

THE GOAN



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IN SHORT >>

Articles worth ₹33L seized in casino raid, 11 arrested

PANAJI: The Crime Branch arrested 11 persons for their alleged involvement in an illegal live card game at Bambolim. SP CB Rahul Gupta disclosed that among those arrested, eight were gambling customers, two table dealers and one shift manager, all caught red-handed in the act. CB officials also seized two live card gambling tables, 14 tablets, two sets of 52 playing cards, two live card shufflers, two card scanners and two cash chip floats containing chips worth Rs 28 lakh approx. Other gambling articles were also seized with the total value of the confiscated items estimated at Rs 33 lakh.

2 fall into sinkhole at Miramar, hurt

PANAJI: Two persons were injured after they fell into a sinkhole near a residential colony in Miramar on Sunday evening. CCTV footage released to a section of the media showed two men falling when a portion of the ground collapsed at the under-construction site.

Assaigo nightclub row intensifies

MAPUSA: The controversy surrounding a nightclub in Assaigo continues to escalate, with no resolution in sight. The situation has taken a new turn as the landowner has appealed to the Director of Panchayats to regularize the structure. >> See **pg 3**

Rains expose poor condition of roads

MAPUSA: The onset of the monsoon season has laid bare the deplorable state of roads in Mapusa, exacerbating the woes of pedestrians and motorists alike. As rains poured, several thoroughfares across the town revealed a landscape dotted with potholes. >> See **pg 3**

Sopo tender: Eyes on SGPDA meet

MARGAO: Wholesale fish market traders are anxiously waiting for the SGPDA meet not just to float the e-tender on sopo collection, but to put an end to exorbitant rates levied on fish traders by PDA-appointed sopo agents in the wholesale fish market. >> See **pg 2**

WEATHER >>

Max: 32°C
Min: 25.8°C
Humidity: 87%

TIDES

Low: 01:18 13:10
High: 08:19 18:38

Claims of EVM tampering ignites political firestorm

REPORT SAYS CANDIDATE FOUND USING MOBILE PHONE 'CONNECTED' TO EVM AT THE COUNTING CENTRE

PTI

NEW DELHI

A fresh political slugfest erupted on Sunday over EVM tampering claims with Rahul Gandhi and other Opposition leaders citing media report that alleged Shiv Sena candidate in Mumbai North West Lok Sabha constituency was found using a mobile phone "connected" to an electronic voting machine during the counting of votes on June 4. However, Vandana Suryavanshi, returning officer of the constituency, dismissed the report in "Mid-Day" newspaper as "false news" and said a defamation notice has been issued to the publication. She asserted that EVM is a standalone system, not programmable and has no wireless communication capabilities. The BJP hit out at the Op-

Sparks fly after Elon Musk's post on EVMs

NEW DELHI: Tesla and SpaceX Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Elon Musk has said that electronic voting machines (EVMs) should be eliminated as they are prone to "getting hacked" by humans or AI (artificial intelligence). "We should eliminate electronic voting machines. The risk of being hacked by humans or AI, while small, is still too high," Musk said in a post on X. The billionaire was reacting to irregular-



ities reportedly discovered in EVMs during Puerto Rico's primary elections. However, former information technology minister and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Rajeev Chandrasekhar termed Musk's post a "sweeping generalisation" and offered to "run a tutorial" for the Tesla chief on how India ensures its indigenously manufactured EVMs are hacking proof. In response, Musk replied: "Anything can be hacked".

position leaders over the issue and demanded that the Election Commission should prosecute all those who "amplified the lie" by sharing the news report. Questioning the reliability of EVMs, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi and

others on Sunday also quoted a post by Elon Musk, chairman of social media platform X and CEO of Tesla, in which he talked about eliminating EVMs and claimed the risk of hacking was "too high". Congress' ally and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh

about transparency in our electoral process.

"Democracy ends up becoming a sham and prone to fraud when institutions lack accountability," Gandhi said in a post on X and tagged the media report which claimed that a relative of Shiv Sena's candidate Ravindra Waikar, who won the polls, had a phone that unlocks an EVM. Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders Aditya Thackeray and Priyanka Chaturvedi also shared the news report and demanded that the CCTV footage of the counting day be released.

"This is a fraud at the highest level and yet the @ECISVEEP continues to sleep. The manipulated winner's relative was carrying a mobile phone at the counting centre which had the ability to unlock EVM machine," Chaturvedi said on X.

Netravali residents up in arms against ban at waterfalls

SLAM DEPT, CLAIM LOCAL BIZMEN AFFECTED

THE GOAN NETWORK

SANGUEM

Locals from Netravali village particularly those running small business units, and the tourists alike have bitterly decried the recent order issued by the Forest Department banning tourists from visiting waterfalls in the Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary during the monsoon.

The ban reportedly follows the incident which took place at Savari waterfall last year when two youth lost their lives while attempting to venture into the waterfall.

Locals have, however, decried the move claiming it to hold no logic as entry for visitors to the beaches continues unabated even during the monsoon.

Waterfalls are best during monsoon and gives an altogether different look which is missed by tourists given the blanket ban imposed by the Forest Department, they claimed.

Locals also claim that while



many used to thrive on tourism activities in the village during the monsoon season, these opportunities have been severely impacted since the ban was implemented, leaving those who depended on tourism out of business. The Forest Department has been urged to review the order and get it withdrawn immediately by imposing other restrictions as that of ban on swimming at the waterfalls.

A DAY AFTER FEET WERE FOUND...

Massive search at Mandur, no clue of infant's body

- POLICE, LOCALS SCOUT AREA
- FORENSIC TEAM AT SITE
- CCTV FOOTAGE SCANNED; DOG SQUAD CLUELESS

THE GOAN NETWORK

OLD GOA

The Agassaim police along with the locals, which included the panchayat authorities, conducted an extensive search around the area where the infant feet were found at Tari Vaddo-Mandur, on Sunday.

However, the search could not result in the finding of the remaining part of the body of the infant.

It may be recalled that, on Saturday evening feet of an infant were found in a residential area at Tari Vaddo-Mandur.

The same were first noticed by a lady in the morning but she brought it to the notice of the local panch only in the evening.

And, on Sunday, a strong police force descended at the site and began searching the area particularly the one behind the residential houses where huge dumping of debris and garbage is noticed.



The forensic team at the site where the infant's feet were found. Manuel Vaz

ON PAGE 3
Demand for tenant verification grows

MLA, former MLA visit site, want case resolved

former sarpanch Ajit Bacal and some locals also joined in the search which however could not help in finding the remaining part of the body.

It was also observed that the feet of the infant could have been picked by the dog from the area where dumping is done as there is an access to the spot where the feet were found.

The shallow water located

Valpoi police seize 3,000 kg illegal beef

THE GOAN NETWORK

VALPOI

In a major operation, Valpoi police intercepted a vehicle at Keri and seized approximately 3,000 kg of illegal beef valued at Rs 6 lakh that was being transported from Belagavi to Goa.

The incident occurred late Saturday when police stopped a pickup truck en route from Belagavi at Keri checkpoint. Upon inspection, it was found loaded with beef and the driver, Mehboob Subhani from Belgaum could not produce the required documents.

He was later arrested and a case was filed at Valpoi police station. Police suspect a larger operation of illegal beef trafficking from Karnataka to Goa and have intensified monitoring at checkpoints following credible information received prior to the raid at Keri.

While Mehboob Subhani has been arrested, an ongoing investigation aims to uncover any additional suspects involved.

Authorities later disposed off the seized beef and have impounded the vehicle. Further investigation is on as officials continue to pursue leads in the case.

No need to teach students about riots: NCERT chief

DENIES ATTEMPTS TO SAFFRONISE TEXTBOOKS

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, 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

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 —Dinesh Prasad Saklani

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. The hue and cry about the chang-

es 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".

P.C. TRUST
SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIPS
TOPPER AT SSC, GBSHSE & CHINCHINIM

SCHOLARSHIPS.. DR. V.S. TOPPER AT SSC GBSHSE & MARGARIDA TOPPER AT CHINCHINIM SCHOOLS. RS. 15K RS. 12K P.A. AWARDS MARGARIDA FOR ASSUMPTA I & II IN SCHOOL, RS. 12K, RS. 8 K. DR. JACK SEQUEIRA AWARD FOR TOPPER AT SSC, GBSHSE RS. 15K.

CONTACT: 9850926276

Despite rain, dam water levels remain critically low

THE GOAN NETWORK

PANAJI

After more than a fortnight of continuous rainfall in Goa, including pre-monsoon showers, water levels in the dams remain quite low. Two dams including Anjunem have recorded less than 20 per cent water capacity while Selaulim and Amthane have reported less than 40 per cent.

However, the Water Resources Department remains unperturbed stating that water levels will surge by the end of August and the dams will brim to their full capacity.

Minister Subhash Shirodkar, speaking to The Goan, said that water capacity will rise within two months. Chief Engineer Pramod Badami reiterated the water level will gradually rise while stating the capacity

WATER LEVELS: AS OF JUNE 16

- Water at Anjunem dam at **15.1%** despite **326.90mm** rainfall
- Selaulim dam @ **33.3%** having recorded **430.20mm** rainfall
- Amthane dam stands at **35.4%**
- Panchwadi dam lags at **18%**
- Chapoli dam @ **46.7%**
- Tillari dam registers **24.8%**



of each of these dams is huge. "All these dams will reach full capacity by August-end with overflow expected in the subsequent month," he added. As of June 16, Anjunem dam remains the lowest at 15.1 per cent capacity despite

receiving 326.90mm of rainfall. Selaulim dam records 33.3 per cent capacity having recorded 430.20mm of rainfall whereas Amthane dam stands at 35.4 per cent capacity, while Panchwadi dam lags at 18 per cent. Among other dams, Se-

laulim dam -- critical water source for several places in the South district including Margao, Vasco, Quepem, Sanguem, and the surrounding rural areas -- saw a decline in water level to 34 per cent till the first week of May when the

State reeled under scorching heat. The Anjunem dam's water level had also plummeted to 22 per cent, further seeing a dip.

Meanwhile, as per the latest figures, Chapoli dam boasts 46.7 per cent capacity while the main Tillari dam -- serving Sattari and parts of Bicholim taluka -- registered only 24.8 per cent with the area receiving 220.40mm of rainfall. Gaunem dam leads the pack with a maximum of 50.5 per cent capacity.

The State has experienced continuous rainfall with the India Meteorological Department issuing a yellow alert from June 18-20. On Sunday, Goa remained under a yellow alert as heavy rains accompanied by strong winds swept across most parts of the State.

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THE POWER PLAY BEHIND BENAULIM ZP BY-POLL

■ KEY PLAYERS VIE FOR DOMINANCE ■ INDIA BLOC LEADERS, CHURCHILL, ALEMAO SIBLINGS EYE SHARE IN VOTES ■ POLITICAL OBSERVERS FORESEE STRONG UNDERCURRENTS



Hectic campaigning underway in Benaulim for the June 23 Zilla Panchayat bye-poll.

THE GOAN NETWORK

MARGAO

The result of the by-poll for the Benaulim Zilla Panchayat seat will be of no consequence and bearing on the South Goa Zilla Panchayat body, where the ruling BJP is firmly entrenched in the power game with overwhelming numbers on its side in the 25-member district panchayat body.

The by-poll, however, holds immense significance for a host of political players, including the nascent INDIA bloc, the Aam Aadmi Party and its Benaulim MLA Venzy Viegas, the Congress, village leaders, who are satraps in their own right and not to forget former Chief Minister Churchill Alemao, besides the Alemao siblings anxious to make their mark in the ensuing polls.

Barring Congress-turned-Independent Roylea Fernandes, who had in the past contested the 2017 Assembly polls on the AAP banner, before unsuccessfully contesting the 2020 Benaulim ZP poll on the Congress ticket, the remaining three candidates Joseph Pimenta (AAP), Grrayfans Fernandes and Frank Fernandes, both Independents are relatively new entrants in the turbulent Benaulim politics.

A week to go for the by-poll on June 23, the Aam Aadmi

CANDIDATES IN THE FRAY



Joseph Pimenta (AAP)



Frank Fernandes (IND)



Roylea Fernandes (IND)



Grrayfans Fernandes (IND)

BENAULIM ZP ELECTORATE

- Benaulim - 9,793
- Varca - 4,141
- Orlim - 1,573
- Carmona - 2,996
- Cavellossim - 1,652

Party is on the ground with party volunteers, drumming up support for party and Alliance-backed candidate Joseph Pimenta. On the other hand, hectic behind the

scenes activity is seen in Benaulim in a bid to avoid a split in the non-AAP votes and to channelise the opposition vote to one common candidate.

With exactly a week to go for the by-poll, political observers foresee strong undercurrents in the Benaulim ZP constituency, spread across the village of Benaulim, Varca, Orlim, Carmona and Cavellossim even as the Arabian Sea, has started to roar due to rough weather conditions with the onset of the monsoons.

ACID TEST FOR INDI ALLIANCE IN BENAULIM

MARGAO: The Benaulim ZP by-poll is indeed a testing time for the INDIA bloc, just days after the experiment tasted huge success in the recently held Lok Sabha polls.

For, the Alliance has come under strain in Benaulim in the run up to the June 23 ZP by-poll, with resentment brewing in the Congress, Goa Forward and the NCP camps finally bursting out in the open.

Benaulim Congress leader and GPCC general secretary has quit the Congress to throw her hat in the election ring. Goa Forward member Pele Fernandes is openly supporting the candidature of Independent candidate Grrayfans Fernandes. Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) Goa unit Mahila chief and Carmona Sarpanch Sandra Martins is sore that neither the Alliance leaders nor Aam Aadmi Party leaders have informed her of Pimenta's candidature.

"The INDI Alliance was formed to take on PM Narendra Modi for his dictatorship. The Lok

Sabha election is over. We are not even being told who is the Alliance candidate," Martins said.

The Benaulim ZP by-poll is considered significant for the INDIA bloc given that leaders of the Alliance have all been publicly betting in support of the continuance of the Alliance at least till the 2027 Goa Assembly elections.

Political observers say the future of the INDIA bloc may face a setback in the event the Aam Aadmi Party fails to retain the Benaulim ZP seat. So far, AAP leaders have been concentrating on the by-poll campaign, with top leaders, including MLA Cruz Silva, AAP chief Amit Palekar and Valmiki Naik descending on the Benaulim battle ground to drum up support for Joseph Pimenta. "If AAP retains the Benaulim seat, it would hold good for the Alliance. We will have to wait and see how AAP leaders react in the event the party fails to retain the seat," remarked a political observer.



File photo of INDI Alliance supporting AAP for the Benaulim by-poll.

First major test for AAP since 2022 Assembly polls

MARGAO: Two years before Aam Aadmi Party could open an account in the Goa Legislative Assembly in the 2022 Assembly election, the Arvind Kejriwal-led party had started its political journey in the State from Benaulim in the 2020 Zilla Panchayat poll when party-backed Hanzel Fernandes was elected to the South Goa Zilla Panchayat from Benaulim by defeating the Congress and NCP candidates. It's another matter Hanzel's election was declared null and void by the Administrative Tribunal in an appeal filed by Roylea Fernandes after the High Court set aside his caste certificate stating he is a Christian carpenter.



Captain Venzy Viegas winning the Benaulim Assembly seat in the 2022 Assembly election.

Indeed, AAP Benaulim MLA Captain Venzy and the party are facing an acid test to retain hold over Benaulim. Sources say neither AAP nor Venzy can afford to lose the by-poll with just two years and half to go for the 2027 Assembly election.

This is the first election AAP and Venzy will be facing in Benaulim after the 2022 Assembly election. The June 23 by-poll is significant for Capt Venzy in particular since a host of local players, some of whom who might have set their eyes on the 2027 Assembly election, are supporting the Independent-backed candidates to prove a point or two to the AAP MLA in the game of one-upmanship.

Sources say that AAP has a volunteer base in Benaulim constituency as evident by the party's vote share in the 2017 Assembly election, 2020 ZP poll and the 2022 Assembly poll. Apparently realising the importance the June 23 by-poll holds for him and the party, the AAP MLA had gone about inducting new members into the party-fold during the campaign for the recently held Lok Sabha polls.

Supporting candidates of their choice: All eyes on Alemao siblings

MARGAO: All eyes are focused on the Alemao siblings, how they would go about in the June 23 by-poll for the Benaulim Zilla Panchayat seat.

For, perhaps for the first time in Benaulim election, the Alemao siblings seemed to be not on the same page at least in the ensuing Benaulim ZP by-poll.

Going by the ground reality in Benaulim, the Alemao siblings seemed to have extended their support to the candidates of their choice, indicating the siblings will in most likelihood



Yuri Alemao, Warren Alemao and Savio Alemao

fight for supremacy through a proxy war.

Leader of the Opposition, Yuri Alemao, son of former Minister Joaquim Alemao, sources say is the main force behind the decision to support the continuance of the INDIA bloc in the Benaulim

ZP by-poll, indicating that he is firmly behind the AAP Benaulim MLA Venzy Viegas in the ensuing by-poll.

On the other hand, former Chief Minister Churchill Alemao and son Savio have rallied behind Independent candidate

Grrayfans Fernandes. In fact, Churchill informed that he and son Savio have extended their support to Independent candidate Grrayfans. "I have not fielded any candidate for the Benaulim by-poll after my candidate lost the election in 2020. But, I and my son have extended my support to Grrayfans," Churchill said.

Yuri and Savio's cousin brother Warren Alemao, who has set his eyes on the 2027 Assembly election, was likely to announce his decision on his support to

the contesting candidates on Sunday. One who has strongly opposed INDI Alliance from contesting the Benaulim by-poll, Warren has said he will formally announce his support for the candidate in a day or two. "The Congress leadership is supporting the INDI Alliance in Benaulim against the wishes of congressmen. These are local elections where people will vote for local issues. I am trying to forge a consensus amongst the contesting candidates to defeat AAP in the by-poll," Warren added.

All eyes on SGPDA meeting to resolve sopo fee issue at wholesale fish market

TRADERS ASSOCIATION CLAIMS FEES CHARGED ARE EXORBITANT, NOT AS PER PDA CIRCULAR; THREATENS TO MOVE HIGH COURT

THE GOAN NETWORK

MARGAO

Will the June 19 meeting of the South Goa Planning and Development Authority (SGPDA) take a call on the long-delayed question of taking a call on floating the tender for the sopo collection fees at the wholesale fish market?

