

Toll rises to 10 in West Bengal train accident

PTI, JALPAIGURI/KOLKATA: The death of a six-year-old girl on Tuesday morning took the official toll in the Kanchanjunga Express tragedy to 10, even as her parents remained admitted at the North Bengal Medical College and Hospital (NBMCCH) battling for their lives, officials said.

The victim, Sneha Mondal, was admitted to the hospital in a "critical condition" on Monday following the accident at Phansidewa in Darjeeling district in the northern part of the state involving the Sealdah-bound Dn Kanchanjunga Express and a goods train which claimed at least nine other lives. While eight bodies were brought to the state-run NBMCCH in the accident aftermath, two persons died during the course of treatment, an official said.

"The girl suffered fractures in her legs and also had liver and spleen injuries. She succumbed while undergoing treatment," Dr Sandip Sengupta, NBMCCH's dean of student affairs, told PTI-Video.

Thirty-seven people were admitted to the hospital on Monday, he said, adding that two of them were discharged after primary treatment.

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SC says any negligence should be thoroughly dealt with

The bench was hearing petitions on irregularities in the results of NEET-UG examination held on May 5

PTI, NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday said even if there was "0.001 per cent negligence" on the part of anyone in the conduct of the NEET-UG 2024 examination, it should be thoroughly dealt with.

NEET-UG EXAM ROW

Observing that students have to labour hard while preparing for these examinations, the apex court said the litigation pertaining to the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Undergraduate)-2024 examination ought not to be treated as adversarial.

"Even if there is 0.001 per cent negligence on the part of anyone, it should be thoroughly dealt with," a vacation bench of Justices Vikram Nath and SVN Bhatti told the advocates appearing for the Centre and the National Testing Agency (NTA). The NTA conducts the all India pre-medical entrance test.

The bench was hearing two separate petitions raising grievances, including on grace marks given to students in the examination held on May 5.

"We all know the labour



"Even if there is 0.001 per cent negligence on the part of anyone, it should be thoroughly dealt with. We all know the labour which the children undergo, especially in preparing for these exams. Imagine a person who has played fraud on the system becomes a doctor? He is more deleterious to the society – Supreme Court"

which the children undergo, especially in preparing for these exams," the bench said, adding, "Imagine a person who has played fraud on the system becomes a doctor? He is more deleterious to the society".

Cont on Pg 11 >>

ON THE MOVE



Portugal's forward Cristiano Ronaldo moves past from Czech Republic's midfielder Pavel Sulc during the UEFA Euro 2024 Group F football match between Portugal and the Czech Republic at the Leipzig Stadium in Leipzig, on Tuesday. The scoreline was 0-0 at half-time

'Revolution' or not, but it's time for another people's movement to protect Goa: Goans

Team Herald

PANJIM: 18 June 1946 marks a historic day in the Liberation struggle of Goa, Daman and Diu.

Though the freedom struggle started a few decades after the Portuguese conquest of Goa in 1510, the 1946 meeting a Lohia Maidan, before which Ram Manohar Lohia was arrested and Dr Juliao Menezes addressed the people, gave an added surge to the freedom struggle.

REVOLUTION DAY SPECIAL

Senior statesmen, political analysts, advocates and activists have reasserted the necessity of agitation (within the ambits of law and the constitution) to save Goa from the degradation of governance and civil liberties.

Let's start with the BJP media department in-charge Premanand Mhambre, who asked "Who needs second revolution? In and every sector there is proliferation of illegalities and you cannot blame the government alone. Different people have different reasons as per change of time. For some it is sell-

CRORES OF RUPEES IN LEGAL BATTLE ARE BEING SPENT ON DEFECTORS WHO BETRAYED THE PEOPLE: UDAY BHEMBRE

PANJIM: Senior public intellectual and former MLA, Uday Bhemre on Tuesday lamented that crores of rupees of people's money is being spent over the last nearly two years to fight the case of the eight rebel Congress MLAs, who switched over to Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). "These defectors betrayed the trust of the people and made a mockery of the Constitution."

"Eight MLAs who had won on the nomination (ticket) of one party defected to another party. There is a disqualification petition filed on this issue. It is pending before the Goa Assembly Speaker for nearly two years. There is no need for nearly two years

"People have to rise up, come out on the streets to correct the wrongs. Lohia's 18th June Revolution took place because there were no civil liberties. Lohia and 2,500 leaders and people came out to fight for these liberties in Margao – Uday Bhemre, public intellectual and former MLA"



to decide this case. It can be done within a few months. But this is not happening," Bhemre pointed out. "In last nearly two years, so many crores have been spent on them. Whose money is this? This is public money. People's money is being spent on those who have made a fool of them, who have betrayed and made a mockery of the Constitution," he argued. Referring to the question whether there is a need for a second revolution in Goa, Bhemre said, "When those in authority don't listen even after people raising this issue, then agitation is the only way out."

