talaulim, Sanjay Nadkarni (Sports incharge), Nagush Phadte (senior member), Prajakta Chitale (treasurer) and Mrunal Samant.

President of Ponda Taluka Chess Association Sagar Sakordekar congratulated and thanked Gaude for the initiative.

# Navelim Villagers Union in semis



Navelim Villagers Union midfielder Ronaldo Pereira receives the man-of-the-match award from former Benaulum goalkeeper Amilkar Babush Pereira

**Team Herald**  
 sports@herald-goa.com

**RAIA:** Navelim Villagers Union pipped Curtorim Gymkhana 1-0 to storm into the semi-finals of 13th Cana-Benaulum Panchayat Cup inter-village football tournament organised by UC Benaulum, at St John de Baptist ground, Benaulum, on Sunday.

With wet rainy conditions, both the teams made a cautious start. Navelim Villagers Union with a slow start, it was a battle of supremacy in the midfield between Curtorim Gymkhana's Nickson Castanha and Navelim Villagers Union youngster Ronaldo Pereira.

Curtorim Gymkhana came close in getting the

goal in the 23rd minute when an attempted cross from the right by striker Anselm Fernandes dip dangerously and struck the horizontal bar with rival goalkeeper Jeet Gupta beaten in all ends. Five minutes after the resumption of play, Navelim Villagers Union surge ahead

when left winger Velington Almeida sent in a teasing cross which eluded the Curtorim Gymkhana defence and went to Travis Souza who laid the ball to unmarked Ronaldo Pereira who slotted past Curtorim Gymkhana goal-

keeper Prakash Joshi.

Curtorim Gymkhana increased the pace to attack the Navelim Villagers Union's defence but stopper-back Mallapa Bizzargi and Velinton Silva were outstanding to mark the dan-

gerous Joywin Carneiro of Curtorim Gymkhana. Medio Nickson Castanha, who had a fine match almost snatched the equaliser but his curling free-kick was pushed out of danger by Jeet Gupta with six minutes remaining for final whistle.

### TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE COUNTER

**TOMORROW 18th JUNE 7:30 pm** (KALA ACADEMY, PANJIM)  
**19th JUNE 3:30 pm** (PAI HALL, MARGAO)  
**22nd JUNE 7:30 pm** (RAVINDRA BHAVAN, BAINA VASCO)  
**27th JUNE 7:30 pm** (DANDO HALL, CANDOLIM)

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**3.30 P.M. H.T MAPUSA**  
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**(TICKETS CONTACT MISS CELEST 7057172185)**

**30th JUNE (SUNDAY) 3:30 P.M. K. A. PANJIM**  
**(TICKETS AT THE COUNTER)**

MUSIC: MORAN & GIRL M: 7020793815

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# England enter Super Eight

## Win rain-affected match against Namibia

**PTI, NORTH SOUND (Antigua):** England's defence of the Twenty20 World Cup title lived on for a few more hours after a must-win over Namibia in a rain-affected match on Saturday.

To reach the Super Eight, England first had to beat Namibia in their maiden T20 matchup. Persistent showers almost ruined the chance, but the match started three hours late and was reduced to 11 overs, then 10 overs after another heavy shower.



England was made to bat first and rallied to 122-5. Namibia, given a rain-adjusted target of 126, managed only 84-3 and lost by 41 runs.

England did what it had to, then had to wait a few more hours and hope Scotland lost to Australia in Saint Lucia to be sure of advancing from Group B.



England's Harry Brook plays a shot against Namibia during an ICC Men's T20 World Cup match at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in North Sound, Antigua and Barbuda

England was anxious for most of the day, thanks to the weather. It had already suffered one washout its opener against Scotland and a second washout in four group games would have sent it home.

Because of what was at stake, the umpires waited

as long as possible at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium to get play underway.

England lost the plot early. Only one run was taken from the opening over bowled by 39-year-old David Wiese, captain Jos Buttler was bowled

for a duck by fast bowler Ruben Trimpelmann, and Wiese returned to

### TODAY'S FIXTURES

**Bangladesh vs Nepal, at the Arnos Vale Stadium, Arnos Vale-St Vincent and the Grenadines, 5 am**  
**Sri Lanka vs Netherlands, at the Daren Sammy Cricket ground, St Lucia, 6 am**  
**New Zealand vs Papua New Guinea, at the Brian Lara Cricket Stadium, Trinidad and Tobago, 8 pm**

nick out the other opener, Phil Salt. England was 13-2 after 13 balls.