Wholesale fish market traders are anxiously waiting for the SGPDA meet not just to float the e-tender on sopo collection at the earliest, but to put an end to exorbitant rates levied on the fish traders by the PDA-appointed sopo collection agents in the wholesale fish market.

President of the Margao Wholesale Fish Market Traders Association, M Ibrahim told the media that things have been going out of control with the sopo collection agents appointed by the SGPDA charging the fish traders exorbitant fees.

Producing receipts of the fees charged by the collection agents, Ibrahim pointed out



The wholesale fish market at Margao.

that the fees are not charged as per the circular issued by the SGPDA while fixing the sopo rates. "The wholesale fish market traders have been cooperating with the PDA on the question of payment of sopo fees. But, the agents appointed by the PDA are collecting the fees not prescribed in the circular," he said.

In fact, Ibrahim pointed out that he sent the receipts issued by the sopo collection agents to the SGPDA members seeking justice for the fish traders.

The president has warned that the traders will be forced to knock the doors of the High

Court if the PDA does not mete out justice to the wholesale fish traders. "We hope that the SGPDA members will take cognizance of our grievances and take appropriate measures to stop the agents from charging exorbitant fees. We will be forced to knock the doors of the High Court for action," he threatened.

The SGPDA also has a task to float the e-tender for sopo collection fees at the wholesale fish market afresh. For, the e-tender, which was floated around August-September last year could not be taken to its logical conclusion because of the clause that the

We hope that the SGPDA members will take cognizance of our grievances and take appropriate measures to stop the agents from charging exorbitant fees. We will be forced to knock the doors of the High Court for action, —M Ibrahim, Margao Wholesale Fish Market Traders Association chief

sopo collection contractor ought to have 10-year experience in fishing business/activities.

Thought the controversial clause was finally scrapped from the tender documents by the government, a fresh tender is yet to see the light of the day, which SGPDA Chairman Krishna Daji Salkar has attributed to the intervening election code of conduct.

Public forum with Vijai on State issues

THE GOAN NETWORK

MARGAO

The Goa Forward Party on Sunday has invited the general public to interact with the party president, Vijai Sardesai on Wednesday, June 19, from 4 pm to 7 pm, at the GFP Headquarters, located at 507, 5th floor, above Sweet Nation, Edcon Mind Space, behind Military Hospital, St Inez, Panaji, Goa.

Party general secretary Mohandas Loliencar said the interaction is organised in view of the forthcoming monsoon session of the Goa Legislative Assembly. "It will provide an opportunity for the citizens of Goa to directly communicate their concerns, suggestions, and issues to Vijai Sardesai," he said.

He added: "Our party president is committed to his mission of ensuring that the voices of Goans are heard in the Assembly. The issues and concerns brought up during this session will be raised in the upcoming monsoon session. This interaction underscores our commitment to transparency, accountability, and public involvement in governance."

MMC contemplates FIR against LDC amid payment negotiations

THE GOAN NETWORK

MARGAO

The Margao Municipal Council will take a call on lodging FIR against the erring LDC in the misappropriation case on Tuesday since the employee has conveyed to the civic officials about his willingness to pay another installment of the dues.

MISAPPROPRIATION OF FAIR FUNDS

However, it could not be confirmed how much amount has the LDC offered to pay to the civic body on Tuesday.

Of the total amount of Rs 17.44 lakh, the employee had on Friday deposited an amount of Rs 3 lakh in the Municipal treasury, which prompted the Margao Municipal officials to keep on hold the decision to lodge FIR against the employee.

In fact, Chief Officer Gaurish Sankhwalkar had on Friday said that his office has sent the draft FIR copy to the Municipal lawyer for vetting before a formal complaint is lodged with the police.



With the LDC depositing in the Municipal treasury an amount of Rs 3 lakh and has now sent feelers that he would settle the dues on Tuesday, sources in the civic body informed that the FIR with the police will not be filed at least till Tuesday to allow the employee to clear the balance dues

depositing in the Municipal treasury an amount of Rs 3 lakh and has now sent feelers that he would settle the dues on Tuesday, sources in the civic body informed that the FIR with the police will not be filed at least till

Tuesday to allow the employee to clear the balance dues. Meanwhile, expressing shock that the Chairperson of Margao Municipal Council Damodar Shirodkar and the Chief Officer Gaurish Shankhwalkar tried to pass the blame on others, Congress leader and ZP member Michelle Rebelo said they had no answers on why official police complaint was not launched even after two weeks since the fraud took place.

Suspecting the involvement of some senior politicians as well as senior staff of Margao Municipal Council in the financial scam, Michelle said the conspicuous silence of the MLA on this issue also raises questions.

Camurlim p'yat addresses concerns over garbage tax, drainage issue

THE GOAN NETWORK

MARGAO

Garbage fees dominated the gram sabha meeting of the Village Panchayat of Camurlim on Sunday.

The gram sabha meeting chaired by Sarpanch Basil Fernandes saw members questioning the logic and rationale behind levying a monthly fee of Rs 60 as garbage tax on the households. They pointed out that while

many a household may be paying the annual house tax amounting to Rs 60, the garbage tax works out a whopping Rs 720 annually.

Sarpanch Basil, however explained the members that the task of garbage management has been left to the local bodies by the government. He pointed out that unless the panchayat levy the garbage fees, the local body will find it difficult to sustain garbage manage-

ISSUES DISCUSSED

■ After much discussion, the members finally decided that the panchayat should charge a monthly garbage collection fee of Rs 50 instead of Rs 60

■ Members told the sarpanch that the PWD should be told to clear the drains and gutters on the major roads

■ The members also sought details on the number of trees felled and branches cut down as part of the monsoon preparedness in the village

ment with funds not forthcoming from the government for the activity.

dry and wet waste collection, which involves manpower and vehicles, besides their maintenance. "Unless the people cooperate and pay the fees, the garbage management project will not move forward," he said.

After much discussion, it was finally decided that the panchayat should charge a monthly garbage collection fee of Rs 50 instead of Rs 60.

The issue of cleaning of drainages and gutters also fig-

ured at the meeting. Members told the sarpanch that the PWD should be told to clear the drains and gutters on the major roads.

The gram sabha members also sought details on the number of trees felled and branches cut down as part of the monsoon preparedness in the village.

The sarpanch placed before the gram sabha the administrative and audit reports for discussion and approval.

Rumdamol meet discusses traffic woes, biz activities

THE GOAN NETWORK

MARGAO

Traffic congestion and business activities on the main road leading to the village figured prominently at the Rumdamol village gram sabha on Sunday.

The meeting chaired by Sarpanch Mubina Faniband saw members drawing attention of the chair to the presence of hawkers and their business ac-

tivities on the main road, from the Maruti Temple to the Anjuman school complex.

It was pointed out by the members that the main road needs to be kept free from vendors and hawkers to reduce traffic congestion on the busy road.

The sarpanch has promised to take action against the illegal hawking activities on the main road.

Rains expose pathetic state of Mapusa roads

ROADS LEFT UNREPAIRED DUE TO ONGOING POWER CABLING WORKS ARE BARELY MOTORABLE

THE GOAN | NETWORK

MAPUSA

The onset of the monsoon season has laid bare the deplorable state of roads in Mapusa, a bustling commercial town in North Goa, exacerbating the woes of pedestrians and motorists alike.

As heavy rains poured down, several thoroughfares across the town revealed a landscape dotted with potholes, making navigation a treacherous endeavour for the town's residents.

The situation is particularly dire on roads left unrepaired due to ongoing power cabling works, which have further deteriorated, creating significant inconvenience for citizens.

In the Khorlim area, roads are relatively better maintained, but the majority of routes in Angod, Gaunsavaddo and Peddem present a stark contrast, being in an abysmal state.

Roads in these areas are marred with potholes, and in some sections, the damage is so severe that the roads have become nearly unmotorable.

The situation in Gaunsavaddo is especially critical, where roads dug up for laying underground cables and sewerage connections were never repaired, leading to hazardous potholes.

Motorists find it particularly challenging to navigate these roads, with the narrow width compounding the difficulty for both pedestrians and vehicles.

One particularly troublesome stretch of road suffers from poor drainage, resulting in rainwater accumulating in the middle of the road and causing significant inconvenience. Former councillor Deepak Mhadeshri has openly criticized the current councillor, Prakash Bhivshet, accusing him of neglecting his duties.

"It's the fault of our councillor who has failed to discharge his duties as a responsible elected representative of the ward. It's surprising that despite supporting the ruling group in the council, the councillor is unable to meet the expectations of the people," Mhadeshri stated.

He further added that during his tenure as councillor, he managed to complete all necessary works despite being in the opposition. In Angod, the condition of the roads is similarly grim.

Roads that were excavated for underground power cabling remain unrepaired,



The road near Alankar Theatre in Angod, Mapusa is riddled with potholes, causing distress for both motorists and locals. (Right) The damaged main road opposite the Kalangutkar Nursing Home in Angod, Mapusa is causing significant inconvenience for locals and motorists attempting to navigate the area.



despite multiple reminders from concerned locals to the Public Works Department (PWD). These roads have developed deep trenches due to cuts made at several spots, creating significant hazards for motorists and pedestrians.

The recent rains have worsened the condition of several other roads in the area, adding to the distress of the local populace. With the heavy monsoon season expected to continue for the next three months, there are growing concerns that the road conditions will deteriorate further.

Later, speaking to The Goan both demanded that thorough investigation has to be done in the matter and the case resolved so that the infant gets justice.

Expressing shock over the incident, MLA Borkar said that such an incident has never happened in the sleepy village of Mandur which is known for harmony.

However, in recent times it has been noticed that many migrants are staying on rent here and there is a possibility that this work could also be of the migrants, Borkar said.

The police should conduct thorough investigation in the matter and get to the root of the case so that the culprit is arrested and the infant gets justice, Borkar added.

Voices grow for tenant verification

Former MLA Silveira too said that it was a shocking incident and demanded that the police should solve the case and catch the culprit behind the same.

"And I believe that the police led by Agassaim PI are capable enough to solve the case," Silveira informed.

MLA, former MLA visit Mandur site, want culprit arrested, case resolved

Borkar hints at possibility of migrants' involvement

THE GOAN | NETWORK

OLD GOA

Even as the search for the remaining part of the infant's body failed to yield result, St Andre MLA Viresh Borkar and former MLA Francisco Silveira visited the site to take stock of the situation.

Later, speaking to The Goan both demanded that thorough investigation has to be done in the matter and the case resolved so that the infant gets justice.

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The police along with the locals scanning the area which could have been used by the dog to take the infants feet at the spot where they were found. Manuel Vaz

Even as the case of the finding of infants feet at Tari Vaddo-Mandur failed to get a breakthrough, the chorus has been growing that the handiwork could be of the migrants, either residing on rent in the village or from the surrounding villages.

In light of the above, demand is being made in various corners that the police should conduct extensive tenants verification drive in Mandur which they say will definitely help in the case. And to begin with, Mandur sarpanch Prashant Naik demanded that the police should take the issue of tenants verification seriously as there are many houses given on rent but no tenants verification is done.

During one meeting with the officials concerned, I had raised the issue that tenants verification in Mandur should be done but nothing has been done on the front, Naik said.

Former sarpanch Ajit Bacal, too, demanded that the issue of tenants verification has to be taken very seriously in Mandur as there are many migrants residing in rented rooms and without any verification.

Panch Francisco Po too made a demand for tenants verification in the village, particularly in his ward, where the owners who give rooms on rent do not bother to provide information to the police.

Ex-GPCC chief demands action against cop over case 'remark'

OLD GOA: Reacting to the statement of a police officer who stated that the incident of infant's feet found at Mandur is 'not a serious case', former GPCC president Girish Chodankar demanded action against the officer for making such an insensitive statement.

"This is an insensitive remark by the officer of the Goa Police and he should be immediately taken off duty. We can't accept such insensitive remarks by a police officer on such sensitive incidents, where limbs of infant have been found," Chodankar said.

He further demanded that the Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, who also holds the Home Portfolio, should clarify whether he subscribes to this statement made by the Goa Police.

"But first action needs to be taken against the police officer, who will not investigate this case thoroughly as he finds it not serious. The Director General of Police should quickly act on this," Chodankar demanded.

Assagao nightclub controversy intensifies as landowner seeks to regularize structure

LOCAL PANCHAYAT'S ROLE IN GRANTING NOC COMES UNDER SCRUTINY

THE GOAN | NETWORK

MAPUSA

The controversy surrounding a nightclub in Assagao continues to escalate, with no resolution in sight. The situation has taken a new turn as the landowner has appealed to the Director of Panchayats to regularize the structure.

The Assagao panchayat initially issued a no-objection certificate (NOC) to DNG Entertainment on June 7, 2023, permitting the construction of a temporary pre-engineered building (PEB) for a bar and restaurant at Survey No. 224/2, Mardungo Vaddo.

The panchayat received fees of Rs 67,000 and one month's rent of Rs 1.60 lakh annual house tax for the structure.

Based on the panchayat's NOC, DNG Entertainment secured additional permissions from health authorities, the Goa State Pollution Control Board, the fire department, and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).



They also obtained a commercial conversion sanad from the Town and Country Planning (TCP) department by paying the necessary fees, and subsequently applied for permission from the Assagao panchayat. However, the panchayat failed to either approve or reject the permission. As a result, the landowner has now approached the Director of Panchayats to regularize the structure.

Local residents, upon learning about the nightclub, became agitated and formed the Assagao Badem Citizens Action Committee (ABCAC) in April to oppose the establishment.

Assagao Sarpanch Hanumant Naik has stated that the approval was granted only for a bar and restaurant, not a nightclub. Despite questioning the landowner multiple times, Naik has not provided clear outcomes from these discussions. Amid growing public pressure, DNG Entertainment submitted a handwritten note to the panchayat in April, requesting the cancellation of the temporary license issued the previous year.

The panchayat wrote to the TCP, requesting a joint site inspection after residents highlighted various flaws in the approvals given by the TCP. Despite repeated requests and mounting public pressure, the TCP has not yet conducted the inspection. The panchayat sent another reminder to the

opposition. Assagao Sarpanch Hanumant Naik has stated that the approval was granted only for a bar and restaurant, not a nightclub. Despite questioning the landowner multiple times, Naik has not provided clear outcomes from these discussions. Amid growing public pressure, DNG Entertainment submitted a handwritten note to the panchayat in April, requesting the cancellation of the temporary license issued the previous year.

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Assagao locals, panchayat meet owner in bid to break deadlock

MAPUSA: In a bid to resolve the ongoing dispute over a controversial nightclub, the Assagao Panchayat and members of the Assagao Badem Citizens Action Committee (ABCAC) held a joint meeting with the landowner on Saturday. The meeting aimed to find a resolution that would satisfy public interest and address the concerns of local residents.

During the meeting, villagers and panchayat representatives informed the landowner that they had no objection to the establishment of a bar and restaurant in the area. However, they strongly opposed the operation of a nightclub. Despite this, the landowner maintained that the establishment was solely intended to be a bar and restaurant, with no plans to operate a nightclub on the premises. Locals presented videos from social media campaigns depicting the structure as a nightclub.

TCP on June 11. The Director of Panchayats is set to address the landowner's appeal to regularize the structure on June 18.

ABCAC convener Surendra Gad has asserted that the villagers will persist in their efforts to have the nightclub scrapped.

Will create awareness on benefits of Tamnar project, says Shripad

Claims good energy can lead to great development

THE GOAN | NETWORK

VASCO

Newly appointed Union Minister of State for Power Shripad Naik said that he will create awareness among the public on the benefits of Tamnar project.

Naik was speaking to reporters after arriving to Goa, where he was offered a grand welcome by his supporters amidst the beats of Dhol and Tasha and chanting of slogans. Naik said that he would be using his power department for the maximum benefit of the state.

"I have now been appointed as the Union Minister of State for Power and I will use this position to pass the maximum benefits to Goa and Goans. We will check what the state needs in terms of power because energy is the basic need for any development for any state. We will also create awareness on Tamnar Project so as to clear any confusion in the minds of the people because only good energy can lead to great development. We have to unite to bring Goa to a



Union Minister of State for Power Shripad Naik after arriving at the Dabolim Airport on Sunday. Vikram Nayak

Naik said that he would be using his power department for the maximum benefit of the state

higher level by using the support of state and central government," Said Naik.

Naik said that he was thankful to the people of Goa for his victory with a huge margin in

the Lok Sabha elections.

"I have been now appointed as the Minister of State for Power and this is all due to the blessings of the people. All these years, the people have strongly stood by me and shown their faith in me and I have been the minister for various departments in the past as well. I want to tell the people that I will continue to work for them and use my position for their benefit," said Naik.

Edu dept indicates deliberate confusion created over NEP

URGES PEOPLE NOT TO FALL PREY TO SPECULATIONS

THE GOAN | NETWORK

PANAJI

As the State government nears the completion of taluka-wise meetings to clear confusion regarding the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, officials indicated that deliberate attempts are being made by certain elements to create confusion about the policy.

"Goa, along with two or three others, is the first state to implement the NEP. We began with the foundation course and have now progressed to the secondary level, with Class IX following the implementation. During this process, some confusion arose, which prompted us to initiate taluka-level meetings to address it," Education Director Shailesh Zingde said while

addressing the Swayampurna Goa programme.

Claiming that confusion by and large has been resolved, he expressed concern indicating that certain elements are still creating confusion.

"Currently, there is minimal confusion and only some clarity is required, which we are addressing. I urge the general public, including parents, not to fall prey to speculations. If you have any doubts, approach the State Council of Education Research and Training. You can provide suggestions to our officials, and we will work on them," he added.

The Education Department, Goa Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education and the SCERT have completed meetings of school

management, teachers and parents in Sanguem, Quepem, Salcete, Tiswadi, Sattari, Bicholim, Bardez, Ponda, Dharbandora and Pernem that began on June 7. Meetings of schools in Mormugao and Canacona talukas are scheduled for June 20 and June 21, respectively.

"It is our duty to ensure our students receive the best education possible. Our efforts will continue," Zingde added.

The department is now focusing on teacher training, with the first batch of 80 teachers scheduled to attend an 11-day training programme at the Indian Institute of Science in Bengaluru from June 18. The Goa government has signed a MoU with IIS Bengaluru to impart NEP training.

195 rainwater harvesting trenches dug in Mandrem

SHOW EFFICACY IN BOOSTING GROUNDWATER LEVELS

THE GOAN | NETWORK

PERNEM

Dhavrukh NGO took a significant stride towards water conservation on Sunday with their "BhujalSanvardhan" Catch the Rain event held at Junaswada, Mandrem in Goa.