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Goa's premier industry body powerfully objects to power hike

GCCI flags adverse impact on Goa Inc, demands improvement in quality of power supply

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Goa Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) has expressed serious concerns regarding the recent hike in power tariffs across all sectors, which is set to significantly impact its members from various industries, including industrial, hospitality, agriculture, and allied activities.

"The increased electricity tariffs for industries in Goa will make it challenging for local industries to compete with those in other States, where industrial tariffs are lower. This disparity poses a significant threat to the competitiveness and sustainability of Goan industries in the manufacturing sector –GCCCI statement"

In a statement, GCCCI said the increased electricity tariffs for industries in Goa make it challenging for local industries

to compete with those in other states, where industrial tariffs are lower.

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US to ease immigration pathway

PTI, WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden is taking an expansive election year step to offer relief to potentially hundreds of thousands of immigrants without legal status in the US, aiming to balance his own aggressive crackdown on the southern border earlier this month that enraged advocates and many Democratic lawmakers.

The White House announced Tuesday that the Biden administration will, in the coming months, allow certain spouses of US citizens without legal status to apply for permanent residency and eventually citizenship. The move could affect upwards of half a million immigrants, according to senior administration officials.

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Forest dept officially insists that turtle eggs were not 'stolen' but 'spoilt', with no official evidence

Date-wise entries of 'stolen eggs' in Guard register being discounted by senior officials and called a 'mistake' new figures of 'spoilt' eggs sent, scribbled on a paper with no dates

AUGUSTO RODRIGUES

MORJIM: The O Herald report, published on Monday, June 17, "Of 7,869 turtle eggs laid at Morjim, 2095, go 'stolen' evoked an interesting response from Forest Department. A senior Forest officer wasted no time in sending, through a scribbled note, and not an official letter, -through his Marine range Officer, Morjim, that the eggs, which O Herald noted as marked "stolen" in the register of the Turtle guards, were not stolen but "spoilt".

Cont on Pg 11 >>

QUOTE OF THE YEAR

"You must understand the staff manning the register must have made a mistake in the way they wrote. It is supposed to be written as spoilt eggs but by mistake, it came as stolen –Marine Range Officer Gauns"

FORMER NGO HEAD RETRACTS STATEMENT

Sarita Fernandes, former director, Morjim Sea Turtle Trust had stated on June 16, "That means poaching has been allowed and it is a crime. It is sad that despite the turtle guards being there, people managed to steal the eggs. This is a crime under the Wild Life Protection Act 1972 and I hope the Forest Department will initiate action." On Tuesday, June 18, she retracted her statement and stated,

"This is to inform you that my name and quote has been added to an article by O Herald, without clear description on

what the article was about. I would like to request an urgent retraction of my name and quote from the article titled, "Of 7869 turtle eggs laid at Morjim, 2095 go stolen." "When the article was published, several locals and officials called me citing the data was misinterpreted from spoiled to stolen. They also informed me it was rough data of a handwritten notebook and not digital data. I am unsure which is true since I do not have the source of data in any public domain or through RTI. To this effect, I am writing to your office to please retract my name and quotes," Fernandes said.

HANDWRITTEN SCRIBBLED FIGURES SENT BY THE FOREST DEPT WITH NO MENTION OF THE PERIOD

- 22,528 laid
- 15,146 released
- 1,382 hatching dead
- 6,000 spoilt

Total Nest = 216
Total eggs = 22528
Total released = 15146
Hatching dead = 1382
Eggs Spoil = 6000

TURTLE EGGS FIGURES IN THE MORJIM REGISTER QUOTED BY O HERALDO

Period: April 1 to April 22

- 7,869 eggs were laid
- 5,435 hatchlings released
- 334 eggs dead
- 2,095 were reported to have been stolen

Period	Laid	Released	Dead	Spoiled
15-04-24	69	83		
17-04-24	76	29		
16-04-24	104	120		
25-04-24	63	99		
03-05-24	77	86		

Brutally assaulted Mapusa youth succumbs after a fortnight

30-year-old Ahmed Devadi was fatally attacked on May 30; police have arrested six persons

Team Herald

PANJIM: Thirty-year-old Ahmed Devadi, who was brutally assaulted by a gang on May 30, 2024, at Housing Board, Mapusa, has succumbed to injuries after battling for life for 15 days at Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMCH).

Meanwhile, the family members of Ahmed refused to take custody of his body from the GMC Hospital. They demanded that they will take the body home only after the main accused are arrested.

Ahmed Devadi, 30 and Sandesh Salkar, 28 were attacked with iron rods by a gang late night on May 30 over some petty matter. Both sustained serious head injuries in the attack and were rushed to Goa Medical College and Hospital, Bambolim.

Police have arrested six persons in connection with the case. Those who arrested were identified as Manthan Raju Chari

Those who arrested were identified as Manthan Raju Chari (24), Shridhar Shivaji Killedar (26), Abhishekh Ramesh Pujari (20), Sharanbasu alias Gaikawad (27), Nagraj alias Nagye Dasharath Pujari (19) and Boreish Satish Pujari (38)

(24), Shridhar Shivaji Killedar (26), Abhishekh Ramesh Pujari (20), Sharanbasu alias Chempye Budhappa Gaikawad (27), Nagraj alias Nagye Dasharath Pujari (19) and Boreish Satish Pujari (38). Searches are underway to arrest remaining accused, North Goa SP Akshat Kaushal said.