Jonny Bairstow and Harry Brook counterattacked. Bairstow made 31 off 18 balls just before the last rain delay. Brook finished with an unbeaten 47 off 20, and had late support from Moeen Ali and Liam Livingstone, who both contributed to taking 21 runs off the last over.

Namibia's chase was relatively fast but not fast enough. Opener Michael van Lingen, after 33 off 29, was pulled out under the pretense of retiring hurt, and Wiese inserted to up the run rate. He duly delivered 27 off 12 but it was too late.

England 122-5, 10 overs (Harry Brook 47 not out, Jonny Bairstow 31; Ruben Trimpelmann 2-31). Namibia 84-3, 10 overs (Michael van Lingen 33, David Wiese 27; Jofra Archer 1-15, Chris Jordan 1-19).

## Pakistan salvage pride with consolation win

**PTI, LAUDERHILL (USA):** Former champions Pakistan restored a semblance of pride with a toiling three-wicket win over Ireland in their inconsequential final game of the T20 World Cup, here, on Sunday.

The 2009 champions, who were eliminated following their loss to India and the USA in the earlier group matches, restricted Ireland to 106 for 9 after opting to bowl with Shaheen Shah Afridi (3/22) leading the show.

Despite chasing a not-so-daunting target, Pakistan's fragile batting was once again exposed as they slumped to 62 for six in 11 overs, raising the vision of another collapse. But skipper Babar Azam (32 not out) and Abbas Afridi (17) shared a 33-

**Despite chasing a not-so-daunting target, Pakistan's fragile batting was once again exposed as they slumped to 62 for six in 11 overs, raising the vision of another collapse. But skipper Babar Azam (32 not out) and Abbas Afridi (17) shared a 33-run stand to take them home at 111 for 7 in 18.5 overs. Shaheen Afridi hit the winning runs with two mighty sixes in his 5-ball 13 not out**

run stand to take them home at 111 for 7 in 18.5 overs. Shaheen Afridi hit the winning runs with two mighty sixes in his 5-ball 13 not out.

Pacers Barry McCarthy (3/15), Curtis Campher (2/24) and Mark Adair (1/24) bowled their hearts out but Pakistan stood tall in the end as Ireland ended their campaign winless.

While chasing, Pakistan opener Saim Ayub looked in good nick as he slammed a six and two fours before top-edging Adair to keeper

Lorcan Tucker. Mohammad Rizwan hit three fours but was sent back by McCarthy when Pakistan were 39 for 2. In the next three overs, Pakistan lost four quick wickets -- Fakhar Zaman (5), Usman Khan (2), Shadab Khan (0) and Imad Wasim (4) -- to find themselves in deep trouble.

Babar held on at the other end while Abbas made a 21-ball 17 and then Shaheen blasted two big blows to end the proceedings.

Earlier, Ireland had a nightmarish start as Afridi

and Amir left them tottering at 4 for three in the second over.

The left-arm pacer Afridi struck twice in three balls, removing Andrew Balbirnie (0) and Tucker (2) in the opening over. Amir then had Ireland skipper Paul Stirling (1) caught behind to leave the top order in disarray.

Harry Tector survived a caught-behind appeal but was trapped by Afridi in the next ball with a fuller delivery that hit his back leg to reduce Ireland to 15 for 4 in three overs.

George Dockrell blasted two fours to ease the pressure a bit but he fell to a caught and bowled by Amir, who deceived him with a slower ball, as half of the Irish side returned to the hut within powerplay.

## Let entire nation down: Lanka's Mathews apologises

**PTI, ST LUCIA:** Sri Lanka's veteran all-rounder Angelo Mathews reflected on a difficult 2024 T20 World Cup and issued an apology to Sri Lanka on behalf of his teammates, saying they were "heartbroken" to have "let the entire nation down".

The 2014 winners succumbed to South Africa on difficult ground in New York before falling to continental rivals Bangladesh in a low-scoring thriller in Dallas. Their other match against Nepal was rained out, effectively eliminating them from contention for the Super 8s with one match remaining.