The event, graced by approximately 50 enthusiastic volunteers, aimed to raise awareness about rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharging.

Led by the President of Dhavrukh, Rudresh Utam Mhamal, the NGO has emerged as a catalyst for change in Goa's water conservation efforts. Their initiative has gained momentum, drawing attention to the pressing need for water conservation amid growing environmental concerns. The highlight of



NGO Dhavrukh volunteers dig 195 contour trenches emphasizing the local importance of water conservation.

the event was the creation of 195 contour trenches, symbolizing the 195 countries of the world, emphasizing the global necessity and local importance of water conservation. These trenches serve as practical demonstrations of rainwater

harvesting techniques, showcasing their effectiveness in replenishing groundwater levels. Dhavrukh NGO's journey began with groundwater recharging units installed across 8 talukas of Goa and Oras village in Maharashtra.

HC quashes assault FIR, imposes penalty on complainant

THE GOAN | NETWORK

PANAJI

In an assault case where the complainant and the accused reached a compromise during the police investigation, the Bombay High Court at Goa imposed a penalty on the complainant after the government opposed a petition seeking to quash the FIR.

While pronouncing the verdict on the criminal writ petition, the Division Bench of Justice MS Karnik and Justice Valmiki Meneses noted slim chances of conviction and decided to end the criminal case, imposing a Rs 10,000 penalty payable to the Police Welfare Society.

"According to us, considering the nature of the complaint and having regard to the stand of the complainant, it appears that the possibility

of conviction is remote and bleak. It would not be in the interest of justice to continue with the criminal proceedings. To secure the ends of justice, we feel that the criminal case be put to an end," reads the order. The penalty was imposed on the complainant to be paid within two weeks.

The incident dates back to December 20, 2023, when a confrontation between a bike rider and a car driver led to Joginder Singh allegedly punching the complainant in the face.

The complainant who later fell on the road, alleged that other occupants of the car also assaulted him with stones and kicks. The Calangute police had registered the offense and began an investigation. However, both parties decided to settle the matter, entering into a compromise deed on May 28, 2024.



THE GOAN EVERYDAY

I'm a father; that's what matters most. Nothing matters more
Gordon Brown

EVMs may be fine, but ECI needs to change its attitude

The EVM controversy is back in the news after Congress leader called the EVM a 'black box' saying 'serious concerns' stemmed from the fact that 'nobody was allowed to scrutinise the EVMs' while calling for accountability from institutions to save democracy from being reduced to a sham and being prone to fraud.

Fresh concerns arose after a report claimed that a member of the Shinde Sena group was in possession of a mobile phone that would receive an OTP that could be used to unlock the EVM machine.

The Election Commission of India has since clarified that there is no such OTP that is required to open EVM machines and that EVMs being completely standalone machines that are not connected to any network could not have needed OTPs to unlock them. US billionaire Elon Musk too waded in the controversy which prompted former Union Minister Rajeev Chandreshekar to hit back claiming that EVM machines in India are different from those in the US and are not networked in any way. But the controversy refuses to die down.

Part of the reason is because of how the Election Commission of India has handled questions concerning the EVMs. When EVMs were first introduced the ECI of the time went out of its way to explain to the public how safe and secure the EVMs were. Explaining that it isn't just the machine itself that isn't hackable since it would mean gaining physical access to the machines -- that that the process itself was such that no unauthorised person would have access to the machines.

Over the years as the EVMs gradually grew in acceptability, the Election Commission of India, instead of being open and transparent concerning the machines, has grown reserved, defensive and secretive about the EVMs shooting down questions with snark, hitting back at questions not just about "hacking" but also about differences in vote count, booth capturing, EVM swapping as well as the security of the process right from manufacturing, which is done by private players right to their use, and apparent unauthorised access to EVMs as reported in the media.

This attitude has only served to promote suspicion about the use of EVMs and has promoted questions across social media and a general atmosphere of doubt which the Election Commission of India has failed to address.

It's not only hacking that the people are suspicious of. It is a known fact that EVMs are prone to malfunction. Being machines the public needs to be reassured that even an unintended malfunction does not compromise the integrity of the process. The best way to counter doubt and suspicion is to open the darkness to sunshine and allow independent experts.

Examination by independent experts will not only reassure the public that the EVMs are indeed unhackable, but that there are no logical errors or hardware deficiencies that make the EVMs vulnerable.

Instead, the Election Commission of India appears to be more worried about protecting its own reputation, which is ironically being destroyed by the very attitude that seeks to absolve itself of any accountability.

The effectiveness of the EVMs is not just in whether the machines and the systems are effective and robust, but also whether people trust that they are effective and robust. Anything short of that will dent not just people's faith in the system, but also dent India's standing as a democracy that is open, transparent and isn't hesitant to have its practices scrutinized.

OPEN SPACE >>

Will the solar ferry become another white elephant?

It is learnt that the solar ferry procured by the government by spending almost Rs 4 crores is unviable and uneconomical. The inspection report had reportedly stated that jetties with charging facilities and disembarking of passengers at ferry points were necessary. The solar ferry also reportedly faced challenges like narrow navigational channels, more water current and longer voyage time. Worse still, these ferries cannot accommodate vehicles and are meant only for passengers. It is common knowledge that in Goa several vehicular owners use the ferry service to cross the rivers. Was it not known before procurement that the ferry cannot carry vehicles? Will the solar ferry become a white elephant? It is understood that the solar ferry will now be leased to private parties who can operate them for tourism purposes. Public funds are not being used for the convenience of the citizens but to accrue profits for the government through the tourism department. The same funds could have been utilized to put into service at the various ferry points.

ADELMO FERNANDES, Vasco

Unpreparedness or the urge to complain

People in the habit of cribbing are apparently attuned to focus on problems and generally not motivated to look for solutions



PACHU MENON

> The writer is a resident of Margao who strongly desires to bring about some socially relevant changes with his musings

The humid and hot conditions that described the weather in the region for a long and torturous time has now made an erratic transition to a wet spell where the long-awaited rains however came down in torrents to upset normal life, and in its wake gave residents glimpses of the unpreparedness of the State administration in coping with any situation that deviated even a degree away from normal.

If the first few rains -- nay, call them showers -- are enough to disrupt power supply which the department usually attributes to problems in the 'incoming', well we should certainly have a case-study done on the inattentiveness to routine work by the department personnel which, as a consequence, brings about a plethora of problems for consumers no sooner the monsoon commences.

The dozen or so scheduled shut-downs announced by various sections of the electricity department as a readiness exercise with the impending rainy season in mind seem to serve no other cause than to have the residents sweating profusely as a result of the 'enforced' outage.

Just as prompt as they are in switching off the 'mains' in the sub-station, it comes as no surprise to have the restoration of power extending a few hours after the time announced for it.

In fact the announcements of these shut-down works scheduled by the electricity department from time-to-time have only served to inconvenience the public rather than have anything productive coming out of the works essayed.

But as things stand right now, the onset of the monsoon will definitely be testing times for the district administration with the major cities in the state resembling excavated sites.

Panjim, for instance! There have been several instances of motorists falling prey to unattended trenches and pits related to Smart City work, the most tragic being the case of the 21-year-old at mala in the wee hours of New Year's day.

An outpour of a few hours reportedly is enough to submerge parts of the city. However, the authorities looking into these works are yet to shed their uninspiring attitude and continue to be swayed by unrealistic contemplations



of a work that is hardly 'smart' by any consideration.

Not to say that things are any different in Margao or for that matter, in any other city in the state. Digging up the tar-topped surfaces is the current 'trend' when it comes to exhibiting the progress and development of a region, or so it seems.

If it was 'concealed-wiring' that revolutionized electrical works of bungalows and other residential and commercial apartments earlier, it is underground cabling that portends modernization in power distribution now.

As a Xacticar, I have seen many villages in Salcete having their roads reduced to half their normal size with excavation activities going on full swing. Freshly dug trenches lining up the other side of the road - the preceding ones coarsely covered with the excavated materials after laying the cable - though a traffic nightmare, at least gives one the impression of a speedy progress in work.

It is only when one reaches the city precincts that one encounters a total bedlam!

It is as if the on-going sewerage works are competing with underground cabling works. With every inch of the thoroughfare utilized for the said works - not forgetting the heavy machinery and assorted equipment aligned for the job - it does appear that the residents have every reason to complain.

But let us understand that these are all utilitarian works and will prove beneficial to the locals in the coming years. Undoubtedly, today's pain is tomorrow's gain!

The local bodies meanwhile are overseeing the cleaning of internal village roads and desilting nullahs in various stretches under their jurisdiction to ensure that rain water flows freely and there is no stagnation leading to breeding of mosquitoes.

But heaps of the waste piled up on the sides of the roads and nullahs after

the cleaning is done paints a very unhealthy picture of the whole process!

Amidst these 'developments' it is not unusual to have people fostering the 'complaining urge' to dichotomize the prevailing situations. It is as if there is always a mixed-reaction to every possible scenario.

Just a few days back, we were like chickens in a tandoor! The heat was unbearable. With a few straight months of record heat, Goa was pining for a wet-spell -- even a temporary one at that -- to bring down the mercury levels.

Hardly have we got over the pleasure of enjoying the smell of rain while sipping hot tea and snacking 'garam garam bhajias' with loved ones, 'whimpers of suffering' can already be heard. Discussions on how many inches of rainfall we have already had (as though the debaters are authorities on wet-weather) is an everyday feature no sooner the monsoon sets in.

The joviality over a few sun-drenched minutes disappears no sooner dark cumulus clouds begin taking shape overhead. Whining about the 'incessant' rains (mind you we are just three-or-four days into the wet-spell now), people have nasty things to say about the prevalent weather.

The noxious habit of cribbing is something we can certainly do without!

"Cribbing in layman's terms refers to non-stop complaining. Many individuals over time develop the habit of cribbing and use it in an unhealthy way to deal with situations without realizing it. People often crib about some very petty situations and seem to get a comfort out of it." (Excerpts from, 9 Reasons Why People Crib, By Dr Nisha Khanna).

Simply put; responding with constant complaining and failing to rationalize the situation, people in the habit of cribbing are apparently attuned to focus on problems and generally not motivated to look for solutions.



Hardly have we got over the pleasure of enjoying the smell of rain while sipping hot tea and snacking 'garam garam bhajias', 'whimpers of suffering' can already be heard

THE INBOX >>

Time to save our hills for posterity

Recently the Governor of Goa was appealing to experts to look into the decline of cashew production in Goa. Yes he has said it right. But his own government is responsible for this with permissions to cut hills which once had abundant cashew plantations. Some cashew plantations are also destroyed by setting them on fire so that the real estate builders are allowed to convert the land into settlement. What more do you expect of Goa's natural biodiversity to remain? The tigers and other wild animals are now migrating into human habitation causing conflict. When given an opportunity to speak on environment all ministers ask the people and youth to save the environment while these same elected representatives make laws to destroy Goa. Cases are piling in the high court and NGT when these elected representatives fail to change their greed for money. It is no use to listen to these top politicians or even invite such people to speak on this topic of environment. A time may soon come when we will have wax or clay museums to showcase Goa's biodiversity for tourists and the generations to come.

GREGORY D'SOUZA, Siolim

NEET needs a complete overhaul

Apropos to the NEET controversy, I suggest that from next academic year, the country may be divided into 5 zones -- North, South, East, West and Central. Separate tests must be conducted at the National and Zonal levels. Students must be advised to appear for both tests. The question paper for the zonal test must be set by teachers of each zone

Fair fraud: Penalise MMC employee

It is truly shocking to learn that Rs 17 lakh revenue collected from the Margao fair was allegedly diverted into a personal account instead of the municipality's account. This behavior of the municipal employee has tarnished the reputation of the renowned Margao Municipal Council and its staff. This is a clear case of fraud, and the municipality should immediately file a criminal FIR against the concerned employee. Suspending him is insufficient; he should be permanently terminated. The delay in taking further action by the municipality is baffling and raises serious questions.

RONNIE D'SOUZA, Chandor

separately. Fifty per cent of seats in all colleges in India, (except private medical colleges) must be reserved for students appearing for the National Test. The other 50% must be reserved for students appearing for Zonal Test. Zonal students may opt for colleges within their zones. This will bring about sanity in the testing system and meet with the aspirations of students from all States. This system will also provide a level playing field for all, as some States are very small and have only one medical college like Goa or no medical college, like Nagaland. Such students will have more options at the zonal level. Lastly, students appearing for the zonal test will feel 'at home', with the question paper and the college allotted.

ROBERT CASTELLINO, Calangute

Eid fostering unity among all

Goa and the rest of the country will celebrate Eid ul-Adha on June 17 Monday. Eid ul-Adha, or the 'Feast of Sacrifice,' is the Islamic holiday that begins on the 10th day of the Islamic lunar month of

Dhul-Hijja, during Hajj and it's celebrated by Muslims around the world. This festival enjoys special significance because the day of sacrifice marks the climax of Hajj, the fifth pillar of Islam. It signifies sacrifice, charity, compassion and strengthens bonds with community and friends.

This annual pilgrimage to Makkah and Madinah in Saudi Arabia is an obligation only for those men and women who are physically and financially able to perform it once in their lifetime.

Generally, the Islamic calendar consists of two Eid festivals; Eid ul-Fitr and Eid ul-Adha. Specifically for Eid ul-Adha, Muslims are encouraged to participate in Qurbani.

It's a time to strengthen bonds with family and friends, reconcile differences, and foster unity within the Muslim community.

K G VILOP, Chorao

Fight for existence

The Qutub Minar is originally the 'Vishnu Stambha' and the Taj Mahal is the 'Tejomahalaya'. Despite substantial evidence, these monuments are still regarded as foreign artifacts. Even though Kashi Vishweshwar's Shiva Linga is visible to all, its custody is the subject of a court battle. Our rich culture has been overshadowed by the blind imitation of foreign practices. The West glorifies Vedic scriptures, Sanskrit, Ayurveda, Yoga, and various Sanatan forms of worship. Instead of waiting for others to teach us these practices, it is better to adopt them ourselves in all aspects of life.

The identity of dhama, culture, and a history of valor inspires future generations to fight for their existence and boosts their enthusiasm. This concept was a key discussion point at the last 'All India Hindu Rashtra Convention'.

SAGAR SHIRODKAR, Via email



Send your letters to us at editor@thegoan.net. Letters must be 150-200 words and mention the writer's name and location

Shut shop or face action: CMC to illegal scrapyards in Canacona

CIVIC BODY HAD ISSUED NOTICES TO ALL SUCH ESTABLISHMENTS

THE GOAN NETWORK

CANACONA
Chief Officer Mangaldas Gaonkar announced that the Canacona Municipal Council will take action to remove all illegal scrapyards if the served notices are ignored.

This statement was made during a Council meeting, where it was revealed that there are over nine scrapyards operating illegally within the municipal areas. Notices have been issued to all scrapper owners to shut down their operations within the municipal jurisdiction.

"If these scrap heaps are not removed within the given time, the municipality will take action to clear them and close the scrapyards," Gaonkar informed the councillors. This issue was raised in response to concerns about the proliferation of illegal scrapyards in the municipality.

Councillors also discussed the payment of overdue municipal taxes and the relocation of carts in light of the upcoming Fish Market at Chaudi. It was noted that the municipality had permitted over a dozen locals to operate businesses in Chawadi. These permit holders are required to pay appropriate fees and renew their permits, but many have failed to do so, continuing their trades illegally.

STRONG WARNING

- Canacona Municipal Council to take action against illegal scrapyards if closure notices are ignored
- Councillors discussed overdue municipal taxes and relocation of carts for the new Fish Market at Chaudi
- Resolution passed to purchase two new garbage vehicles due to insufficiency
- New fish market construction nearing completion; vegetable market toilets to be repaired for fish market use
- Municipality yet to receive Rs. 1.5 crore in trade taxes; calls for improved tax collection and other civic issues

"The location of these carts is now part of the road leading to the new fish market. I

strongly demand their relocation to suitable places," stated Councillor Dhiraj (Pandurang) Naik Gaonkar. Chairperson Sara Naik Desai responded that the carts would be relocated at an appropriate time.

Ruling and opposition councillors clashed over pre-monsoon works, such as sewerage repairs, placement of concrete blocks, the filthiness in the Chawadi fish market, and the unlicensed scrapyards.

Councillors complained about the insufficiency of the municipality's four garbage vehicles (compactors). Chairperson Sara moved and passed a resolution to purchase two new vehicles for garbage collection.

Chaudi Councillor Ramakant Naik Gaonkar mentioned that the new fish market's construction would be completed soon, and the toilets in the vegetable market would be repaired for use by fish market vendors.

The Canacona municipality is yet to receive trade taxes amounting to Rs. 1.5 crore. Councillors demanded attention to the collection of these taxes, house-to-house garbage collection, and reopening the blocked road to the Ourem beach coast, among other issues.

The meeting, chaired by newly elected CMC Chairperson Sara Shamba Naik Desai, was attended by most councillors.

Goa Gov, CM extend greetings on Id-Ul-Zuha

THE GOAN NETWORK

PANAJI

Goa Governor PS Sreedharan Pillai and CM Pramod Sawant extended their greetings to the people of Goa on the festive occasion of Id-Ul-Zuha (Bakri-Id).

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 Id-Ul-Zuha (Bakri-Id) 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."

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

CM Sawant said, "On this joyful occasion, let us come together to build our society stronger and more self-sustainable by contributing towards the growth and development of this State."

Outstanding performance by Estellar Academy students in JEE Advanced

THE GOAN NETWORK

PANAJI

Estellar Academy has always been in the news for producing the best results when it comes to competitive exams and board exams. Estellar Academy has set a new benchmark as their students performed outstandingly, as the JEE Advanced Exam 2024 results were out recently.

The names and All India Ranking of the toppers from Estellar Academy are: Supash Chodankar secured All India Rank - 3924, Alaya D'Cruz secured All India Rank - 4698, Warren Sequeira secured All India Rank - 5124, and Ammar Lashkware secured All India Rank - 7333.