Meanwhile, Mapusa Police have added murder charges under section 302 of IPC in the case.

After the incident took place, Mapusa DySP Sandesh Chodankar had said the assault was to take revenge of previous enmity.

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KTC suspends seven bus drivers found drinking on the job

Passengers and citizens have been complaining about drunk drivers; KTC will continue to conduct surprise checks to uphold safety and compliance standards

Team Herald

MARGAO: The Kadamba Transport Corporation (KTC) has recently suspended seven drivers for driving under the influence of alcohol. These drivers were found to be intoxicated while on duty, posing a risk to the safety of their passengers and other road-users as well.

Ulhas Tuenkar, Chairman of KTC and Navelim MLA, addressed the issue, stating that stringent actions will continue to be taken to ensure compliance with safety standards. He noted that the decision followed numerous complaints

KTC facing bus shortage after scrapping 60 old buses

KTC Chairman Ulhas Tuenkar said that 60 KTC buses are currently out of service, which has exacerbated the shortage of buses. "Around 60 buses have been scrapped, leading to a shortage. Meanwhile, there is increasing demand for buses from educational institutions," he said. However, Tuenkar assured that the government has sanctioned nearly 50 new buses, which will be operational within the next two months.

from citizens and passengers about drivers being drunk while operating KTC buses. "We have received several

complaints from citizens and passengers of KTC buses regarding incidents where drivers were found to be drunk.

“Accidents resulting from negligence, especially those involving drunk drivers, are serious offences. Therefore, we have decided to take immediate action against such drivers to uphold discipline during their duties. KTC will not tolerate drivers operating under the influence of alcohol

Ulhas Tuenkar, *Chairman of KTC*

After conducting inquiries, we have initiated action against those found intoxicated while on duty," Tuenkar said. He highlighted the critical responsibility drivers have in ensuring the safety of the 40 to 50 passengers typically on board each bus.

Tuenkar further stressed the severity of accidents caused by negligence, particularly those involving intoxicated drivers. "Accidents resulting from negligence, especially those involving drunk drivers, are serious offences. Therefore, we have

HYDERABAD FIRM PENALISED FOR DELAY IN DELIVERING KTC'S E-BUSES

The KTC management has imposed a fine of Rs one crore on a Hyderabad-based company, 'Olectra', for not supplying 94 electric buses, which were scheduled to be delivered in May this year. The buses may now be supplied within the next two months.

decided to take immediate action against such drivers to uphold discipline during their duties. KTC will not tolerate drivers operating under the influence of alcohol," he warned.

Lohia Maidan revamp smacks of unplanned, substandard work: Yuri Oppn leader issues six-month deadline for govt to expand the stage, relocate the electricity transformer and provide public amenities

Team Herald

MARGAO: Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemiao has criticised the recent renovation of Lohia Maidan in Margao, alleging that the government's expenditure of nearly Rs three crore has resulted in unplanned and substandard work, causing inconvenience to users of this historic site. Alemiao has demanded the immediate relocation of the electric transformer, expansion of the stage, and creation of public utilities, giving the government a six-month ultimatum to complete these improvements.

Alemiao made these re-

marks after paying floral tributes at the Statue of Dr Ram Manohar Lohia and the Martyrs' Memorial during a function organised by the Goa Pradesh Congress Committee to commemorate Goa Revolution Day.

GPCC President Amit Patkar also spoke at the event, criticizing the BJP Government for failing to protect Goa. "Every day, one person dies on Goa's roads due to the worst road conditions. The government is busy in organising events. Time has come to start another revolution against this incompetent government," said Patkar.

Newly elected Member

of Parliament Viriato Fernandes echoed these sentiments, blaming the government's faulty policies for the destruction of Goa's environment and identity. "Let us unite to save this beautiful land which was liberated with the sacrifices of the freedom fighters," he stated.

The event saw the participation of several Congress leaders, including Quepem MLA Alton D'Costa, Mahila Congress President Bina Naik, Zilla Panchayat Member Michelle Rebelo, General Secretary Everson Vales, and numerous Congress functionaries and workers who paid tribute at the Martyr's Memorial.

KEEPERS OF THE KHARIF

SAGUN GAWADE



Working as a team, female farmers transplant paddy saplings in a waterlogged field in Taleigao

Congressmen urge MLAs to re-introduce Anti-Defection Amendment Bill



Team Herald

MARGAO: Congressmen from Margao have called on their MLAs to introduce a private member bill aimed at amending the Xth Schedule of the Constitution of India to address the issue of defections. The group submitted a memorandum to GPCC President Amit Patkar and Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemiao, emphasizing the need to curb defections that undermine the trust of the electorate in their representatives.