Their competition has been marked by logistical difficulties. They were one of two teams, along with the Netherlands, slated to play their group

games at four different sites, prompting spinner Maheesh Theekshana to remark that the fixture selection was "so unfair". But Mathews, Sri Lanka's most senior player, downplayed their significance.

"Yeah, I think first of all we've let the entire nation down and we are sorry because we've let ourselves down. We never expected this. I mean, we came across a lot of challenges but those are not something to sort of worry about, but, unfortunately, we didn't make the second round," Mathews said.

Sri Lanka will face the Netherlands in St Lucia on Monday morning in a match that is a dead rubber for them. The Netherlands can still qualify for the Super Eight.

## Ton-up Mandhana, spinners hand India 143-run win over SA



India batter Smriti Mandhana celebrates her century during the first women's ODI match against South Africa at M Chinnaswamy Stadium, in Bengaluru, on Sunday

**PTI, BENGALURU:** Smriti Mandhana's resolute hundred and a disciplined bowling effort, led by spinners Deepti Sharma and Asha Shobana, piloted India to a huge 143-run win over South Africa in the first women's ODI here on Sunday. India now lead the three-match series 1-0, and the second game will be played here on June 19.

Mandhana's sixth ODI century (117, 127 balls, 12x4s, 1x6) formed the fulcrum of India's competitive 265 for eight on a sluggish Chinnaswamy pitch. Then the Indian bowlers worked their magic around the South African batters to bowl out the visitors for 122 as debutante leg-spinner Asha (4/21) led the show with a frugal spell and was well-supported by offie Deepti (2/10).

Pacer Renuka Singh (1/30) gave India the perfect start, dismissing the in-form South Africa skip-

per Laura Wolvaardt in the first over itself. Wolvaardt had no answer for an excellent nip-backer from Renuka that clipped the top of her off-stump.

The Indians soon fetched the wickets of Tazmine Brits and Anneke Bosch as the tourists slumped to 33 for three. The experienced Marizane Kapp (24, 39 balls), who hammered Renuka for successive four and six, tried to revive the innings with Sune Luus who fought well with a 33.

Earlier, India's script for victory was written by Mandhana, who thrilled the home crowd with a well-paced hundred.

Mandhana stitched two significant partnerships with the feisty Deepti (37, 48 balls, 3x4s) and Pooja Vastrakar (31 not out) to take India out of trouble after the hosts found themselves at 99 for five at one stage.

## No concerns about Kohli's form, couple of dismissals won't change anything: Rathour

**PTI, LAUDERHILL (Florida):** Virat Kohli's string of single digit scores in the ongoing T20 World Cup is hardly a concern as he has been in superb touch during nets and is looking hungrier than ever ahead of the Super Eight, India's batting coach Vikram Rathour said.

Kohli, who was the highest run-scorer in the IPL, went through a dry run so far scoring 1, 4 and 0 against Ireland, Pakistan and USA respectively.

The moment the question popped up at the post-match media conference after the game against Canada got washed out on Saturday, Rathour was ready with the answer.

"I love it when every time I come there is a question about Virat Kohli, whether he is doing well or not. No concern at all, no concern at all," Rathour said. "He (Kohli) has been batting superbly from the tournament that he came from (IPL). Couple of dismissals here, doesn't change anything, he is batting really well."

Rathour is confident that India's No. 1 batter would come good when it matters the most.

"Actually, it's good that he is a little hungrier, he is really keen to do well and really switched on. It's a good space to be as a batsman, I think."

"Looking forward to some good games and we've watched some good innings from him."

The batting coach side-stepped the query about whether playing four all-rounders, including Shivam Dube and Axar Patel, is cast in stone or not.

"Again, we need to be a flexible team. We need to look at the conditions that are in front of us and be ready to deal with those. So as a team, we are going

to be really flexible, I think." "We'll react to what (conditions) we get on the day. We have enough sources in our team to deal with any kind of conditions," he said. Some game time in Florida ahead of Super Eights would have surely helped, he said.

"But if the game had happened that would have really helped us. We were really looking forward to playing a game, to play a good game of cricket. There's always a concern when you play a game in conditions like this that some injury can happen."

"You're already in Super 8 and that's the last thing (injury) you want

to happen before you enter the serious part of the tournament."

Rathour admitted that the choca-bloc schedule of Super Eight with hardly any time between the games isn't an ideal situation.