All the four toppers were students of Estellar Higher Secondary School of Excellence, which is an integrated higher secondary school for Boards and competitive exams. Other than these four toppers, Ryan Fernandes secured All India Rank - 21297, and Sandhini Dessai secured All India Rank - 23,331. Estellar is the only institute from Goa which has given four



Top performers at JEE Advanced 2024 with the Principal of Estellar Higher Secondary School of Excellence, Yogendra Singh Sikarwar.

ranked in the top 10000. Recently, the Academy was in the headlines as they had produced Goa state toppers for NEET (UG) and JEE Main 2024. The Principal and Chief Mentor, Yogendra Singh Sikarwar, said, "I am happy that our students have excelled in JEE Advanced as well and they shall be joining the top IIT colleges of the country. I congratulate the meritorious students, their parents, our teaching and non-teaching staff."

Admission to any IIT undergraduate programme is based solely on JEE Advanced scores. This year, the JEE Advanced 2024 Exam was conducted on 26th May 2024 by IIT Madras and the results were declared on 9th June 2024. The JEE Advanced 2024 exam was held in computer-based test (CBT) mode at more than 230 centres. A total of 1,80,200 candidates appeared in JEE Advanced 2024, of which 48,248 candidates have qualified.

This year, Estellar Academy has shown impressive results in all competitive exams, whether it is NEET, JEE Main or JEE Advanced. Estellar Academy has become the first choice of Goan students aspiring for IIT JEE, NEET and other competitive exams.

FROM PAGE 1 >>

Massive search at Mandur, no clue on body of infant

near the area was also searched as the dogs usually tend to enter the shallow waters in search of food.

The police then pressed the dog squad into service but it too could not help in providing any clue.

The Forensic team also arrived at the site and collected some samples from the area where the feet were found.

Further, the police went through the CCTV footage of the panchayat to ascertain if there was any movement of suspicious person or persons but that too failed to yield any result.

Meanwhile, the feet of the infant were sent to the GMC morgue on Saturday night itself where the post-mortem will be conducted and it will help throw more light on the age of the infant.

Sasikala vows to usher in Amma's rule in TN

PTI

CHENNAI

V K Sasikala, confidante of late Chief Minister J Jayalitha on Sunday dramatically said that it cannot be thought that the AIADMK is decimated in view of its recent electoral drubbing as her 'entry has begun,' and vowed to usher in Amma's rule by winning the 2026 Assembly polls.

She also asserted that she would question the government as the 'opposition party' when Edappadi K Palaniswami did not ask the right questions, in his capacity as leader of opposition.

After her unsuccessful attempts over a considerable period of time to regain control of the AIADMK led by Edappadi K Palaniswami, Sasikala, addressing her supporters here, said the time is ripe for entry again.

"This is the time I have been telling you, there is no need for any concern," she said, apparently referring to her stand of



'unifying' the party for which she also had toured several regions of the state.

"For sure, people of Tamil Nadu are on our side...I am very strong...it cannot be thought that the AIADMK is finished and it is because, my entry (re-entry) has commenced," she said amid rounds of applause.

With the support of cadres and people, 'Amma's' regime will be ushered in by winning the 2026 Assembly polls. She said she will soon begin her state-wide tour and pose questions and the DMK government has to provide answers.

2 Army jawans killed, 7 persons injured in mishap near Nagpur

PTI

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.

On their return, a bus belonging to Paval Travels collided with one of the autos,

crushing it, said an official.

The jawans in the other auto and locals pulled out the soldiers stuck in the accident-hit mangled autorickshaw, he said.

Of the eight jawans in the auto, Vighnesh and Dheeraj Rai succumbed to their injuries during treatment, he said.

Bihar boat capsized: 13 rescued, 4 missing

PTI

PATNA

Four persons are still missing, while 13 have been rescued following the boat tragedy near Umanath Ganga ghat in Barh sub-division of Patna district on Sunday morning, officials said.

"So far, 13 people have been rescued, including those

who managed to swim to the banks. Rescue operation is still on to trace the four missing persons," Patna district administration said in a statement.

Meanwhile, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has instructed officials to intensify their search operations to trace the missing persons.

Eid-ul-Adha (Bakrid) - A celebration of obedience and compassion

DR ALVARINHO J LUIS

Eid-ul-Adha, also known as Bakrid, Bakra Eid, is a global festival of sacrifice, observed with immense grandeur and fervor on the 10th day of Dhul Hijjah - the twelfth and final month in the Islamic lunar calendar. It represents the values of faith, obedience, and mercy, incorporating prayers, joyful feasting, and gift exchanges.

Following Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of Ramadan, this festival is the second major Islamic celebration that unites people in a spirit of unity and devotion. "Eid" means "feast," which is celebrated based on the moon sighting. Eid al-Adha, also known as Id al-Kabir or Aid El Kebir, signifies "Greater Eid." Variations include Id al-Qurban, Eid Qurban, and Kurban Bayram.

Eid al-Adha traces its origins to the era of Prophet Ibrahim. According to the Quran, he received a divine command to sacrifice his son, Ismail, to demonstrate his love and devotion to Allah. To prove his obedience and his willingness to follow God's command without question, Ibrahim and his son embarked on the ritual. Just before the sacrifice, an angel appeared, advising the Prophet not to proceed, as God acknowledged his loyalty. Instead of Ismail, a ram was provided for sacrifice, marking Ibrahim's passing of Allah's test. This event led to the tradition of animal sacrifice during Eid al-Adha.



Hence, the Eid-ul-Adha festival is also known as Bakra Eid, translating to the "goat festival." "Bakr" or "Bakri" in Urdu refers to goat, while "Eid" originates from the Arabic word for festival or feast.

The tale of Ibrahim (Abraham in Biblical tradition) and his readiness to sacrifice his cherished son transcends Islam, appearing in the Old Testament of the Christian Bible and the Hebrew Bible (Tanakh). However, there's a divergence: Christians and Jews believe it was Abraham's other son, Isaac, who was destined for sacrifice.

This festival carries immense spiritual significance, adorned with diverse rituals and traditions. Muslims begin the day by rising early, bathing, and adorning themselves in splendid attire, symbolizing joy and celebration. The morning commences with communal prayer (Eid Salaah), followed by special Eid prayers and a sermon at the local mosque. Takbir, the declaration of God's greatness, is recited, prompting

reflection on Ibrahim's story. Following the prayer, people embrace and wish each other "Eid Mubarak," fostering unity, love, and harmony, promoting togetherness.

During a tradition called Qurbani, Muslims sacrifice an animal—often a male goat, sheep, cow, or camel—as a symbol of Ibrahim's obedience to God. Only healthy animals of a certain age can be used, and they must be slaughtered according to Islamic law (halal). The meat is divided into three parts: one for relatives and friends, one for personal consumption, and one for the needy, promoting generosity and compassion. The festival's essence is ensuring no one goes without food on Eid al-Adha.

Eid al-Adha unites families and communities in joy, gratitude, and charity. Many donate Eidi, money gifted on Eid days, to charity. This tradition reflects sacrificing personal desires for the well-being of others, reflecting Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his beloved son.

Eid al-Adha Food

Food is key to Eid-Al-Adha, offering a range of delicacies. Muslim women start early preparations, crafting delicacies. Eid al-Adha cuisine traditionally leans towards savory dishes, earning it the nickname "salty Eid," unlike the "sweet Eid" or "Sugar Feast" of Eid al-Fitr. The meat from the sacrificed animal is a focal point in Eid al-Adha dishes. Worldwide, Eid al-Adha dishes include Biryani from South Asia, Maqluba in the Middle East, and Couscous bidaoui belghammi from Morocco.

Food dishes include Bhuna Kaleji - fried, roasted, or grilled liver of the sacrificed goat with savory spices. Often served as breakfast, it's cooked with onions, ginger, garlic, and green chilies to a melt-in-your-mouth perfection, pairing wonderfully with naan or rumali roti. Keema that features minced mutton or chicken cooked with traditional spices. Chicken or Mutton Korma presents fried meat pieces in a savory, creamy gravy. For starters, Chapli Kebabs offer luxurious patties of grilled or braised minced meat, typically mutton.

Meethi Seviyan, an integral part of Eid festivities. Thick vermicelli is cooked in milk with dried fruits, cardamom powder, and saffron, creating a delightful flavour. No celebration is complete without a sweet drink. In Arabian cuisine, a blend of milk with pitted dates and banana creates a delicious finale to the Bakrid feast.

Directorate of Food and Drugs Administration

Government of Goa

Eat Right India
सही भोजन. बेहतर जीवन.

! FOOD BUSINESS OPERATORS TO NOTE FOR STRICT COMPLIANCE

- ✔ The processing &/ or selling of human milk is not permitted under FSS Act, 2006 & Rules & Regulations made there under. Strict action will be initiated against FBOs involving in activities related to commercialization of human milk & milk products.
- ✔ It is mandatory for Manufacturers & Importers having State License to file annual returns online by 31st May of every year. Non-submission shall attract a penalty of Rs. 100/- per day after the last date. It is informed that, FSSAI has extended the last day for filing annual returns for FY 2023-24 till 30th June 2024.
- ✔ Kindly note that, FSSAI has issued a directive mandating all FBOs to remove any claim of '100% fruit juices' from labels and advertisements of reconstituted fruit juices with immediate effect. All FBOs are instructed to exhaust existing pre-printed packaging material before 01st Sept 2024.
- ✔ Liquid nitrogen (INS 941) is permitted to be used in Dairy based ice-cream desserts at GMP Level for function of contact freezing and cooling only. Liquid nitrogen, which is illicitly being used directly at point of serving/plating is not allowed, and, shall be considered as non-compliance. Any violation shall result in penal action as per the FSS Act, 2006.
- ✔ The use of Calcium carbide as artificial ripening agent has been banned under regulation 2.3.5 of FSS (Prohibition and Restriction on Sales) Regulation, 2011. It releases acetylene gas which contains harmful traces of arsenic and phosphates. Ethylene gas up to concentration of 100 ppm can be used. Non-compliance will result in strict penal action.
- ✔ FSSAI has asked all the e-commerce FBOs to ensure appropriate categorization of food products being sold on their websites. FSSAI has also directed FBOs to remove or de-link dairy/cereal-based beverage mix or malt-based beverage as Health drinks/Energy drinks.

fssai
FOOD SAFETY AND STANDARDS
AUTHORITY OF INDIA

AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT
SWAYAMPURNA GOA

FIT INDIA

BRAND Sutra

THE GOAN EVERYDAY IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE FREE PRESS JOURNAL



Great things in business are never done by one person. They're done by a team of people.

Steve Jobs
Co-Founder of Apple Inc

Zostel is the largest and oldest backpacker-approved hostel brand in India and Nepal. Pioneering India's budget-stay and communal living culture, **Dharamveer Singh Chouhan** tells us about the experiences they aim to create.

A NEW WAY TO TRAVEL

By **Tsunami Costabir**

we look for a zeal to serve the travel community.

Q. Does your brand follow any sustainable tourism practices?

A. We have built up Zostel with the spirit of community and promoting local entrepreneurship. We boost local architecture in design across our properties and work with Indigenous communities. We also promote entrepreneurship and small business development in remote as well as semi-urban areas.

Our communication across platforms and marketing channels encourages people to be responsible travellers. When it comes to sustainability, we organise cleanliness drives across our properties and train the on-ground staff in waste reduction and management.

Q. How, from your understanding, have Indian travellers evolved over the years?

A. Indian consumers are becoming increasingly discerning, and so are their needs and consumption patterns. Today, travellers prefer authentic experiences and adventures. They want to try local dishes, participate in cultural festivals, hear gener-



ational stories and connect one-on-one with the hosts and the place they choose to travel to.

Q. Would you say Covid changed the trajectory of the tourism business?

A. The pandemic significantly impacted the trajectory of the tourism business in India. The tourism industry faced massive financial losses and international tourists plummeted due to travel bans.

However, the post-pandemic revenge travel brought new trends into the industry. There was a noticeable shift towards domestic tourism, leading to the promotion of rural tourism. States like Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Kerala saw a rise in domestic tourists seeking nature and wellness experiences.

The rise of digital and contactless services like online bookings, virtual tours, and digital health passports became more prevalent.

The tourism sector has seen a rebound in employment due to revenge travel. Opportunities like luxury travel, personalised experiences and private accommodations have also gained popularity.

Q. What are things Zostel does to ensure a healthy community and social interaction?

A. We curate on-ground events at every property, such as music gigs and movie and match screenings. We also organise community hikes and games. We have some special common room games like Mafia, which is a favourite. Besides that, our common rooms let people social-

ise easily, and our community managers, interns and property managers help maintain the Zostel vibe.

Q. How do you envision innovation within Zostels?

A. In the future, smart technology will be implemented in rooms for personalised experiences. Tech will also help us focus on tailoring experiences for customers. There is a growing demand for local tours, cultural workshops, adventure sports and wellness retreats that we can work on integrating into Zostel packages. With the proliferation of remote work, we're looking at designing multifunctional spaces that cater to both socialising and remote work, and developing business models that can quickly adapt to market changes.

Q. What are key things you've learnt along your entrepreneurial journey?

A. Transparency and trust are the core of running a business. We operate in the most transparent way with our stakeholders. Also, community is the key driving factor in a hospitality business. One of the greatest benefits for us has been building the community with an increased focus on customer service. We have seen immense customer loyalty through the years.

Q. Do you have a message for people who wish to travel?

A. Two things. One, stay informed on travel advisories and health guidelines for your destination. And two, be a responsible traveller. Respect the environment and local culture, support local businesses and work on minimising your impact by reducing the amount of waste you create.



Building Brand Football

European football's popularity has unmasked India's football fans. Federations and leagues are now synergising to build up the sport at a grassroots level through player development, local tournaments and year-round fan engagement. Here's what some stakeholders have to say...

By **Tsunami Costabir**

It's no secret that cricket takes the lion's share of sponsorships and viewership in India. And all the other sports, whether it's basketball, football, kabaddi, etc., end up competing in a 15% bracket, Aakriti Vohra, Global Delegate at LaLiga, tells us.

The Indian Super League (ISL) was founded in the year 2013 by the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL). But they couldn't initially reach their goals in terms of creating a strong fan base.

Reliance's General Manager of Integration and Sports Affairs, Chirag Tanna, said at a LaLiga webinar, "The ISL was a two-month tournament followed by the I-League. It was not cohesive enough to build interest among fans. But today, we have a nine-month calendar in line with what other countries that have well-developed football are doing. There is always something for fans to consume." Evidently, the amount of tournaments and content being churned out is at an all-time high.

Seeing the massive potential the country holds and the lack of young footballers the country produces, some bridges needed to be built. LaLiga then set up their grassroots program in India in 2018. LaLiga is the mammoth league where some of the world's greatest clubs, like Barcelona and Real Madrid, compete. They have a presence in over 40 countries and India has been a particularly unique market for them to crack.



country's favourite, cricket, they've taken a rather unusual route, onboarding Rohit Sharma, captain of the Indian cricket team, as their first-ever non-football ambassador. LaLiga made the forward move of using the popularity of cricket to their advantage. Their Academy in India is now present in 14 cities, with 31 centres and has over 3,500 kids. They also have collaborations with the Reliance Foundation Young Champions and Reliance Youth Cham-

ionship that synergise to focus on player development.

For inclusive development, they have started the Rural Development Trust, where over 3,000 girls and boys play in a rural league supported by LaLiga through merchandise. They have also launched a fully residential girls' academy, where 20 girls are taken care of with fully paid scholarships for their education and are also learning football the LaLiga way.

Their skill-based platform is for kids to pursue and fall in love with football with a futuristic plan of making loyal LaLiga fans and then pulling them into the league, where they become eventual brand ambassadors. An example of this is Kajol D'souza, who trained at the LaLiga Academy in India and bagged a full scholarship to train in Madrid. She went on to represent India at the FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup. "We've seen that the Indian consumer appreciates when you show serious commitment to a long-term project," says Aakriti.

JSW Sports has also been a big part of this community. They gave India its highest-ranked football club, Bengaluru FC, and help develop infrastructure for the sport in India. At a LaLiga webinar, JSW Sports' COO, Divyanshu Singh, spoke about what it takes for a sport to gain popularity in a country.

"A key driver of the popularity is having icons that people can look up to. India is a nation of hero worshippers, and we've seen this effect with people like Pullela Gopichand in badminton and Neeraj Chopra in athletics," he said. Their achievements and subsequent idolisation make them marketable personalities while also increasing the popularity of the sport.

A lot is being done in the world of Indian football. New leagues, tournaments, programs for young talent and investment in infrastructure and training. The synergy between organisations is creating one healthy football ecosystem. And, "in time, we will see a World Cup where we can support India," Aakriti signs off.

Self-Declaration – The Industry Brought It Upon Itself

If the advertising industry fails to act better, the government will change their 'mild rap on the knuckles' to something harder, says the author.

The advertising industry has long grappled with ethical behaviour and fair play issues. A significant problem is misleading campaigns by knowledgeable insiders. One expects educated senior client representatives to act ethically and responsibly. However, the experience is different. They resort to unjustified actions, believing their actions will go unchallenged. The absence of substantial penalties and the slow pace of arbitration exacerbate the situation, turning guideline violations into perceived acts of cleverness rather than infractions.

Industry associations are passive observers, unable to impose penalties or ensure compliance due to their limited mandate. A paradigm shift is needed towards effective and efficient solutions promoting ethical behaviour.

Many solutions have been discussed and discarded. Though self-regulation is preferred, it requires a robust self-regulatory body with a broader scope and decisive powers. We realise that we, as an industry, have failed the consumers.

So, the government has asked the advertisers to self-declare that the advertisement does not make misleading claims and complies with all the guidelines. Upload the declaration to the Broadcast Sewa portal.

The advertising industry sees a problem with self-declaration. They should have welcomed a possible solution and worked to see how it could be collectively coordinated, co-developed and efficiently implemented.

Get back the Key Number. And the key number represents the advertiser. Let a few authorised representatives have the security key to sign the docu-

ment - which can be done anywhere at any time. Let this key number be used for the creative irrespective of the medium.

It can be a one-time authorisation to the representative and must be a self-declaration signed before the communication is exposed.

It cannot and must not be limited to one medium, which should automatically apply to social media advertising posts by the brand or influencers. Similarly, it must be discussed and applied to the local small advertisers and influencers. The media and agencies may help educate the clients and implement the solution.

In the era of strong digital experience and infrastructure, it should not deter loading the document or affect moment marketing or multiple creatives. Yes, in the case of AI-assisted multiple creatives, it may seem daunting. If the client and agency believe in their creativity, the AI can create the certificates, or a blank-themed declaration is possible.