In their letter, the Congressmen highlighted the impact of repeated defections on voter confidence, noting that even honest and credible candidates are affected

by the prevailing climate of distrust. Former MMC Chairperson Savio Coutinho mentioned that their research into the actions of the Margao legislators revealed that a similar Private Member's Bill was introduced by the then Leader of Opposition Digambar Kamat during the Legislative Assembly Session in July 2021. This Bill sought a resolution requesting the Central Government to amend the Xth Schedule to prevent MLAs from defecting for personal gain. However, the status of this bill remains unknown. And ironically, a year later, Kamat himself defected from Congress to join the BJP.

The Congressmen believe that this proposed amend-

ment would benefit not only the Opposition but also the ruling party, as it would protect against defections aimed at toppling the government. "Preventing defectors from re-entering the Congress party through fresh defections is in the best interest of all party members and the Goan electorate," said the Congress members.

The group suggested that the draft titled 'Amendment to the Xth Schedule of The Constitution of India' be submitted to the Secretary of the Goa Legislative Assembly under Rule 101(1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of the Goa Legislative Assembly.

Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemiao acknowledged the

“In July 2021, the then leader of Opposition Digambar Kamat had introduced a Private Member's Bill to amend the Xth Schedule of the Constitution, to put a halt to the rampant defection of MLAs from the party they are elected from, to a different party, for their personal gain. The Bill's current status is unknown

Savio Coutinho, *Congress member*

concerns raised about defections and noted that he had previously addressed this issue in the Assembly. He found it noteworthy that Margao MLA Digambar Kamat had previously moved a similar bill and assured the Congressmen from Margao that the party would reintroduce the bill in the house.

Tribute to freedom fighters marks Revolution Day

Team Herald

MARGAO: "The sacrifices made by the freedom fighters of Goa will not go in vain, as it is the responsibility of every Goan to carry forward the ideals of our freedom fighters in order to liberate the State," stated Environment Minister Alexio Sequeira during a function commemorating Goa's Revolution Day at Lohia Maidan in Margao. He was accompanied by MLA Digambar Kamat, Ulhas Tuenkar, South Goa Collector Asvin Chandru, MMC Chairperson Damodar Shirodkar and freedom fighter Vaman Prabhu-gaonkar, among others.

Minister Sequeira emphasised the significance of June 18th as a pivotal day in Goa's history, marking the beginning of the ag-



gressive struggles that ultimately led to the region's liberation from Portuguese rule. He remarked, "Many people sacrificed their lives in the goal to liberate Goa from the Portuguese regime. This movement marked a turning point and culminated in the liberation of Goa."

He further assured that both the State and Central governments are committed to honouring the sacrifices of the freedom fighters

Shorttakes

1 JMFC denies bail to man arrested by Economic Offences Cell for land fraud

MARGAO: Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) Teisy Mascarenhas, denied bail to Agnelo De Souza, who was arrested by the Economic Offences Cell (EOC) of Goa Police. Agnelo De Souza, 47, was arrested on charges of defrauding a South Goa resident of around Rs 2.20 crore under the pretence of selling a property spanning over 19,000 square meters in Nuvem. The case, originally registered at the Maina-Curtorim police station on December 7, 2023, was subsequently transferred to the EOC in January 2024. The charges against Agnelo De Souza include Sections 420 (cheating), 423, 464, 465, 467, 468, 471, 472, 474, and 120-B read with Section 34 of the IPC. The investigating officer opposed Agnelo's bail plea, asserting that crucial evidence such as duplicate seals and original forged certificates, believed to be in Agnelo's possession, needed to be recovered. Advocate Pritam Moraes, representing the intervenor, also objected to granting bail, highlighting the gravity of the offence and Agnelo's alleged direct benefit from it.

2 Man booked for forging bank passbook with complainant's address

MARGAO: The Fatorda police have registered a case against Vinod Salunke under Sections 420, 465, and 471 of the IPC. The complaint was lodged by Malvin Verdes of Dandewada, Chinchinim, who alleged that Vinod Salunke prepared a forged passbook of Bank of India, Chinchinim branch, in the name of Mrs. Meena Vinod Salunke, who is stated to be his wife. The passbook was purportedly prepared with the address of the complainant, Verdes. Vinod Salunke allegedly presented this forged passbook before the Court of Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) at Margao in RCS No. 118/2022, presuming to establish false ownership over Verdes's house.

3 Mango tree collapses on two parked vehicles in Aquem

MARGAO: Two vehicles parked in a compound near Maruti Temple in Aquem were damaged when a mango tree collapsed on them. According to Station Fire Officer Gil Souza, a fire tender rushed to the site and managed to save property worth approximately Rs 50,000 during the operation, which lasted one-and-a-half hours. In another incident nearby, firefighters cleared a jungle tree that had fallen onto the road near Sai Baba Temple, also in Aquem.