"Again, not ideal. It would have been great if we could have gotten a game today. But now this is what it is. So, we look forward to having a couple of good practice days in Barbados and getting into the game. So again, now the matches will happen simultaneously after one day."

"So, as a team I think we are ready. We are used to this kind of schedule. We have done it in the past and I am sure we will do it really well this time as well." Rathour also felt that ICC should tell fans why the whole ground here wasn't covered.

"This question should be asked to the ICC people. I won't be able to answer that. I don't know the reason why it was not covered and why it didn't have enough covers to cover the whole ground."

"If they would have covered it, definitely that would have helped. But now it's not there and this is what we've got." The batting coach didn't want to read too much into the New York drop-in strip which was hardly ideal for batting. It's good. You should be able to play on all types of wickets. We have the skills to play in all types of conditions and do well. So, we have got the difficult wickets.

"Hopefully, we will get good wickets in the tournament. "And if we get turning wickets, we have 4 spin options, we have enough fast bowlers as well. So, whichever conditions

come, I think we are really equipped to deal with that," he added.

## Australia crush Scotland by 5 wickets

**PTI, GROS ISLET (St Lucia):** Australia did their arch-rivals England a massive favour with a five-wicket win over a gritty Scotland as the Richie Berrington-led side crashed out of the T20 World Cup Super Eight stage race here.

With England hammering Namibia earlier in the day in a rain-truncated game, all that Jos Buttler's side needed was Australia's win over Scotland to get a lifeline.

Australia scored 186/5 while chasing 181 in 19.4 overs after Scotland fought right until the end to keep their hopes alive.

After putting on a formidable total on board, Scotland had even reduced an edgy Australia to 60/3 at one stage but their most successful batters in this World Cup — Travis Head (68) and Marcus Stoinis (59) — delivered again.

Brief scores: Scotland 180-5 off 20 overs (Brandon McMullen 60, Richie Berrington 42 not out, George Munsey 35; Glenn Maxwell 2-44, Adam Zampa 1-30, Nathan Ellis 1-34). Australia 186-5 off 19.4 overs (Travis Head 68, Marcus Stoinis 59, Tim David 24 not out; Mark Watt 2-34, Safyaan Sharif 2-42, Brad Wheel 1-28).

## sportspopup

### Boxer Lovlina loses to Li Qian, clinches silver in Grand Prix

**NEW DELHI:** Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist boxer Lovlina Borghain lost to China's Li Qian to settle for a silver medal in the women's 75kg contest at the Grand Prix Usti nad Labem in the Czech Republic. The Paris Olympic-bound Borghain lost by a 2-3 split verdict in her final bout against the reigning Asian Games champion late Saturday night. Qian, who is a two-time Olympic medalist and has a three World Championships medals, including a gold under her belt, had defeated Borghain in the summit clash of the Asian Games last year. Lovlina said this will hold her in good stead going into the Paris Olympics. The tournament, being hosted under the aegis of World Boxing, featured four boxers in the women's 75kg category -- Borghain, Cindy Ngamba of the Refugee Boxing Team, Qian and England's Chantal Reid -- and is being held in a round robin format. She is one of six Indian boxers who have qualified for the Paris Olympics.

### Bhajan secures individual quota in archery with gold in Final Olympic Qualifier

**ANTALYA (Turkey):** Bhajan Kaur clinched India an Olympic individual quota in style, winning a gold medal at the 'Archery In Paris Final Olympic Qualifier' here on Sunday. Premier archer Deepika Kumari put up a woeful show to exit in her first match, but the inexperienced Bhajan grabbed the limelight by stunning top-seed Mobina Fallah of Iran without dropping a set to clinch the gold. The third seeded Bhajan showed exceptional shooting to go all the way. She defeated Mobina 6-2 (28-26, 29-29, 29-26, 29-29) in a one-sided final. Her teammate Anika Bhakat made a quarter-final exit, but she also secured an individual Olympic quota by virtue of that last-eight entry. The individual quotas are allotted to the top-eight nations. Each country gets one individual quota. India thus has secured individual quotas in both men's and women's sections. Dhiraj Bommadevara had secured the men's individual quota from the Asian qualifying leg earlier.