If not this, then what? We need a solution to this perennial problem. Indeed, an extension of the impending deadline is needed for the industry to gear up to coordinate and create the processes with the government.

And if the industry fails to act now, this consumer-oriented government can change this mild rap on the knuckles into something hard. What if the certification is pushed onto the media owners, and they are made a party to the claim? We don't want a DD Storyboard approval process.

(The author is the Brand and Marketing Consultant at Intradia World)



OPINION
Sanjeev Kotnala

NEWS BRIEFS

Hyundai Motor India gears up for IPO



The country's second-largest passenger vehicle maker has been gearing up for an IPO for months. Hyundai plans to raise around USD 3 billion via an IPO at a targeted valuation between USD 18 - 20 billion. This will be the first initial share sale by an automaker in India since Maruti Suzuki India's listing in 2003.

Apple becomes the world's first trillion-dollar brand



According to Kantar BrandZ's Top 10 Most Valuable Global Brands 2024, Apple has become the world's first trillion-dollar brand, marking a 15% increase from last year. Apple has now held its position as the world's most valuable brand for the third consecutive year, followed by Alphabet's Google, at USD 753 billion and Microsoft, at USD 713 billion.

Mondelez to manufacture and market Biscoff cookies in India



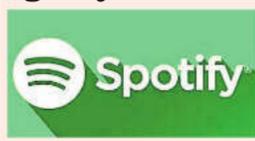
Snacking giant Mondelez has partnered with Belgian biscuit maker Lotus Bakeries to make, sell and market the latter's flagship brand, Biscoff, in India. This move will enable Mondelez to expand its portfolio in the premium cookie segment. In addition to Biscoff, the two companies will collaborate on developing co-branded chocolate products in other regions.

Disney+ Hotstar slapped with copyright violation suit



Audio series platform Pocket FM has reportedly filed a suit against Disney+ Hotstar over copyright violations of its audio series 'Yakshini'. It alleged that the video streamer's Telugu web series, also titled 'Yakshini', has many similarities with its audio series. In an interim injunction, Pocket FM has requested the Delhi High Court to direct Disney+ Hotstar to pull down the trailer of their web series.

Spotify launches in-house creative agency



Spotify's in-house agency, 'Creative Lab,' has been rolled out in 11 markets, including India. Creative Lab teams will provide local and nuanced insights to brands by working closely with them to build campaigns through workshops, inspiration sessions and collaborative ideation. This will help brands strengthen their creative storytelling and reach audiences more effectively.

Demands made for SC-appointed probe into NEET irregularities

CALLS MADE FOR CONSULTING WITH STATES TO HOLD EXAMS 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.

In an interview with PTI, the Independent Rajya Sabha MP and former Congress leader 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

Serious questions on integrity of NTA, how NEET is conducted: Congress

NEW DELHI: The Congress on Sunday said there are "serious questions" on the integrity of the National Testing Agency and the manner in which NEET is designed and administered.

The opposition party hoped that when the new Standing Committees of Parliament gets constituted, it would take up an in-depth review of the NEET, NTA and NCERT.

"I was a member of Parliament's Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare between 2014 and 2019 and recall broad support for NEET. But there were MPs, especially from Tamil Nadu, who had raised concerns that NEET would privilege CBSE students and would disadvantage youth coming from non-CBSE schools," Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said in a post on X.

NEET a 'scam', goes against students, social justice, poor: Stalin

CHENNAI: NEET, 'masquerading' as a measure of merit, is a 'scam' and the Centre must stop defending the national test as it went against the interests of students and it is also against social justice and poor, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin said on Sunday. Stalin, also the president of the ruling DMK said in a post on X: "The ongoing controversies around #NEET highlight its fundamentally inequitable nature. In a society where education has been denied for thousands of years, we should offer more opportunities for advancement of the oppressed. On the contrary, NEET hinders the opportunities of such students." He said: "Despite the Union Education Minister's defense of the National Testing Agency (NTA), recent events paint a different picture.

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 statements 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 government 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 government 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 Supreme Court 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.

Sibal alleged there is rampant corruption in the manner in which examinations are being held not just in one state but throughout the country.

Shah orders implementation of zero-terror plans in Jammu

PTI
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday directed security agencies to implement area domination and zero-terror plans in the Jammu division like they did in Kashmir to achieve success. He also said the Narendra Modi government is committed to set an example by cracking down on terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir through innovative means.

These were conveyed to officials by the home minister at a high-level meeting convened to review the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir in the wake of the recent terrorist attacks in the Union Territory, sources said.

Shah directed the agencies to replicate in the Jammu division the successes achieved in the Kashmir Valley through the area domination plan and the zero-terror plan, they said.

He also reviewed the preparations for the annual Amarnath pilgrimage, which is scheduled to begin on June 29, in a subsequent meeting.

BJP holds 'matka phod' protest against AAP over water crisis

PTI
NEW DELHI

The BJP held a 'matka phod' protest on Sunday against the Aam Aadmi Party-led Delhi government over the water crisis in the city.

Under the leadership of Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva, party leaders and workers protested at 14 locations in the city over water shortage.

Accusing the government of mismanagement, Sachdeva said, "We have always maintained that the water shortage in Delhi is not due to natural causes but is a result of the mismanagement and negligence of the Aam Aadmi Party." He claimed that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was solely responsible for taking the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) from a profit of Rs 600 crore to a loss of Rs 73,000 crore.

"The DJB has always been the biggest centre of corruption under the Kejriwal government, but whenever BJP MLAs raised this issue in the assembly, they were thrown out," MP Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said.

New Delhi MP Bansuri Swaraj said the Aam Aadmi Party has not done anything to improve the infrastructure of the



BJP staged protest against the Aam Aadmi Party government over the water crisis in the national capital.

Atishi accuses BJP workers of vandalising Delhi Jal Board office

NEW DELHI: Delhi Water Minister Atishi on Sunday accused BJP workers of vandalising a Delhi Jal Board office in south Delhi and alleged that the saffron party is hatching a conspiracy against Delhi's residents. She said at a press conference that the BJP is leaving no stone unturned to trouble Delhi's people. Amid protests over the national capital's severe water shortage, Delhi Minister Saurabh Bhardwaj on Sunday accused BJP leaders and workers of vandalising a Delhi Jal Board office.

DJB, resulting in 54 per cent waste and theft of water.

Delhi BJP leaders also demanded the resignation of Delhi Water Minister Atishi.

In a statement, the party said it will hold protests at 52 places on Monday against the

Kejriwal government over the water crisis.

Sachdeva said it was regrettable that instead of working to fix leakages in pipelines and check water theft, AAP minister Atishi was trying to blame the BJP for the leakage.

58 child labourers rescued from distillery in Madhya Pradesh

PTI
RAISEN

As many as 39 boys and 19 girls were rescued from a distillery in Madhya Pradesh's Raisen district, an official said on Sunday.

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) with the Association of Voluntary Action, also known as Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA), led the crackdown at Som Distillery on Saturday, a release stated.

A team led by NCPCR chairman Priyank Kanoongo rescued 58 children, 19 girls and 39 boys, from Som Distillery, the BBA stated.

"Children bore burn wounds on their hands from exposure to harsh chemicals and alcohol. They were transported daily by their employer in a school bus and worked 12-14 hours daily," it said.

In a post on 'X', Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said the raid at the factory was a serious

matter.

"Received detailed information from the labour, excise and police departments, and direction has been given for taking appropriate action. Strict action will be taken against the guilty," Yadav wrote.

Som Distilleries & Breweries is an ISO-certified group of companies manufacturing and supplying beer, IMFL (India-made Foreign Liquor) and RTD (Ready To Drink) beverages.

Will pause day fighting in south Gaza to help flow of aid: Israel

PTI
JERUSALEM

Israel's military announced on Sunday that it would pause fighting during daytime hours along a route in southern Gaza to free up a backlog of humanitarian aid deliveries for desperate Palestinians enduring a humanitarian crisis sparked by the war, now in its ninth month.

The tactical pause, which applies to about 12 kilometres of road in the Rafah area, falls far short of a complete ceasefire in the beleaguered territory that has been sought by the international community, including Israel's top ally, the United States.

The limited halt in fighting could help address some of the overwhelming needs of Palestinians that have surged in recent weeks with Israel's incursion into Rafah.

The army said the pause would begin at 8 am (0500



Palestinians collect food aid ahead of the Eid al-Adha holiday in Jerusalem.

GMT) and last until 7 pm (1600 GMT). It said the pauses would be daily until further notice.

The pause is aimed at allowing aid trucks to reach the nearby Israel-controlled Kerem Shalom crossing, the main entry point for aid, and travel safely to the Salah al-Din highway, a main north-south road,

the military said. The crossing has had a bottleneck since Israeli ground troops moved into Rafah in early May.

COGAT, the Israeli military body that oversees aid distribution in Gaza, said the route would increase the flow of aid to other parts of Gaza, including Khan Younis, the coastal area of Muwasi and central Gaza.

Russian forces storm detention facility to rescue hostage staffers

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.

The hostages at the pretrial 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.

5 killed in uttarakhand as 2 cars fall into gorge

PTI
DEHRADUN

Two cars fell in gorges in different areas of Uttarakhand's Pauri district, killing five people, including three minor girls, and injuring eight on Sunday, officials said. While one accident was reported from the Khirsu Chaubatta, the other occurred near Dudhrakhal in the Satpuli area, a day after 14 tourists were killed and 12 other injured after a tempo-traveller fell into a gorge in Rudrapurayag district.

Citing information received from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), the officials said, in Khirsu Chaubatta, four out of seven people were killed after their car veered off the road and fell into a 200-metre-deep gorge.

It is suspected that the driver lost control of the vehicle, the officials said, citing



Information received from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF).

Personnel of the SDRF and police were sent to the site of the accident to rescue the victims.

Three people were hurt in the accident and they have been hospitalised, the officials said.

The deceased were identified as Shrishti Negi (15), Aarushi (9), Saumya (5) and the driver Manwar Singh alias Sonu, they said.

While the injured include Shrishti's sister Sakshi Negi (14), Sameeksha Rawat (15) and Kanha (11), they said.

Sakshi and Sameeksha have been airlifted to All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Rishikesh for better treatment, officials said.

In another incident, a car fell into a 150-metre-deep gorge near Dudhrakhal in the Satpuli area, killing one person and injuring five others, they said.

Pilgrims commence the final rites of Hajj as Muslims celebrate Eid al-Adha amid summer heat in Saudi

PTI
MINA

Masses of pilgrims on Sunday embarked on a symbolic stoning of the devil in Saudi Arabia under the soaring summer heat. The ritual marks the final days of the Hajj, or Islamic 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 at a sacred hill, known as Mount Arafat, outside the holy city of Mecca, which Muslim pilgrims visit to perform the annual five-day rituals of Hajj. The pilgrims left Mount



Muslim pilgrims perform the symbolic 'stoning of the devil' ritual as part of the hajj pilgrimage in Mina, near Saudi Arabia's holy city of Mecca.

Arafat on Saturday evening to spend their night in a nearby site known as Muzdalifa, where they collected pebbles to use 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 versions of the story, Abraham is ordered to kill his other son, Isaac.

On Sunday morning, crowds headed on foot to the stoning areas. Some were seen pushing disabled pilgrims on wheelchairs on a multi-lane road leading to the complex housing the large pillars. Most pilgrims were seen sweltering and carrying umbrellas to protect them against the burning summer sun.

An Associated Press reporter saw many pilgrims, especially among the elderly, collapsing on the road to the pillars

because of the burning heat. Security forces and medics were deployed to help, carrying those who fainted on gurneys out of the heat to ambulances or field hospitals. As the temperature spiked by midday, more people required medical help.

Despite the suffocating heat, many pilgrims expressed joy at being able to complete their pilgrimage.

"Thank God, (the process) was joyful and good, said Abdel-Moaty Abu Ghoneima, an Egyptian pilgrim. No one wants more than this.

Many pilgrims will spend up to three days in Mina, each casting seven pebbles at three pillars in a ritual to symbolize the casting away of evil and sin.

PIRAMAL CAPITAL & HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
Registered Office Address: Unit No.601, 6th Floor Piramal Amrit Building, Piramal Agastya Corporate Park, Kamani Junction, Opp Fire Station, LBS Marg, Kuria (West), Mumbai-400 070. CIN: L65910MH1984PLC032639. Website: www.piramalfinance.com
Branch Address: Dhiraj Baug, Building "A" Ground & 1st Floor, Beside Axis Bank, Opp. Monalisa Building, Agra Road, Hari Niwas Circle, Naupada, Thane (West) - 400 602.

DEMAND NOTICE
Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited (PCHFL) under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to PCHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to PCHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively:

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount with NPA date	Property address
(LC No. M0142769 of Kolhapur Branch) PRAVIN SARJERAO PATIL (Borrower) PRAMOD SARJERAO PATIL (Co Borrower 1) VAISHNAVI PRAVIN PATIL (Co Borrower 2)	27-05-2024 /R 1712650.6 /- (₹ Seventeen lakh Twelve Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Only and Sixty Paise) NPA (05-05-2024)	R 5 No 633/636 Plot No. 7, 14 & 15 NA At- Koparde, Tal- Karveer, Dist- Kolhapur Kolhapur 416204
(LC No. 05000027394 of Mumbai Metro Branch) Lenny Da Costa (Borrower) Nita Maria De Fatima (Co Borrower 1) Lenny Jesus Dos Milagres Da Costa (Co Borrower 2)	27-05-2024 /R 10367373.51 /- (₹ One Crore Three lakh Sixty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Seven Only and Fifty One Paise) NPA (05-06-2019)	M_Machine_Name :- 1) EMRT2) Hyperbaric Chambe Ap_Model_No :- 1) Pst H-50 Mobil Model 2) Revitalair 430
(LC No. 0830000415 of Goa Branch) Gopinatha P Panicker (Borrower) Emilita Miracle Panicker (Co Borrower 1)	27-05-2024 /R 920592.02 /- (₹ Nine lakh Twenty Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Two Only and Two Paise) NPA (10-05-2024)	Flat No: 401, 4th Floor, Angel Dream Navelim South Goa Goa :- 403707
(LC No. 00300010646 of Kochi Branch) Shijo Mathew (Borrower) Chinnamma Mathai (Co Borrower 1)	27-05-2024 /R 2891455.17 /- (₹ Twenty Eight lakh Ninety One Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Five Only and Seventeen Paise) NPA (30-06-2023)	Survey No. 297/1a-33-6-57, Nellikattom Kuttamangalam Village Kothamangalam Taluk R aithamattam, Ernakulam Ernakulam Kerala :- 686693

If the said Borrower(s) shall fail to make payment to PCHFL as aforesaid, PCHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrower(s) to the costs and consequences. The said Borrower(s) are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of PCHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date : 17-06-2024 Place: Goa
Sd/- (Authorised Officer) Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited

CHANGE OF NAME
I, PRECY COSTA, r/o H. No. 190/3 (A), Kirbhat, Carmona, Salcete, South - Goa, 403717, holding Indian Passport bearing no. Z3431679, would like to correct my name from PRECY D COSTA (old) to PRECY COSTA (new), and along with my name I would like to change my mother's name from EUFEMIA D COSTA (old) to EUFEMIA ANTONIETA MARTINA FURTADO (new) as per my Birth Certificate. Hereinafter, the above corrected names shall be used in all future dealings, documents and correspondences.
Sd/- PRECY COSTA

IN THE COURT OF JOINT MAMLATDAR - II OF BARDEZ AT MARSA GOA
Mutation Case No. 91681, 91682, Village Verla 1, Viridia Judith Saviana Silveira alias Viridia Judith Saviana Pereira 2, Osbert Dominic Pereira, R/O C-8, Flat No. 6, Lovely Villa CHS Ltd, Jeevan Bima Nagar, LIC Colony, Borivali (West), Mandapeshwar, Mumbai, Maharashtra
.....Applicants
Vs
1. Anne Silveira alias Ana M. De Souza or Soratana alias Anne Dsouza or Santana alias Anne De Souza 2. Hercules Silveira alias Herculano Xavier Silveirs or Hercules Xavier Silveira or Hercules X Silveira 3. Nitya Thereza Silveira 4. Noel TrindadeOpponents
PUBLIC NOTICE
To the above named Opponents / Legal Heirs (if any) interested parties if any WHEREAS, the applicant Viridia Judith Saviana Silveira alias Viridia Judith Saviana Pereira 2, Osbert Dominic Pereira, R/O C-8, Flat No. 6, Lovely Villa CHS Ltd, Jeevan Bima Nagar, LIC Colony, Borivali (West), Mandapeshwar, Mumbai, Maharashtra has applied for mutation under Section 96 of L.R.C. 1982, to include their name after deleting the name of Ana Maria Dsouza in the occupant column of survey No. 81/12 and 81/10 of Village Verla, Taluka Bardez as per Judgement and Order / Decree dated 08.05.2023 in Inventory Proceeding No. 532/2021/E passed in the Court of Civil Judge Junior Division E Court at Marsa.
AND WHEREAS, the notices in Form No. X were generated to be served to the party by registered A/D. Party was unserved with postal remark as unserved insufficient address, party expired etc hence to be served through alternative means and so the notices are prayed to be served by way of publication in newspaper.
AND WHEREAS, the applicant has prayed vide his application for substitute service, by publication of public notice in any one daily newspaper as required under Order V Rule 20(1A) of C.P.C. as the applicant does not know the legal heirs and the addresses of the interested parties.
All the interested parties are hereby given the notice of the said mutation entry and called upon to submit to me their objections if any to the mutation entry within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which the suitable order under the provision of L.R.C. 1982 will be issued by the certifying officer.
Dated: 13/06/2024
Sd/- Shrutti Suhas Kumbkar
Joint Mamlatdar II of Bardez, Mapusa, Goa

fp Briefs

NEW DELHI
SBI to monetise arms after scaling up their biz



SBI Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara has said the lender would wait for its subsidiaries like SBI General Insurance and SBI Payment to further scale up their operations before monetising them. Scaling up of their operation will increase valuation and ensure better returns for the parent State Bank of India (SBI). When it comes to subsidiaries, their monetisation would be through the capital market, he told PTI in an interview.

NEW DELHI
RBI bags risk manager of year award 2024



The Reserve Bank of India on Sunday said it has been awarded the Risk Manager of the Year Award 2024 by the London-based publishing house Central Banking. It was awarded the best risk manager for improving its risk culture and awareness, RBI said in a post on X. The award was received by Executive Director Manoranjan Mishra on behalf of the RBI, it said.