4 Two Nepali delivery boys held for stealing valuables from Nerul flat

PANJIM: The Porvorim police have apprehended two youths employed as delivery boys for allegedly breaking into a flat in Nerul and stealing items valued at Rs 1.90 lakh. The accused, identified as Mohan Raj, 20, and Birat Basnet, 23, are natives of Nepal and currently reside in Shankarwadi, Taleigao. The incident came to light following a complaint filed by Snehalkumar P Patel, originally from Gujarat and residing in Nerul. Snehalkumar, who had booked the flat through Airbnb, reported that two unidentified individuals entered his premises and stole a bag containing two MacBook laptops, Apple AirPods, a pair of Nike Air Jordan shoes, and Rs 25,000 in cash, totalling approximately Rs 1.90 lakh in value. The theft occurred on June 8, around 6 pm. An offence under Sections 457 and 380, read with 34, of IPC, was registered.

5 Goa Maritime Officers Association to celebrate Seafarer's Day on June 25

MARGAO: The Goa Maritime Officers Association (GMOA) is set to host a 'Seafarers Day' event on June 25, at the BPS Hall, Margao, to celebrate and honour the achievements of the community members along with their families. The theme is "SafetyTipsAtSea". In a statement, GMOA president Capt Jerson Da Silva noted that such gatherings not only acknowledge the professional and academic achievements within the community but also foster a deeper sense of camaraderie among members. He invited all maritime officers in Goa to join the GMOA family by registering at 'www.gmoa.in'. The event will also highlight the academic accomplishments of the children of GMOA members who have recently cleared their Class X and XII examinations, and will also include entertainment, games and prizes.

6 Areal youth arrested for raping 15-year-old schoolgirl

MARGAO: A 15-year-old school student from Salcete has allegedly been raped by a 25-year-old youth from Sao Jose de Areal. The victim, a Class 10 student, was allegedly lured away from her home by the accused, Saldon Faleiro, who promised to marry her. He then sexually abused her on multiple occasions in a secluded area. The victim's parents filed a complaint with Maina-Curtorim police, leading to Faleiro's arrest. He has been remanded to two-day police custody for further investigation. The victim and accused have undergone medical examination at Goa Medical College (GMC) Bambolim. The case has been registered under Section 376 of IPC, Section 8 of the Goa Children's Act, and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

MAX. TEMP 31°C
MIN. TEMP 25°C

idharudhar



Just order raw eggs, they'll be boiled automatically!

WATERFALL BAN: Low-risk waterfalls will stay open with lifeguards on duty, says Vishwajit

Team Herald

PANJIM: Two days after the Forest Department banned people from venturing into rivers and waterfalls due to the arrival of the monsoon, Forest Minister Vishwajit Rane stated that the low-risk waterfalls which were open to the public last year will continue to be accessible this year, with the deployment of lifeguards and forest guards.

Speaking to reporters, he said directions to issue a fresh notice in this regard had been given. He, however, said that he will not take responsibility for opening medium and high-risk waterfalls to the public due to several mishaps that occurred at Mainapi and other waterfalls last year.

"The classification of waterfalls has been done by the Forest Department. We cannot open high-risk and medium-risk waterfalls for the public. There is no problem in allowing people to visit the low-

WATERFALLS CLASSIFIED AS LOW-RISK BY THE FOREST DEPT, ACCESSIBLE WITH RESTRICTIONS

Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary, Sattari
Pali, Hivrem, Charavne, Golauti, Gunguldem, Chidambaram, Naneli, Ukaichee, Khadee-Kumthal, Kumthal, Madiyani-Gululem and Khadee-Gululem

Bhagwan Mahaveer Wildlife Sanctuary
Maida-Collem waterfall
Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary
Bhati-Netravali
Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary
Kuske-Cotigao waterfall



risk waterfalls. The decision has been taken keeping in view the importance of people's lives," he said.

Earlier, Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte mentioned that it is not practical to ban access to waterfalls altogether. He stated that the decision was taken without consulting tourism stakeholders.

"We are promoting monsoon tourism in which waterfalls play a major role. Many tourists come to Goa to see waterfalls. Even locals also visit them. There are many local people who depend on tourists.

We can define and promote designated waterfalls. We cannot have a blanket ban on waterfalls," he said.

On June 16, the Forest Department banned people from venturing into rivers and waterfalls due to the arrival of the monsoon.

In an order, the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden stated, "On account of the arrival of the monsoon in the State of Goa, there is a likelihood of a rise in water levels in rivers and waterfalls in forest areas. Therefore, venturing

into rivers and waterfalls inside all protected areas shall be prohibited with effect from June 6, 2024, until further orders."

On May 26, the Collectors of both districts also issued orders prohibiting swimming in waterfalls, abandoned quarries, rivers, and other water bodies, citing the numerous drowning deaths that occur every year. The Collectors warned that non-compliance with the directive would constitute a violation of Section 188 of the IPC.

Goa missed three Five-Year Plans: CM

Attributes it to the State attaining Liberation 14 years after India's Independence; pays tributes to freedom fighters and recalls their supreme sacrifices

Team Herald

PANJIM: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Tuesday said that the State missed three Five-Year Finance Commission Plans as it was Liberated 14 years after India's Independence, but every government contributed a lot for the development of the State during post-Liberation period.