### For Test cricket to thrive, India has leadership role to play: CWI CEO Johnny Grave

**BRIDGETOWN:** Test cricket remains in danger and powerhouse India has a "leadership role to play" in ensuring the five-day game not just survives but thrives in smaller regions like the West Indies, its CEO Johnny Grave told PTI. Grave, who joined Cricket West Indies (CWI) back in 2017, lauded the BCCI's unwavering commitment to Test cricket despite a gruelling calendar but said more needs to be done at the ICC level to protect the red-ball game outside the big three comprising India, England and Australia. Only the big three out of the nine competing ICC full members will play a five-match series in the 2023-2025 World Test Championship cycle. Three full members -- Ireland, Afghanistan and Zimbabwe -- have never been part of the championship introduced in 2019. Grave, currently busy with co-hosting of the T20 World Cup, spoke his mind on future of the game and the role he expects the BCCI to play. "India have a leadership role to play. They're now the number one board when it comes to power, influence, and resources. To date, they've been fantastic in how they've continued to play all three formats of the game, their commitment to Test cricket. I don't think it has ever been as strong as it is now," said Grave.

### 'If Rohit or Kohli plays defining knocks on big days, group league scores won't matter'

**NEW DELHI:** Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma are in this Indian set-up because of their ability to play defining knocks when it matters the most and Sanjay Manjrekar wouldn't mind a few underwhelming group league scores from the two megastars if they can make a difference in the semi-final or final of the ongoing T20 World Cup. While Kohli has failed to reach double digits in all three completed games, skipper Rohit was in good nick during his fifty against Ireland but didn't score many against Pakistan and USA in the subsequent matches. "Ideally, if you have gone for people like Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, then you have gone for experience. You want to take your experienced players in World Cup to deliver when it really matters," Manjrekar told PTI in an exclusive interview. The former India player added, "So, I don't mind if certain players are out of form. Coming into the knockouts, if they play a defining innings in a semi-final or the final to win the title, that's the kind of expectation you must have from your senior players. "If a youngster comes to the fore, that's a bonus like it happened in 1992 with Pakistan, with Inzamam ul Haq. It's the seniors who have to make the major contribution and that is why I guess selectors go for experience in T20 World Cup or World Cups generally."

### England have earned right to be Euro 2024 favourites: Kane

**GELSENKIRCHEN:** England captain Harry Kane said the Three Lions "are here to win" Euro 2024 in Germany as they aim to live up to the tag of pre-tournament favourites in their opening game against Serbia on early Monday. Under manager Gareth Southgate, England have come close to ending a 58-year drought to win a major tournament on three occasions without getting over the line. Kane won the Golden Boot as Southgate's men bowed out to Croatia at the semi-finals of the 2018 World Cup and then missed a crucial late penalty in a quarter-final exit to France four years later. But it was on home soil at the last European Championship that England came closest to glory under Southgate as they lost the final on penalties to Italy at Wembley. Since then, the development of Jude Bellingham, Phil Foden and Bukayo Saka has helped form a fearsome attacking arsenal alongside Bayern Munich striker Kane. Between them the quartet scored 114 goals for their club sides this season. "Every tournament poses different expectations but we've earned the right to be classed as one of the favourites," Kane told a pre-match press conference in Gelsenkirchen. "We're here to win ultimately and there will be nothing better than to do that for the nation."

### Mbappe rules out representing France at Olympics

**DÜSSELDORF:** France captain Kylian Mbappe on Sunday admitted that he will not represent his country at the upcoming Paris Olympics. "For the Olympics my club has a position which is very clear so that means I think I will not participate in the Olympics. That is how it is," Mbappe said. The 25-year-old, who was speaking ahead of France's opening Euro 2024 game on Monday against Austria, has just signed for Real Madrid and will join the European champions for the new season under freedom of contract from Paris Saint-Germain. The men's Olympics football tournament begins on July 24, with the final on August 9. The Spanish season is due to start a week later, while Madrid are also due to play Atlanta in the UEFA Super Cup in Warsaw on August 14. "Joining a new team in September would not be the best way to begin my adventure," admitted Mbappe, who had previously stated a wish to be able to play for Thierry Henry's French Olympic team. "I wish the best to the France team. I will of course watch all their games as a spectator rather than an actor, and I hope they bring back the gold medal." This week Lionel Messi confirmed he would also not go to the Olympics, turning down the chance to win the gold medal with Argentina for a second time.