NEW DELHI
T'gana told to auction six mineral blocks in Jun



The mines ministry has flagged that the Telangana government failed to auction any mineral blocks in past nine years and asked the state to put at least six mines on sale by the end of this month. According to sources, geological reports of eleven blocks have been handed over to the government of Telangana for auction. These blocks consist of five iron ore mines, five limestone blocks and one manganese block.

NEW DELHI
Essar to invest ₹30K cr in green H2 plant in Guj



Essar Group plans to invest Rs 30,000 crore over the next four years in setting up a green hydrogen plant at Jamnagar in Gujarat as the metals-to-infrastructure conglomerate eyes clean energy as a key pillar for its new phase of growth. The conglomerate is looking to decarbonise its oil refinery in the UK, construct a green steel plant in Saudi Arabia, and build an LNG and electric ecosystem to decarbonise long-haul heavy trucks, Prashant Ruia, director of Essar Capital said.

Positive signals from domestic and global markets
FPIs pump ₹11,730 cr into Indian equities last week

PTI NEW DELHI

Foreign investors made a strong comeback with a net inflow of Rs 11,730 crore (USD 1.4 billion) in the week ending June 14, driven by positive signals from domestic and global markets.

The net inflow was in stark contrast to the net outflow of Rs 14,794 crore (USD 1.77 billion) witnessed in the preceding week from June 3-7, data with the depositories showed.

With the latest flow, net outflow stood at Rs 3,064 crore in the month so far till June 14.

"After the roller coaster ride in the market in the first week of June, stability has returned to the market as indicated by the sharp fall in India VIX from 27 on June 4 to 12.82 on June 14. This fall in India VIX indicates the return of stability and a likely consolidation phase in the market," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said.

Although in a coalition, the formation of the NDA government at the Centre for the third straight term fanned expectation of a continuation of policy reforms and economic growth, Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director - Manager Research, Morningstar Investment Research India, said.

On the global front, lower-than-expected inflation numbers in the US also raised hopes of one rate cut this year.

This also triggered a fall in the US treasury yield. These factors led to risk-taking sentiments among investors, resulting in increased flows into markets like India, Srivastava added.

In May, FPIs pulled out Rs 25,586 crore from equities on poll jitters and withdrew more than Rs 8,700 crore in April on concerns over a tweak in



India's tax treaty with Mauritius and a sustained rise in US bond yields.

Before that, FPIs made a net investment of Rs 35,098 crore in March and Rs 1,539 crore in February, while they took out Rs 25,743 crore in January.

The resilience of the market and the eagerness of retail investors to buy every dip in the market will force FPIs to reduce their selling.

However, if the market continues to rally, FPIs may again turn sellers in India and buyers in other markets like Hong Kong, which are very cheap

compared to India, Geojit's Vijayakumar said.

On the other hand, FPIs invested over Rs 5,700 crore in the debt market so far this month (till June 14).

Market experts believe that the long-term outlook for FPI flows into Indian debt is positive due to India's inclusion in global bond indices. However, near-term flows are being impacted by global macroeconomic uncertainty and volatility.

Overall, FPIs withdrew a net amount of Rs 26,428 crore from equities in 2024 so far. However, they invested Rs 59,373 crore in the debt market.

MFs industry adds 81L new accounts in Apr-May FY25

PTI NEW DELHI

The mutual fund (MF) industry has added over 81 lakh investors' accounts in the first two months of FY25, mainly due to consistent marketing efforts, celebrity endorsements and dedicated work of the distribution network.

Additionally, changing perceptions about fixed deposits, which no longer offer competitive returns compared to mutual funds, and the rise in income levels and accessibility to financial markets have also contributed to the rise in new investors, Trivish D, COO, Tradejini, told PTI. Going ahead, the outlook for MF folios remains strong, supported by the ongoing bull run in the stock market, solid risk management practices, continuous investor education, and consistent marketing efforts, he added. Moreover, the industry will continue to see decent growth as savers increasingly look for alternative avenues to create wealth for their long-term goals, experts said.

Global trends, FII's move to drive mkts in truncated week

PTI NEW DELHI

With the absence of any major immediate domestic trigger in sight, investors would focus on global trends and trading activity of foreign investors for further cues in a holiday-shortened week ahead, analysts said. Movement of global oil benchmark Brent crude and rupee-dollar trend would also guide the market.

"This week is a truncated one with no major triggers expected. However, we anticipate sector-specific movements amid budget-related buzz. Key factors to watch will be progress of monsoon and institutional flows," said Santosh Meena, Head of Research, Swastika Investmart Ltd.

On the global front, data from China, movement in the dollar index, and US bond yields will be crucial, he added.

Equity markets will remain closed on Monday on account of Bakri Id. "This week, shortened by a holiday on Monday, will see participants looking to global markets, particularly the US, for cues in the absence of major events," Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said. The BSE Sensex hit its all-



time high of 77,145.46 on June 13, while the Nifty reached its lifetime peak of 23,490.40 on June 14.

"Domestic markets would remain closed on Monday, while globally investors would keep an eye on BoE (Bank of England) interest rate decision." "We expect market up-trend to continue this week supported by positive macro trends, expectation of sustained government spending and policy continuity, healthy monsoon and strong earnings," said Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd.

"Next week we have heavy set of economic data's both from global and domestic market. Base metal will be in focus owing to China's and US industrial production numbers. India's manufacturing and service PMI will also be eyed by investors," said Dinesh Thakkar, Chairman, Tradebulls Securities.

CLSA REPORT

Indian banks are better placed after a rollercoaster decade

CLSA expects pvt banks to give better returns amid positive business outlook

ANI NEW DELHI

After suffering from seething government and disturbing bad loan difficulties, Indian banks have established themselves in a much stronger position, as balance sheets and profits have rebounded markedly, noted CLSA, a capital markets and investment group.

"We believe Indian banks are well placed after a rollercoaster decade. Balance sheets are the strongest they have been in over a decade, and profits have rebounded sharply (quadrupling in 10 years)," the firm added in its observation.

It further added that the return on equity (ROE) of the Indian banking sector is the highest since the financial year 2011. Deposit growth should coincide with the acceleration of loan growth, which increased from 10 per cent to 15 per cent on average over the previous two years during FY12-22, it added.

Mentioning the favourable conditions in the sector, the firm anticipated that the private sector banks, which haven't performed well in the stock market in recent times, are expected to give better returns because of the positive business outlook.

In the past year and over the last five years, public sector banks have done much better than private sector banks, the firm observed.

However, it was also noted that in the past decade, the private sector banks have outpaced PSU banks in current account (CA) deposits by a margin and have also pared down non-deposit borrowings.

Highlighting the net non-performing loans (Net NPL), which was once a widely discussed issue, the firm noted that it has declined to decadal lows, driven by better asset quality, stronger provision buffers, and an improved capital position.

PAT for the sector has rebounded sharply and has quadrupled over the past decade. The banking sector's ROE of 15 per cent is the highest since FY11.

As per the observation of the firm, the loan growth in the sector has picked up from a decadal average of 10 per cent to 15 per cent over the past two years driven by all sub-segments and possibly some shifts, from corporate bond substitution.

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) on Sunday asked public to stay alert and discern the modus operandi of fraudsters committing fraud in the name of Indian customs.

In a statement, the CBIC said various incidents have come to light through news portals/social media platforms of fraudulent persons posing as Indian Customs officers cheating the public of their hard-earned money across the country. These frauds are primarily done using digital means like phone calls or SMS, and are focused on extracting money through the 'purported' fear of immediate penal actions.

In order to counter these frauds through public awareness, CBIC is mounting a multimodal awareness campaign that includes newspaper advertisement, SMS/e-mails, social media campaign, besides awareness campaigns by CBIC field formations.

The CBIC also advised the public to take measures to safeguard themselves from becoming a victim of such scams by discerning the modus operandi of fraudsters, protecting their information, verifying antecedents of caller and reporting such acts by staying alert. Victims are made to believe that their package has been seized by Customs due to illegal contents. Fraudsters threaten legal action and demand payment to resolve the issue.

India's coal import rises 13% to 26 MT in Apr

PTI NEW DELHI

India's coal import rose by 13.2 per cent to 26.10 million tonne (MT) in April 2024 as buyers took fresh positions amid early onset of summer.

The country had imported 23.05 MT of coal in the year-ago period, according to data compiled by B2B e-commerce company junction services ltd. This comes amid coal and mines minister G Kishan Reddy stating that India should increase domestic production of the fossil fuel and reduce coal imports.

"India's coal and coke imports in April 2024 through the major and non-major ports increased by 13.2 per cent over April 2023," the data showed. Of the total import in April, non-coking coal import stood at 17.40 MT.

CBIC cautions people to stay alert against frauds in the name of Indian Customs

PTI NEW DELHI

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PwC India expects upswing in small, mid-size M&A transactions

Top 10 deals of 2023 contributed to 21% of total deal value

PTI NEW DELHI

PwC India anticipates an upswing in the India markets, especially in small to mid-size M&A (merger and acquisition) transactions and growth fundings driven by increasing investors' confidence.

The year 2023 witnessed the emergence of a nuanced M&A landscape, with investors showing interests in diverse strategies and larger-scale ventures, even amid an overall decrease in PE investment, said Sanjeev Krishan, Chairperson, PwC in India.

While PE deals were higher in volume overall, strategic deals dominated the top deals -- and domestic deals with group-level consolidations were a prominent theme. The first quarter of 2024 marked a resurgence in deal value and volume.

According to a PwC report, top 10 deals of 2023 included JV buyouts, strategic investments, PE buyouts, and stock mergers, and contributed to 21 per cent of the total deal value. While PE deals were higher in volume overall, strategic deals dominated the top deals with domestic deals and group-level consolidations as a significant theme.

"On a sectoral basis, traditional sectors including retail and consumer and healthcare and pharmaceuticals are in the lead. We anticipate an upswing in the India markets, especially in small to mid-size M&A transactions and growth fundings," Krishan told PTI.

He was responding to a query on the changing landscape of M&A in India.

The optimism around M&A, he said, is based on three key factors -- the improving financial markets indicate an increase in investor and CEO confidence; deal-making has reached an inflection point with pent-up buyer demand and a build-up in seller assets; and accelerating global megatrends have created a need for firms to reinvent their business models, which can be accelerated through M&A.



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Sales of affordable homes fall 4% in Jan-Mar

PTI NEW DELHI

Sales of affordable homes - priced up to Rs 60 lakh each - declined 4 per cent in eight major cities to 61,121 units during January-March this year on lower supply and higher demand for luxury apartments, according to PropEquity.

The top eight cities are -- Delhi-NCR, Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata, Pune and Ahmedabad. Real estate data analytic firm PropEquity data showed that sales of homes, costing up to Rs 60 lakh each stood at 6,378 units in the January-March period of the last calendar year.

A lower supply of affordable homes is one of the key factors for this marginal fall in sales.

As per the PropEquity data, the fresh supply of homes, up to Rs 60 lakh each, declined to 33,420 units during January-March 2024 across these top eight cities from 53,818 units in the year-ago period.

Builders are focusing more on launching luxury apartments to encash a surge in demand for premium residential properties. Profit margins are also high in luxury projects.

As per the data, housing sales in this price category declined to 2,35,340 units in the 2023 calendar year from 2,51,198 units in the preceding year.

WTC Mumbai celebrates 22nd Anniversary of WTCA Day



World Trade Center Mumbai celebrated 22nd anniversary of the WTCA Day on June 14, 2024 at WTC Mumbai to create awareness about the mission of the WTCA to promote global peace and prosperity through trade. Veteran film Director and Actor Ramesh Sippy graced the occasion along with his spouse

Kiran Juneja. The event was attended by the members of the Council of Management of WTC Mumbai and senior officials from the trade missions of foreign countries. Dr. Vijay Kalandri, Chairman, WTC Mumbai said, "I would like to thank everyone for joining us in the celebration of 22nd anniversary of WTCA Day."

Real estate prices set to soar in Amaravati

PTI AMARAVATI (ANDHRA PRADESH)

After a lull of five years, real estate prices in Andhra Pradesh's Amaravati region are set to soar with several land deals expected to close as the regime in the state transitioned from YS Jagan Mohan Reddy-led YSRCP to N Chandrababu Naidu-helmed NDA, breathed new life into the hitherto abandoned city project.

The Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority has already notified eight tenders, calling for jungle clearance along several roads in Amaravati even as Chief Secretary Neerabh Kumar Prasad, accompanied by other

key officials such as CRDA Commissioner Vivek Yadav, has already visited the region to take stock of the situation.

YV Ramana Rao, president, Andhra Pradesh chapter, Confederation of Real Estate Developers Association of India (CREDAI) claimed that land prices in Amaravati started inflating two months before the 2024 simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly polls, anticipating Naidu's win.

According to the CREDAI office-bearer, up to 50,000 acres of land inventory is available in and around Amaravati, including government and private lands.

From trending around Rs 15,000 per sq yard, Rao said



they are commanding a price of Rs 25,000 per sq yard now, pointing out that they have touched the prices last seen during the erstwhile TDP government between 2014 and 2019.

"Real estate boom has already started. It (land prices) will keep increasing on a yearly basis and we are expecting that in 18 months the prices will double," Rao told PTI.

He noted that the state gov-

ernment has already started working on some unfinished buildings in which up to 80 per cent work was completed such as residential quarters for bureaucrats, legislators and judges. Observing that thicket clearance work, illumination and repair work have already begun in Amaravati, Rao said in a year's time the area will become very beautiful but called for government cooperation.

"What we need is infrastructure from the government like roads, drainage systems and power. These are the main things. Once the government provides these three things then we cannot catch the prices," said Rao.

Plant diseases and ways to cure them

SAVITHA B

'Go Green' is the new slogan of environmentalists to save the Earth from global warming. Charity begins at home and thus each one of us should have a personal garden. An area dedicated to nature. Growing trees can be a bit difficult with the scarcity of land that we all are facing now but plants can surely be used to form a beautiful garden. Plants not only help you to spread the green stretch on Earth but at the same time makes your house look beautiful.

Living amidst nature is a beautiful experience and is also good for health. There are numerous types of plants which we can grow in our house but to care for them is also our responsibility. Plant diseases are caused due to season change, unfavourable conditions, excessive water, dryness and harsh winter. Plant diseases can kill the plant and also get the soil infested. Here are few common plant diseases and their cure:



What are healthy food for teenage girls?

SHIVANGI KARN

Among the many issues faced by girl children in India, malnutrition is a major one. A study says that in several low and middle-income countries, the incidences of malnutrition in teenage girls are high, leading them to poor health, nutritional disorders and biological developmental issues. In this article, we will discuss healthy foods which a teenage girl must include in her diet. Take a look.

Iron-rich foods
According to a study, iron deficiency is high in adolescent girls and can affect around 30 percent of girls in countries with low-income and social development scores. Also, iron deficiency in premature pregnancy can cause adverse birth outcomes.

Iron-rich foods can help prevent the risk of anaemia in teenage girls and promote vital body functions such as growth, immunity, muscular development and cognitive ability.

Iron-rich foods: Red meat, Poultry, Beans, Green veggies such as spinach and broccoli, Seafood, Iron-fortified cereals, Dried fruits such as raisins, prunes, dates and cashews.

Probiotics
Psychiatric disorders are usually observable during the adolescence years. Many studies have concluded that development of the adolescent brain is influenced by intestinal microbiota and thus, maintaining microbiota-gut-brain axis can help in both the prevention and treatment of psychiatric disorders in adolescence, such as anxiety, psychosis and eating disorders.

Probiotics-rich food: Yoghurt, Tempeh, Kafir, Kimchi, Kombucha tea, Buttermilk, Cucumber pickles

Fruits
Fruits are one of the most needed food items for teenagers, especially teenage girls. They not only provide amazing health benefits but also prevent the risk of overweight and obesity, which are the major risk factors for chronic diseases such as diabetes.

Iron-rich foods: Red meat, Poultry, Beans, Green veggies such as spinach and broccoli, Seafood, Iron-fortified cereals, Dried fruits such as raisins, prunes, dates and cashews.



Vitamin A
Vitamin A is another important nutrient after iron which is needed for growth and development of adolescent girls. It plays an important role in sexual maturation, reproduction and in boosting immunity, and prevents the risk of skin problems such as acne, wrinkles and psoriasis. Deficiency of vitamin A during adolescence can cause delayed growth of the reproductive system, skin problems, respiratory illnesses and increased risk of menorrhagia and anaemia.

Foods high in vitamin A: Carrot, Pumpkin, Sweet potato, Broccoli, Dairy products, Grapefruit, Capsicum.

Whole grains
A study talks about whole grains consumption and reduced risk of cardiovascular diseases, cancer and diabetes. Whole grains are the most important part of a teenage diet as they are rich in vital nutrients such as carbohydrates (help provide energy), fibre (maintains a healthy digestive system), protein (support growth and development) and folate (to prevent the risk of anaemia, autism and rheumatoid arthritis). Whole grains are most consumed with cereals in India.

Examples of whole grains: Barley, Quinoa, Buckwheat, Corn, Oats, Millet, Brown rice.

AMRUTA AGNIHOTRI

Skin peeling, also known as desquamation, is the damage caused to the upper layer of the skin. It can happen to anyone, irrespective of their age group or gender. A person's skin is made up of three layers. The epidermis is the outer layer, the dermis is the middle layer, and hypodermis is the bottom layer. While skin peeling is not a major issue, it can cause irritation and can be painful at times. It is, therefore, essential to treat skin peeling before it gets bad. Having said that, home remedies can be a great way of treating skin peeling at home as they are completely safe and natural to use. And, home remedies are cost-effective too. Speaking of home remedies, have you ever tried using ingredients like aloe vera, turmeric, honey, yoghurt, and milk for treating skin peeling? If not, you must definitely try these amazing remedies at home today! But before we begin with the remedies for treating skin peeling, it is essential that we understand the causes of skin peeling.

What causes skin peeling?

- Excessive exposure to the sun.
- Dry and damaged skin.
- Skin conditions, like eczema, dermatitis, psoriasis, cancer, etc.
- Reaction of certain medications.
- Genetic factors.
- Rare skin disorders.
- Athletes foot.
- Fungal infections.
- Climatic conditions.

Effective ways to get rid of skin peeling on face, nose and body

Remedies to treat skin peeling on face

1 Aloe vera gel

A popular remedy for treating a number of skin conditions including peeling, aloe vera possess anti-inflammatory and moisturizing properties that helps in treating skin peeling.