Addressing the gathering at the 78th State-level Goa Revolution Day celebration held at Azad Maidan, Panjim, Sawant said that the government intends to encourage Goan youth in research and innovation and therefore had laid thrust on creating robust infrastructure and created the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Chair in Goa University. The Chief Minister further mentioned that due care is being taken so that the youth should not lag behind in any sector of human endeavour.

Celebrations such as the Goa Revolution Day should be a day for introspection, as the occasion reminds us to review the progress and development achieved in various sectors.
— P S Sreedharan Pillai, Governor

Paying tributes to the freedom fighters, the Chief Minister said, "We are indebted to them and recall their supreme sacrifices. The government celebrates various important dates of Goa's Liberation movement so that the present generation is made aware about the contribution of these freedom fighters and that the government has incorporated this aspect into the school curriculum."

The Chief Minister

claimed that Cuncolim Revolt was the first revolt against the colonial rulers across the country and that the State is now paying tributes at the National War Memorial in New Delhi on July 15, every year.

Governor P S Sreedharan Pillai said, "Celebrations such as the Goa Revolution Day should be a day for introspection, as the occasion reminds us to review the progress and development achieved in various sectors."

Pillai said, "Even today we follow the ideals of Dr Ram Manohar Lohia, father of nation Mahatma Gandhi and Deen Dayal Upadhyay."

He stressed on conducting a comprehensive study on Dr Lohia, who he said, came down to Goa and ignited the national spirit among the Goans.

He said, soon after Liberation, Goa has made remarkable development in every sector because of the

FREEDOM FIGHTER LIBIA SHARES INSPIRING STORIES OF GOA'S STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION WITH CM

PANJIM: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Tuesday interacted with veteran Libia Lobo Sardesai, who played a significant role in Goa's Liberation struggle through her underground Radio Voice of Goa's freedom.

On the occasion of Goa Revolution Day, Sawant visited her house and interacted with the pioneering freedom fighter. Sawant stated that his conversation with Lobo Sardesai was truly enlightening, as she shared her inspiring stories from the days of Goa's struggle for liberation and that her life will continue to be an inspiration for everyone.

Lobo Sardesai who was also the first Director of Tourism of Liberated Goa, Daman and Diu, was felicitated by the Department of Tourism on her 100th birthday, last month.



high regard Goans had for social responsibility and their adherence to the values of communal harmony.

Pillai along with Sawant and other dignitaries laid wreath at the Martyr's Memorial and paid rich trib-

utes to the martyrs of Goa freedom struggle. The Goa Police troupe gave salute while, children from Bal Bhavan presented patriotic songs at the occasion.

Goa Daman and Diu Freedom Fighters Association

president Rohidas alias Daad Desai expressed concern over the sale of drugs and prostitution in the name of tourism have portrayed Goa in bad light and there is a spree of sale of land to outsiders.

Fulfil promise of providing jobs to freedom fighters' children, Opposition tells CM

Sawant claims so far 357 children of freedom fighters have been given govt jobs and only 40 are remaining

Team Herald

PANJIM: Leader of the Opposition Yuri Alemão, on Tuesday, demanded that Chief Minister Pramod Sawant should deliver on promise of providing jobs to children of freedom fighters.

Sawant claimed that so far 357 children of freedom fighters have been given jobs and only 40 children were awaiting government jobs.

Sawant said that he gave appointment letters to 20 children of freedom fighters under the Home Department scheme last week and that only 40 children are remaining.

"Our government has fulfilled the promise of giving jobs to children of freedom fighters. So far 357 appointment letters

have been given to them under the scheme and only 40 children are remaining. Once they are given appointment letters, it will be presumed that the government gave jobs to approximately 400 children of freedom fighters.

Even a 55-year-old son of a freedom fighter was provided with government job, according to Sawant.

Earlier, Alemão said that the government had failed to give jobs to children of freedom fighters despite formulating a scheme.

He further called for an inquiry into the renovation of Lohia Maidan at Margao and urged the government to declare historic Lohia Maidan, Azad Maidan, Panjim, Memorial at Patradevi and the one at Assolna as State monuments.

PAVING THE WAY TO DISASTER?

SAGUN GAWADE



Smart City workers have quit their task of laying pavers in Tonca, Caranzalem, half-way, leaving a gaping hole in the pavement that poses a grave threat to motorists and pedestrians

With no power in Opnn Leader's chamber, Cong MLAs hold press conference in candle light

Yuri claims there is no electricity in his chamber for the last 20 days; slams government for increasing electricity tariff instead of reducing losses

Team Herald

PANJIM: Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemão along with Aldona MLA Carlos Alvares Ferreira and Quepem MLA Alton D'Costa addressed a press conference in a candle lit room of the Assembly Complex at Porvorim.

Speaking to reporters, Alemão said, "I do not know why there is no light in this room. If they want to save electricity then it is a welcome step. My request to the government is that it has to happen across all the sections, not just in the chamber of Leader of Opposition."

He claimed that there is no electricity in his chamber for the last 20 days.