Ingredient: 2 tsp aloe vera gel.
How to do: Scoop out some aloe vera gel from an aloe leaf and apply it all over your face. Leave it on for about 30-45 minutes and then gently wash it off. Repeat this twice a week for the desired result.



2 Honey

An emollient, honey helps to treat dry skin, thus working effectively for treating skin peeling. It also moisturises and nourishes your skin with regular use.

Ingredients: 2 tsp honey, 1 tsp rosewater.
How to do: Combine both honey and rosewater in a bowl. Mix them well. Apply the mixture all over your face and leave it on for about 20 minutes. Wash it off with lukewarm water and pat your face dry. Repeat this twice a week for the desired result.

3 Coconut oil

Coconut oil helps to improve hydration levels of your skin and also acts as a natural emollient, thus treating skin peeling.

Ingredient: 2 tsp coconut oil.
How to do: Dip a cotton ball in some coconut oil and apply it gently all over your face. Allow it to seep into your skin and leave it at that. Repeat this twice a day for the desired result.



Remedies to treat skin peeling on hands

1 Oatmeal & sugar scrub

Oatmeal possesses antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties to help treat dry and damaged skin, thus removing dead skin cells. It also treats peeling skin effectively.

Ingredients: 2 tsp coarsely grounded oatmeal, 2 tsp sugar, 1 tsp lemon juice.

How to do: Combine all the ingredients in a bowl and mix them together. Take a generous amount of the paste and scrub your hands with it. Allow it to stay for about 10 minutes and then wash it off. Repeat twice a week for the desired result.



3 Shea butter, green tea, & coffee scrub

Shea butter has so many benefits for the skin, including treating dry, damaged, and flaky skin. It also possesses skin moisturising properties.

Ingredients: 2 tsp shea butter, 2 tsp green tea, 1 tsp coarsely grounded coffee powder.

How to do: Add some coarsely grounded coffee powder and shea butter in a bowl. Mix them together. Next, add some green tea to it and mix well. Take a generous amount of the paste and scrub your hands with it. Allow it to stay for about 20 minutes and then wash it off. Pat your hands dry. Repeat once a week for the desired result.

2 Cocoa butter & rice flour scrub

Cocoa butter helps in softening your skin and also helps in treating skin peeling.

Ingredients: 2 tsp cocoa butter, 2 tsp rice flour.

How to do: Mix both the ingredients in a bowl. Take a generous amount of the paste and scrub your hands with it. Allow it to stay for about 15-20 minutes and then wash it off. Repeat once a week for the desired result.

Bird flu and eggs: what you need to know for safe consumption

AMRITHA K

The surging bird flu cases around the globe have raised concern, mainly due to the fact that the virus may increase human infection risk. So, it is quite natural that bird flu outbreaks have raised concerns about the safety of consuming eggs. With the potential risks, it is crucial to understand the precautions to take when it comes to eating eggs under such circumstances. In this article, we will address the question of the hour, "Is it safe to eat eggs amidst bird flu?" and provide valuable insights.

Buying from trusted sources:

Another key consideration is to purchase eggs from trusted sources. Making sure that the eggs come from reputable farms or suppliers that adhere to strict hygiene practices can significantly reduce the risk of contamination. Look for eggs labelled with certifications such as organic or free-range, indicating higher standards of quality and safety.



Proper cooking: One of the essential precautions while consuming eggs during bird flu outbreaks is to ensure they are cooked thoroughly. Cooking eggs at high temperatures kills any potential viruses, including the bird flu virus. For example, make sure you cook eggs until the yolk and white are firm to ensure the elimination of any possible bird flu virus.

Avoid raw or undercooked eggs: During bird flu outbreaks, it is advisable to avoid consuming raw or undercooked eggs. These preparations may expose individuals to a higher risk of contracting the virus. Just skip dishes like homemade mayonnaise or raw cookie dough that contain raw eggs to minimize the risk of bird flu transmission.

Proper storage and handling: Proper storage and handling of eggs are crucial to prevent contamination. Always keep the eggs in the fridge and maintain a clean environment when handling them. Store eggs in a refrigerator below 40°F (4°C) and separate them from other foods to avoid cross-contamination.

Getting expert advice: Consulting with health professionals, such as doctors or nutritionists, can provide the right guidance on consuming eggs during bird flu outbreaks. They can offer specific recommendations based on individual health conditions and the severity of the outbreak.

While bird flu outbreaks may raise concerns about the safety of consuming eggs, taking the necessary precautions can reduce the risks. By following proper cooking and avoiding raw or undercooked eggs, you can enjoy eggs safely even during such outbreaks. Stay informed and prioritise your health when consuming eggs amidst bird flu.

NEHA GHOSH

Mental health matters: Understanding common mental illnesses

Mental health refers to one's psychological and emotional well-being. Having a good mental health is important because it helps you lead a blissful and healthy life. Owing to the stress that an individual goes through in his/her day-to-day life, maintaining good mental health is becoming increasingly difficult, not to mention the stigma associated with it.

Mental illness refers to the different variety of conditions which affect the way you think and feel and can also disrupt your day-to-day activities. About 1 in 25 adults experience a serious mental illness (SMI) each year. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, women are at an increased risk of SMI than men. There are many types of mental illnesses and the most common ones are anxiety disorder, mood disorder, eating disorder, personality disorder, psychotic disorder, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Let's dive into them individually.

Mood disorder

This type of disorder, also called affective disorder, involves extreme feelings of sadness or happiness or fluctuations from extreme happiness to extreme sadness. The most common mood disorders include bipolar disorder, depression, and cyclothymic disorder.

Personality disorder

People with personality disorders think, behave and show emotions that are extreme and inflexible causing distress, eventually affecting work and social relationships. People with this disorder find it hard to change their behaviour or adapt to different situations. Personality disorder includes obsessive-compulsive personality disorder, antisocial personality disorder and paranoid personality disorder.

Anxiety disorder

People with anxiety disorders respond to certain situations with fear, and show physical signs of anxiety or panic, like sweating and rapid heartbeat. Anxiety disorders include phobias, social anxiety disorder, panic disorder, and generalized anxiety disorder.

Eating disorder

People with eating disorders have persistent emotions, attitude and behaviour which involve weight and food and often have an intense fear of being overweight. The most common eating disorders include anorexia nervosa, binge eating disorder, and bulimia nervosa.

Psychotic disorder

Psychotic disorder causes a person to hallucinate and experience images, sounds and delusions that aren't real. A person with psychotic disorder has distorted awareness and thinking. An example of a psychotic disorder is schizophrenia.



Obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD)

People with this disorder are afflicted with constant thoughts or fear that cause them to do repetitive things that affect their day-to-day work. Those thoughts are obsessions and the repetitive things are compulsions.

Impulse control and addiction disorder

People with this disorder are unable to resist their urges or impulses to do something that could be harmful to themselves or others. Compulsive gambling, pyromania, and kleptomania are examples of impulse control and addiction disorder.

Post-traumatic stress disorder

A person with this disorder has long-lasting feelings of fear, anxiety and memories of a traumatic event that doesn't go away. This interferes with everyday activities and usually, this disorder develops following a traumatic event, such as a sexual or physical assault.

Stress response syndrome

Stress response syndrome was formerly called adjustment disorder. It occurs when a person has emotional or behavioural symptoms in response to a stressful event or situation. Stress response syndrome usually starts within 3 months of the event or situation.

Sexual and gender disorder

Sexual and gender disorder affects one's sexual desire, performance and behaviour. It inhibits a person's motivation or ability to engage in sexual activity. Sexual and gender disorder includes gender identity, sexual dysfunction and paraphilia.

Dissociative disorder

People suffer from severe disturbances or changes in consciousness, memory, identity and general awareness of themselves and their surroundings. This usually occurs as a result of traumatic events, disaster or accidents.

Somatic symptom disorder

Somatic symptom disorder was formerly called psychosomatic disorder. In this disorder, a person experiences physical symptoms of an illness or pain that causes high levels of emotional distress.

Tic disorder

Tourette's syndrome is an example of tic disorder. People with this disorder make sounds or show body movements that are quick sudden and repeated which are uncontrollable.

THE 'Champ'ion

Chandu Champion isn't big for me in terms of scale or stature, I never said in that zone, says the actor

Rohit Bhatnagar

Kartik Aaryan is currently seen playing a real life character, India's first Paralympic gold medallist, Murlikant Petkar in Kabir Khan's celebrated film *Chandu Champion*. In an exclusive chat with *The Free Press Journal*, actor talks about box office pressures, his next *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3* and a lot more. Excerpts:

A. It was an emotional screening. When I saw him seeing his life on celluloid and thinking about the moments where he might have lived it in a way, where we are showcasing it, it felt like a reward to me.

Q. Do you feel you are the top most commercial actor in the country as of now?

A. With the kind of films I am doing, I am trying to set the bar high for myself also. I am constantly upping the game with *Satyaprem Ki Katha* to *Chandu Champion* to *Bhool Bhulaiyaa* and so on. This upping the game makes me go and achieve more. I don't know if I am top most or no since things change every Friday.

Q. Does box office bothers you?

A. Eventually, we all want films to be profitable. I am okay with whatever the numbers is but it should

Q. How was the reaction of Murlikant Petkar after watching the film?



A still from Chandu Champion



"It was an emotional screening. When I saw Murlikant Petkar seeing his life on celluloid and thinking about the moments where he might have lived it in a way, where we are showcasing it, it felt like a reward to me"

profitable to my producers. Since my producers, exhibitors are making money out of my films, my job is done. I only have this much pressure, rest doesn't matter.

Rest everything is just for headlines. Who will dislike more numbers but I have come to terms with that every film would not be a money spinner. I want to continue to be the gold at the box office but I don't know the trick and I do have early Friday jitters.

Q. Does movie promotions take a toll on you at times?

A. I live in the moment and promote the film wholeheartedly. I promote any of films with 200% of my capability which I had done with *Chandu Champion* too. I had a sore throat, I didn't sleep well for six days at a stretch. I promoted the film in every corner of the world and given interviews. I can only promote and spread the awareness.

Q. Tell us something about Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3?

A. I think, we have a great script and I am really looking forward to it. The way we are shooting also is much bigger and larger. We have great expectations from the film. This is the franchise where we have the locked script even in the second part. I am happy the way we are unfolding third part. I am enjoying shooting for it.



18th edition of Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF) inaugurated in Mumbai

Showcasing human emotions

Dr. L Murugan inaugurates MIFF, filmmaker Subbiah Nallamuthu receives lifetime achievement award

CJ Desk

Documentary films play a vital role in showcasing human emotions in a true way. Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Dr. L. Murugan said at the inauguration ceremony of the 18th edition of the *Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF)*.

Organised biennially by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and executed by the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), the festival celebrates documentaries, short fiction and animation films. *MIFF* was launched in 1990.

Murugan, who declared the gala open on Saturday night, said the ministry is focused on transforming the country into "a content hub of the world".

The minister also highlighted the efforts made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to facilitate the single-window system for film shooting in India. At the opening ceremony, renowned wildlife filmmaker Subbiah Nallamuthu was named the recipient of the *V Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award*, instituted in the memory of the legendary filmmaker. Nallamuthu, best known for his tiger-centric documentaries including *Tiger Dynasty*, *Tiger Queen*, and *The World's Most Famous Tiger*, received a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh, a trophy and a citation.

An alumnus of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), the filmmaker gained



"The Mumbai International Film Festival is a celebration of documentary, short and animation films. Documentary films play a vital role to showcase the unique abilities, emotions and human bonds in a true way. Our Bharat is the hub of content creation. In our Bharat, storytelling is our tradition from our grandmothers and mothers, in the story we are picking content for cinema, novels."

— Dr. L. Murugan
MoS Information and Broadcasting

prominence with his work on *Living on the Edge*, India's longest-running award-winning environment series. His expertise extends to his tenure with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) as a high-speed cameraman.

Film personalities like Anand L. Rai, Madhur Bhandarkar, Divya Dutta, Randeep Hooda, Abhishek Banerjee, Sonali Kulkarni, Sharad Kelkar, Taha Shah Badussha, Rahul Rawail, Vineet Singh, Avinash Tiwary, and Adil Hussain also attended the *MIFF* opening ceremony.

Defying norms

Actress talks about her participation in the *Mrs. World* contest, and more

Prathamesh Jadhav

'B'eauty with brains' is a phrase that sits comfortably on Aditi Govitriker. India's first *Mrs. World* is also a medical doctor, a psychologist, a successful model, and now she holds a Master's Degree from the prestigious Harvard University.

In an exclusive interview with *The Free Press Journal*, the actress

for me, I could always go back to medicine. That's why I always maintain that education is very important, as this field (modeling and entertainment) can create a lot of insecurity in your mind because it's not a fixed job that fetches you a salary at

opens up about the importance of education, her participation in the *Mrs. World* contest, and more. No matter where she goes and what achievements she adds to her CV, the *Mrs. World* title sticks, admits Aditi.

"It was truly a life-changing decision to participate in the *Mrs. World* contest. A married woman being a beauty queen was an alien concept for many back in the day. Also, a married woman being in the glamour field was a complete no-no. I was told that I was committing professional suicide by revealing my marital status. And I was not willing to keep my marriage under wraps at any cost. If acting and modeling didn't work

at the end of the month. Sometimes you may sit at home, wondering which project is going to help pay the bills!" Aditi is super comfortable in her skin. At 50, she is radiant. Has she reversed the biological clock, one wonders. "I will always look my best at whatever age I am, and that does not mean I will be under the knife and do all those weird things to my face. Having said that, I will always carry the attitude that even if I'm 80, I will be the best-looking person in that bracket. That's what I live by."



Pics: Varinder Chawla

Prepping for action

Salman Khan poses with Sajid Khan in new pic before kicking off *Sikandar* shoot

CJ Desk

Salman Khan is gearing up to begin filming his next movie *Sikandar* on June 18. A new picture of superstar Salman Khan alongside music director Sajid Khan has surfaced on social media ahead of the shooting.

Taking to his Instagram on Sunday, Sajid shared a picture with *Bhaijaan*.

In the picture, Salman is seen wearing a beige t-shirt and a silver chain, with a beard and a slight smile.

He captioned the post that read, "Time spent with my brother is the best time @salmankhan enjoyed after a long time at Panvel farmhouse. god bless u bhai #friendship #star."

Soon after the picture was shared, fans chimed in the comment section.

Sikandar which also stars Rashmika Mandanna, marks the reunion of Salman Khan and Sajid Nadiadwala after their previous successful collaborations *Kick*, *Judwaa*, and *Mujhse Shaadi Karogi*. Directed by A.R. Murugadoss, the film is set to release next *Eid*. The film is backed by Sajid Nadiadwala.

Apart from this, Salman will be seen in Aditya Chopra's *Tiger Vs Pathaan*.

CAUGHT ON CAM

Celebs were snapped as they were out and about in Mumbai



Tahira Kashyap strikes a pose as she spotted outside an event in suburbs

Sonu Sood looks cool as he steps out from the Mumbai airport

Saiee Manjrekar stuns with her gorgeous look as she snapped outside a cafe

Konkona Sen Sharma poses for our shutterbugs as she snapped outside an event

Kim Sharma strikes a pose as she snapped in the suburbs

Christian Eriksen scores on emotional Euro return

RESOLUTE SLOVENIA FIND LATE EQUALISER TO GRAB POINT AGAINST DENMARK

FINAL RESULT
Slovenia 1 (Erik Janza 77') Denmark 1 (Eriksen 17')

AGENCIES

STUTTGART

Christian Eriksen scored for Denmark in a 1-1 draw with Slovenia at Euro 2024 on Sunday, almost three years to the day since suffering a cardiac arrest in his team's opening game at the last tournament. The Manchester United midfielder fired his team ahead on 17 minutes in front of a Stuttgart stadium filled overwhelmingly by Denmark supporters, but Erik Janza's late deflected effort earned Slovenia a point in its first match at the Euros since 2000. Denmark reached the semi-finals of the pandemic-delayed Euro 2020 tournament before losing to England, riding a wave of emotion triggered by Eriksen's collapse in Copenhagen, which left him needing to be resuscitated on the pitch after he suffered a cardiac arrest. He eventually resumed his career after being fitted with an implantable cardioverter defibrillator, making his return to international duty nine months later and appearing at the 2022 World Cup. On the eve of Denmark's Euro 2024 opener, Eriksen said the harrowing incident is no longer something he routinely thinks about, intent instead on focusing helping his country make another deep run in Germany. Slovenia midfielder Timi Max Elsnik admitted there would be few surprises for ei-

INSPIRING RETURN

Just three years ago, Eriksen collapsed on the pitch after suffering cardiac arrest during Denmark's group match against Finland at Euro 2020, which was delayed by a year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Danish captain received life-saving treatment on the pitch, eventually being resuscitated and taken to hospital. Christian Eriksen made a remarkable return to football and featured at the 2022 Qatar World Cup. Exactly 1,100 days after the incident, Eriksen produced a brilliant finish to give Denmark the lead against Slovenia, taking Jonas Wind's clever back-heel on his chest before volleying into the bottom corner.

ther side after it finished just behind Denmark on head-to-head record in their qualifying group. Highly-rated Slovenia striker Benjamin Sesko nearly caught Kasper Schmeichel out with a powerful long-range drive,

but moments later it was Denmark who struck. A quick throw-in was flicked on by Jonas Wind into the stride of Eriksen, who crashed a low shot into the far corner to give the Danes the lead.



Denmark a second as he hacked a clearance in his own area against his team-mate, Jan Oblak watching on in hope as the ball skipped just wide of his goal. Eriksen blazed over just before half-time after more excellent work from the lively Wind, with Slovenia defender Jaka Bijol close to heading into his own net after a Denmark set-piece early in the second half. Oblak produced a brave stop to prevent Rasmus Hojlund doubling the advantage, blocking the United forward's effort from point-blank range to keep his team in it. Adam Gnezda Cerin glanced a cross wide as Slovenia pressed for an equaliser and Sporar stabbed wide as he lunged to meet a free-kick. Sesko was desperately unlucky to see his rasping drive cannon back off the post, but Slovenia was soon level. Denmark could not properly clear a corner and Janza's thumping half-volley from just outside the penalty box brushed off Morten Hjulmand to leave Schmeichel stranded. Sporar had the chance to snatch victory for Slovenia after bursting past Jannik Vestergaard, but he powered into the side-netting as Schmeichel appeared to get the faintest of touches.