MLA Alton D'Costa said, "We will work together and raise questions in the Assembly which people asked us when we met them, while seeking votes during Lok Sabha elections."

He alleged that there is no coordination among departments for carrying out underground cabling work.

"Roads are being dug and left without repairing them. This is causing accidents. I think the government should have a single window system for these types of works and contractors should be made responsible for the mess," he said.

He demanded that in-

complete projects in his constituency be completed as early as possible.



MLA Alton D'Costa there is no coordination among departments for carrying out underground cabling work

He also pointed out that there are many youth working on contract basis, but their jobs have not been regularised.

MLA Carlos Alvares Ferreira said that the situation in his constituency is the same as roads are in bad condition. "The underground cabling work is causing lots of problems. I believe that had there been coordination, the work would have been over by now. There are various issues ranging from rise in electricity tariff to people's struggle with their day-to-day life issues. We have decided that we will take those issues in the larger public interest in sync with the opposition members," he said.

Opposition to devise joint strategy to corner govt during Assembly session

Team Herald

PANJIM: Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemão on Tuesday said that the INDIA Bloc will devise a joint strategy to corner the government during the upcoming Goa Legislative Assembly Session and raise issues significant to the State and Goans.

Addressing a press conference after Congress Leg-

islature Party (CLP) meeting at Assembly Complex at

Porvorim, he said, "A lot of inputs have come from our grassroots workers belonging to the Congress party. There are several issues that the party feels that all the three MLAs have to take up in the interest of the people. We are confident that taking the Opposition MLAs together we will be the voice of Goa and Goans."

Alemão slammed the government for increasing power tariff instead of reducing power losses and controlling power theft. "While on one side, tariff has been increased and on the other side, there are power cuts. We had told the government that it had failed to recover Rs 1,400 crore from defaulters. The government has failed to reduce the power losses and control power thefts," he said.

He said Congress party demands that the power

tariff be rolled back immediately and Rs 1,400 crore be recovered.

He said the party will oppose Tamnar Project and all the three linear projects which have been proposed in the State.

He alleged that the government has failed to keep a check on the construction of a channel to divert water from the Mhadei river basin. He pointed out that the House Committee formed to address the issue has met only once while PRAWAH is 'defunct'.

"The double engine has failed to address the issue of Goa and Goans and has sold our River Mhadei," he said.

He also said that the Congress MLAs will demand the audit report of Smart City work. "Look at the condition of Smart City. It is pathetic. People of Goa are fed up with this government," he said.

MANDUR 'FOETUS' CASE: Post-mortem conducted

Cops say there are no chances of preserving the viscera

Team Herald

PANJIM: Even though the Agasaim Police are yet to make headway into the case of body parts of an infant found at Mandur in Tiswadi taluka, post-mortem was conducted on the body parts which were found by the police on Tuesday.

Speaking to O Herald, Agasaim PI Anant Gaonkar said, "The rest of the body part has not been found yet. Post-mortem examination was conducted today. However, report is awaited."

The police officer also

said that there are no chances of preserving the viscera as what has been found is the limbs only, other parts of the body are yet to be found.

Earlier, the police officer had said that services of forensic experts were made available and sniffer dogs were pressed into service in a bid to obtain the trail. Doctors too had visited the spot.

The Agasaim Police had registered an offence against unidentified person/s accused for concealing the birth of a newborn

infant and secretly disposing of the body at Mandur.

On Saturday, the Agasaim Police received information that at Mandur-Dongri locality, near the sluice gate, limbs of a newborn were found, which were prima facie bitten by animals.

The police immediately rushed to the site and conducted the panchanama. A case under Section 318 of IPC has been registered in this connection. LPSI Nehanda Tavares is conducting further investigation under the guidance of Agasaim PI Anant Gaonkar.

'Unauthorised' excavation leaves Taleigao fields damaged

Farmers decide to submit formal letters to the Taleigao Panchayat; appeal to authorities to stop the alleged illegal activity; demand full transparency and ensure those responsible are held accountable

Team Herald

PANJIM: The fields in Taleigao have been damaged due to alleged unauthorised trenching and digging work for the last three days.

The affected local farmers have decided to submit formal letters to the Taleigao Panchayat demanding explanations and accountability for the unauthorised entry and destruction of their fields, and the steps to be taken to rectify the damage caused.

They have appealed to the authorities to immediately stop the unauthorised work, demand full transparency, and ensure that those responsible are held accountable.



The affected local farmers have decided to submit formal letters to the Taleigao Panchayat demanding explanations and accountability for the unauthorised entry and destruction of their fields, and the steps to be taken to rectify the damage caused

Social activist Cecille Rodrigues said that an excavator was seen clearing

the fields adjacent to the main road, causing damage to fields, leaving the

local farmers worried. The owners of these fields, who had been cultivating the land for years, repeatedly questioned the machine operator about the purpose of the work, the authority behind it, and the identity of the contractor responsible. However, their queries were unanswered.