With Sesko being closely monitored by the Danish defence, Andraz Sporar failed to take advantage of a hole in the backline as he miscontrolled a bouncing ball forward when he looked through on goal. Sesko almost handed

TODAY'S FIXTURES
Romania vs Ukraine 6:30 pm IST
Belgium vs Slovakia 9:30 pm IST
On Tuesday
Austria vs France 12:30 am IST
Live on Sony Ten Network and SonyLiv

Weghorst snatches late win for Netherlands

Dutch striker scores with first touch to secure comeback victory

FINAL RESULT
Poland 1 (A Buksa 16') Netherlands 2 (C Gakpo 29', W Weghorst - 83')

AGENCIES

HAMBURG

Striker Wout Weghorst came off the bench to snatch a late winner with his first touch and give the Netherlands a deserved 2-1 comeback victory over Poland in their Group D opener at the European Championship on Sunday. Weghorst had barely been on the field when he slid home Nathan Ake's perfect pass into the area in the 83rd minute to send the tens of thousands of "Oranje" fans at Hamburg's



Volksparkstadion into raptures. As expected, the Dutch dominated from the off with slick-passing attacks. But they were shocked in the 16th minute when Adam Buksa, replacing Poland's injured talisman Robert Lewandowski, rose above three defenders to flick home stand-in captain Piotr Zielinski's corner. The Dutch equalised in the 29th minute with a low shot by livewire forward Cody Gakpo from outside the area that took a deflection off defender Bartosz Salamon to beat

SUPER SUB

Weghorst had barely been on the field when he slid home Nathan Ake's perfect pass into the area in the 83rd minute to send the tens of thousands of "Oranje" fans at Hamburg's Volksparkstadion into raptures. At the back, Van Dijk seemed always one step ahead of his man while Ake marauded forward to start attacks. The Dutch worked more chances in the second half, with Denzel Dumfries seeing a header clawed away by Szczesny and Xavi Simons shooting wide on a break before Weghorst came to the rescue.

Italy overcome fastest-ever Euro goal to edge out Albania

FINAL RESULT
Italy 2 (Bastoni 11', Barella 16') Albania 1 (Bajrami - 1')

AGENCIES

MUNICH

Italy recovered from the shock of conceding the fastest goal ever scored at a European Championship to beat Albania 2-1 on Saturday as Alessandro Bastoni and Nicolò Barella ensured the defending champions made a winning start. Tens of thousands of raucous, red-shirted Albania fans had the Dortmund BVB Stadium rocking when Nedim Bajrami blasted home from an angle after 23 seconds, capitalising on a rash throw-in by defender Federico Dimarco. The goal smashed the previous record held by Russia's Dmitri Kirichenko who scored after 67 seconds against



Alessandro Bastoni of Italy during the UEFA EURO 2024 group stage match against Albania at Football Stadium Dortmund.

Greece in 2004. Amid the din, however, Italy held their nerve and equalised in the 11th minute when Bastoni headed home when a short corner was swung in to the far post by Lorenzo Pellegrini.

Barella -- returning to the national side after injury -- put the Azzurri in front five minutes later when he slammed home from outside the box. Davide Frattesi almost extended the Italians' lead in the 34th minute but Albanian

RECORD BROKEN

Albania's Bajrami blasted home from an angle after 23 seconds, capitalising on a rash throw-in by defender Federico Dimarco. The goal smashed the previous record held by Russia's Dmitri Kirichenko who scored after 67 seconds against Greece in 2004.

goalkeeper Thomas Strakosha tipped his chipped shot on to the post. Despite fielding a team packed with Serie A players, Albania were left chasing shadows for much of the game as the young side assembled by Italy coach Luciano Spalletti dominated with neat and fast passing, albeit without creating many chances.

Andy Murray to headline Great Britain team at Paris Olympics

AGENCIES

LONDON

Former Wimbledon, US Open and Olympic champion Andy Murray is set to compete at the Paris Games for Britain, the British Olympic Association said on Sunday. The 37-year-old Scot, who won gold at the London 2012 and Rio 2016 Games, is the only player to win back-to-back Olympic titles in singles. Murray will be joined by debutants Jack Draper, Cameron Norrie and Dan Evans in what could be his final tournament. Former US Open champion Emma Raducanu was not included in the line-up. The BBC reported that Raducanu, who is still coming back from surgery on her wrists and ankle last year and was ranked too low to qualify automatically for the team, had turned down the offer of a wild card.



Current British number one Katie Boulter will make her Olympic debut in the women's singles tournament. Tokyo Games Olympians Neal Skupski and Joe Salisbury will compete in men's doubles. "The calibre of the team gets stronger with every Games, and it is great to see a mix of returning and first-time Olympians," Team GB Chef de Mission, Mark England said in a statement on Sunday. "Andy Murray was our flag bearer in Rio, and he continues to lead by example through his commitment to the Olympic Games and Team GB in what will be his fifth Olympics." The Olympic tennis tournament will run from July 27 to Aug. 4 at Roland Garros in Paris.

India confirms quota in women's individual recurve for Paris Games

Bhajan wins gold at final qualifier

AGENCIES

BAKU

Even as the seasoned second-ranked archer Deepika Kumari, who received two byes, lost her first match to Azerbaijan's Yaylagul Ramazanova 6-4, the third-ranked Bhajan and the ninth-placed Ankita Bhakat reached the quarterfinals to ensure a women's berth in Paris 2024. As the event offers only one individual quota place to a country, India secured the slot through the higher-ranked Bhajan's fine performance. The 18-year-old Bhajan got two byes and beat Mongolia's Urantungalag Bishindee 6-2, Slovakia's Ursula Covic 7-3 and Poland's Wioleta Myszor 6-0 to achieve the first target of entering the quarterfinals. Then she continued her good touch to get past Moldova's Alexandra Mirca 6-2 in the semifinals and Iran's Mobina Fallah 6-2 in the final. Ankita, who also got two byes, defeated Israel's Shelley Hilton 6-4 and Mikaella Moshe 7-3 and Philippines' Gabrielle Monica Bidaure 6-0 to enter the quarterfinals before coming up short against Mobina 6-4. Indian men and women's teams had lost early to miss out on team quotas, which would have allowed the country to field three men and as many women in the Olympics. However, both teams have another chance to qualify through the world rankings as they are placed at the top among the countries which have not secured team quotas yet.

Navelim Villagers Union storm into semifinals

THE GOAN NETWORK

MARGAO

Navelim Villagers Union pipped Curtorim Gymkhana 1-0 to storm into the semi-finals of the 13th Cana Benaulum Panchayat Cup inter-village football tournament, organised by UC Benaulum, at St John de Baptista ground, Benaulum, on Sunday. The initial stages witnessed a midfield battle between Curtorim's Nickson Castanha and Navelim's young gun Ronaldo Pereira. Curtorim nearly broke the deadlock in the 23rd minute when Anselm Fernandes' attempted cross dipped viciously, cannoning off the crossbar with Navelim goalkeeper Jeet Gupta stranded. The second half saw a shift in momentum as Navelim took the lead five minutes after the restart. A teasing left-wing cross from Velington Almeida evaded the Curtorim defense, finding Travis Souza.



Navelim Villagers Union midfielder Ronaldo Pereira receiving the Man of the Match from former Amilkar Babush Pereira. Souza played a smart ball to the unmarked Ronaldo Pereira, who slotted it past Curtorim custodian Prakash Joshi to make it 1-0. Navelim's defensive duo of Mallapa Bizzargi and Velinton Silva stood firm, particularly against Curtorim's dangerous forward Joywin Carneiro. Nickson Castanha, who had an impressive game for Curtorim, almost snatched an equaliser with a curling free-kick, but Navelim goalkeeper Jeet Gupta produced a superb save to push it away with only six minutes left on the clock.

Dr K B Hedgewar Vidyalay clinch 12th SRS Ponda Taluka school chess c'ship

THE GOAN NETWORK

PANAJI

Dr K B Hedgewar Vidyalay, Ponda scored nine match points and 16 game points to emerge champions in the 12th SRS Ponda Taluka School Chess Championship organised by SRS Vedic Mathematics Academy, Mangeshi, in association with Ponda Taluka Chess Association (PTCA), at Wagle High School, Mangeshi, recently. A total of 17 schools participated in the tournament with four players representing each school. GVM's Utkarsh Vidyamandir secured second place by scoring nine match points and 15 game points, while S S Samiti's Smt IVBD High School securing third place by scoring seven match points and 13 game apoints.



Sharda English High School, Marcel; Vidhya Vrudhi School, Ponda, and GVM's A J De Almeida High School secured the 4th to 6th place respectively. Trophies and certificates were distributed by Sagar Sakordekar (founder, Vedic Mathematics Academy and PTCA president), Amogh Namshiker (arbiter and PTCA secretary), Anand Kurtikar (Arbiter and PTCA executive member), Mitasha Aigal (headmistress, Wagle High School), Sanjay Nadkarni (sportsman from Mangeshi) and Sandesh Naik (joint secretary, PTCA). Swastik Vidyalay, Priol; Surashree Kesarbai Kerkar High School, VD & SV Wagle High School, Gurukul Academy, Smt Anandibai Naik High School, GVM's MIBK High School, GVM's Pragati Vidyalay, Borim; Mahatma Gandhi Centenary School, Gaunem; Saraswati High School, Kavlem; Sarvodaya High School, Usgao and School of Symbiosis, Shiroda, were other schools which participated. Assistant arbiter Vrajesh Natekar and Swayam Naik took active part in conducting the tournament.

Indian football clubs unite to tackle age falsification, call for strict action

FC Goa, Bengaluru FC lead initiative with age verification reforms

THE GOAN NETWORK

PANAJI

Leading Indian Super League clubs FC Goa and Bengaluru FC have come together and announced an initiative to tackle the problem of age fraud in Indian football. Dempo SC, Mizoram FA, FC Madras, and the Reliance Foundation Young Champs are other clubs and bodies who are co-signatories in a joint public letter. Age fraud has been an issue in the country's footballing eco-system for years. The case of Jamshepur FC forward Gourav Mukhi, who was banned by the ISL during the 2018-19 season for posing as a 16-year-old, is one example. "We, the undersigned, have come together to address a

NOT JUST A NUMBER

Age fraud has been an issue in the country's footballing eco-system for years. The case of Jamshepur FC forward Gourav Mukhi, who was banned by the ISL during the 2018-19 season for posing as a 16-year-old, is one example. Another more recent example is when a staggering 87 players failed to pass the age test at the U-14 Subroto Cup last year, which resulted in 15 teams being disqualified. critical issue that severely hampers the development of our game - Age Fraud. A problem often discussed behind closed doors, it is time we discuss this publicly and address it head-on. Sunlight is the best disinfectant. Bringing transparency and openness to this issue is the first step toward finding a solution," the letter, addressed to stakeholders of Indian football, started. The letter continues to draw attention to the ineffectiveness of the current TW3 verification test, the limitations of which can often render "honest aged children" ineligible. To counter the TW3 test's issues, the six signatories have appealed to the All India Football Federation (AIFF) to set up an amnesty scheme similar to what the Badminton Association of India (BFI) has put in

place. This scheme instituted by the BAI is called Voluntary Age Rectification Scheme (VARS). The one-time VARS allows players to voluntarily, and confidentially, announce their actual date of birth, rectify it with the BAI, and then compete in competitions suited for their actual age. Moreover, they have also stressed on the need for strict actions against adults who have committed age fraud. "After the amnesty scheme window closes, there must be severe consequences, especially for adults responsible, who are found to still indulge in this fraudulent practice. Accountability is crucial to ensure that the system remains clean and fair for everyone involved," the letter said.

Pakistan seal nervy consolatory three-wicket win against Ireland

SHAHEEN AND BABAR SALVAGE PRIDE IN FINAL OUTING

SCOREBOX
Pakistan 111 for 7 (Babar 32*, McCarthy 3-15) beat Ireland 106 for 9 (Delany 31, Shaheen 3-22, Imad 3-8) by three wickets and seven balls remaining

PLAYER OF THE MATCH
Shaheen Shah Afridi 13* (5) & 3/22



Pakistan's Shaheen Shah Afridi hits a 6 during the ICC men's Twenty20 World Cup 2024 group A cricket match against Ireland at Central Broward Park & Broward County Stadium in Lauderdale, Florida.

PTI

LAUDERHILL
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-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.

Rauf then joined the party, getting rid of Campher who went for a pull only to see the top-edge landing in the safe hands of Ayub.

Delany clobbered the first six of Ireland innings off Rauf

MATCH RUN

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in the 9th over, before hammering spinner Shadab Khan for a six over long-on to bring up the team fifty. Delany ended the over with a four after Rauf missed an overhead catch at the boundary.

Abbas was next in line for Delany as he smoked a pitched up delivery from the pacer over deep square leg for another maximum.

Imad was then introduced into the attack and he dismissed the dangerous-looking Delany with a ball that bounced and spun as the 44-run stand was broken reducing Ireland to 76 for 7.

Australia send Scotland packing home, win by five wickets

Head and Stoinis star despite McMullen's brilliance

SCOREBOX
Australia 186 for 5 (Head 68, Stoinis 59, Watt 2-34) beat Scotland 180 for 5 (McMullen 60, Berrington 42*, Maxwell 2-44) by five wickets

PLAYER OF THE MATCH
Marcus Stoinis 59 (29)



Marcus Stoinis of Australia bats as Matthew Cross of Scotland keeps during the ICC Men's T20 Cricket World Cup match at Daren Sammy National Cricket Stadium in Gros Islet, Saint Lucia.

PTI

GROS
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.

"We spoke about sticking to our plans. Scotland are a good team, they have improved a lot and we certainly wanted to respect them," Australia skipper Mitchell Marsh said after the win.

"We just wanted to stay consistent and if we fail, we

MATCH RUN

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pearing to be falling apart, the in-form Head and Stoinis joined forces to bring them back in the game.

On a wicket where batters could swing their willows without fretting much over the pace or movement off the surface, the two seasoned campaigners put the Scottish resolve to a stern test with a sturdy 80-run association for the third wicket off only 44 balls.

Head smacked four sixes and five fours to top score with 68 off a mere 49 balls but Stoinis was more aggressive, cracking nine fours and two sixes to make a quickfire 59 from a mere 29 balls.

But before that, there were some nervous moments for the former champions when David Warner (1) was removed from the equation early, skipper Mitchell Marsh failed to impose himself, and Glenn Maxwell's torrid run with the bat continued.

Bangladesh eye Super Eight spot in clash against Nepal

NEW ZEALAND TAKE ON PAPUA NEW GUINEA

PTI

KINGSTOWN
Bangladesh will look to iron out their flaws and seal the second Super Eight spot from Group D when they take on a tricky Nepal in the T20 World Cup here on Monday.

With four points, Bangladesh are all set to progress further in the tournament from the last group in the competition but a spirited Nepal will pose a strong threat.

Even though they have not yet won a game and are out of race for the next round, Nepal's confidence will be sky high after they nearly pulled off a win against South Africa and will be keen on fulfilling their dream of beating a Test-playing nation before signing off.

The equation for Bangladesh, however, could change if they lose to Nepal by a big margin and the Netherlands manage to do the same against a struggling Sri Lanka an unlikely scenario indeed but this tournament has thrown its share of surprises.



Jakar Ali of Bangladesh pictured during a net session as part of the ICC Men's T20 Cricket World Cup at Arnos Vale Ground in St Vincent.

ready sailed through.

New Zealand eye consolatory win
A consolatory win over a lowly Papua New Guinea would be the best that the New Zealand can walk away with in this T20 World Cup, with curtains coming down on their campaign prematurely.

For a team as consistent as New Zealand in ICC tournaments, the Kiwis have paid a

heavy price for being sluggish at the start as a couple of defeats upfront led to their surprisingly early exit.

The game will, however, carry a massive significance for the Kiwi group as Trent Boult has confirmed this is his last T20 World Cup for the country and the Kane Williamson-led side will be motivated to give their best against PNG, who have lost each of their three matches so far.

England squeak past Namibia in rain-affected match

BROOK, BAIRSTOW RESCUE ACT KEEPS SIDE ALIVE

SCOREBOX
England 122 for 5 (Brook 47*, Bairstow 31) beat Namibia 84 for 3 (van Lingen 33, Wiese 26) by 41 runs (DLS method)

PLAYER OF THE MATCH
Harry Brook 47* (20) & 2 catches



England's Jonathan Bairstow hits 4 during the ICC men's T20 World Cup 2024 group B cricket match between Namibia and England at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in North Sound, Antigua and Barbuda.

PTI

NORTH
England's defense 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 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 Trimpelpmann, and Wiese returned to 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.

Few dismissals won't change anything: Rathour backs Kohli

PTI

LAUDERHILL
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 sidestepped 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.

Sri Lanka look to sign off on a high

Wary of the Dutch firepower and current form, the 2014 champions Sri Lanka, who are placed fifth in Group D, will take on the third-placed Netherlands.

Already out of reckoning for the Super Eight round, Sri Lanka's pride will be at stake given they have had a tournament to forget, marred with multiple issues on and off the field.

For the Scott Edwards-led Netherlands team, there will be a great deal of motivation to bring out their best and hope for a big win as well as luck to favour them.

Netherlands have notched wins in two out of three games in this tournament yet they find themselves nearly eliminated in a tight Group D, from which South Africa have al-

UP NEXT
Bangladesh vs Nepal, 5 am IST
Sri Lanka vs Netherlands, 6 pm IST
New Zealand vs Papua New Guinea, 8 pm IST
Live on Star Sports Network & Disney + Hotstar

Asian Team squash c'ship in China ends

PTI

NEW DELHI
India women finished fifth and their men counterparts sixth in the Asian Team Squash Championships which concluded in Dalian, China, on Sunday.

The women's side beat Iran 2-0 in the match to decide the fifth and sixth positions with Rathika Suthanthira Seelan and Pooja Arthi Raghu scoring comfortable wins.

However, the men's team lost to South Korea 1-2. Velavan Senthilkumar recorded a win before Suraj Kumar Chand and Om Semwal went down.

India crush South Africa by 143 runs

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-sup-



ported by offie Deepti (2/10).

Pacer Renuka Singh (1/30) gave India the perfect start, dismissing the in-form South Africa skipper Laura Wolvaardt in the first over itself.

Wolvaardt had no answer for an excellent nip-batter from Renuka that clipped the top of her off-stump.

The Indians soon fetched the wickets of Tasmeen 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.