The farmers then approached Francis Coelho and Nathan D'Souza, local residents from Taleigao, for their assistance. The panicked farmers also tried frantically to contact panchayat members, who declined their phone calls. Only one panchayat member told farmers that the work was merely for cleaning the edges of the fields

near the road to prevent issues like snake infestations during monsoon.

However, this explanation failed to justify the extent of the damage. The farmers complained that the excavator was four to five metres deep into the fields, destroying existing crops and plants far beyond what would be necessary for mere roadside cleaning. Coelho and D'Souza, along with farmers have now decided to submit formal letters to the Taleigao Village Panchayat, demanding explanations and accountability for the unauthorised entry and destruction of their fields, and the steps to be taken to rectify the damage caused.

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Four-lane widening works likely to resolve Ponda's major traffic issues

Works progressing at a rapid pace are likely to be completed soon

Team Herald

PONDA: The four-lane widening works including the underpass/flyover are expected to address significant traffic problems near Ponda KTC bus stand and Khandepar Opa Junction.

It is pertinent to note that all these works were pending for various reasons, but the tender was floated last year. These works are now progressing at a rapid pace, which are likely to be completed within a year. Naresh Naik, a local, expressed optimism that the completion of these works will resolve several traffic-related issues.

It may be recalled that six years ago the government had constructed a four lane highway from Safa Masjid to Khandepar along with the new Khandepar Bridge at a distance of around seven km.

The road was opened for the public, but the government failed to construct an underpass at the junction near Safa Masjid which is a protected monument by ASI.

The closure of the junction by the NH authorities caused inconvenience to locals and buses travelling from Safa Masjid junction to KTC bus



Earth moving machinery undertaking the landfilling work for a ramp to the underpass at the Khandepar-Opa Junction, on Tuesday

stand, as they had to take a detour of two km via Farmagudi Circle, and the commuters were forced to take a U-turn at KTC bus stand.

The situation led to unauthorised U-turns by buses and motorists, further exacerbating traffic issues.

To address these challenges, the underpass is being constructed 200 metres away at Bandora junction, opposite the KTC bus stand, which is expected to provide relief to commuters.

All the ongoing works are likely to be completed within the year, resolving all major traffic problems in the area.

PROGRESS & EXPECTED COMPLETION

► To address these challenges, the underpass is being constructed 200 metres away at Bandora junction, opposite the KTC bus stand, which is expected to provide relief to commuters

► All the ongoing works are likely to be completed within the year, resolving all major traffic problems in the area

CAUTIONARY SIGNBOARDS INSTALLED NEAR UNDERPASS, AT ENTRY POINT OF PONDA KTC BUS STAND

O Herald had published a report on the major highway works progressing at four-lane widening site without signboards to alert commuters and passengers at KTC bus stand

PONDA: Taking cognisance of an O Herald report, the contractor immediately installed two signboards cautioning commuters of four lane widening works in progress - one at the fatal accident spot near the underpass and the other - at the entry point of KTC bus stand.

O Herald in its June 17 edition had published a report on the major highway works including flyover/underpass progressing at four lane widening site without signboards to alert commuters and passengers at KTC bus stand. It may be recalled that residents of Ponda had expressed anxiety and frustration over the lack of cautionary signboards at the interstate KTC bus stand where the widening work of the four-lane National Highway is currently underway. The issue has gained heightened attention following a tragic accident on June 11, when a motorcycle



pilot lost his life after being crushed under a crane at the site.

The absence of essential signboards such as 'work in progress' and 'go slow' sparked outrage among Ponda residents. They argued that these signboards were necessary for alerting commuters about road construction activities, preventing accidents, and ensuring safety on the roads. The KTC bus stand road turned slippery due to the above works.

Vishal Fatde, who has expressed concern, appreciated O Herald for highlighting the problems at KTC bus stand.

Areal residents want overgrown trees pruned

Demand underground cabling in the village due to large vegetation

Team Herald

MARGAO: Fearing a potential danger, residents and local representatives on Tuesday urged the South Goa Collector's office to ensure the safety of pedestrians and commuters during monsoon by addressing the issue of overgrown trees in Sao Jose de Areal village.

Curtorim Zilla Panchayat member Michelle Rebelo, along with South Goa District Congress Committee president Savio D'Silva and GPCC General Secretary Moreno Rebelo, met Additional Collector Srinet

Kothwale, demanding the pruning of overgrown trees in Sao Jose de Areal.

"Pruning of overgrown trees is needed in Sao Jose de Areal and throughout South Goa, especially given the heavy rainfall the State has been experiencing in recent weeks. This measure is crucial to ensure the safety of pedestrians and motorists who are at risk of these overgrown trees collapsing," said Michelle.

She highlighted the situation around Bethany Convent in Areal, where overgrown tree branches compromised the safety of

students using the pavement around the church.

She also mentioned the encroachment of tree branches upon electric wires in Gudi, recalling previous incidents where lives were lost due to similar circumstances in Navelim last year.

Michelle demanded underground cabling in Sao Jose de Areal due to the presence of large vegetation in the surrounding areas. These trees often damage electrical wires during rain and strong winds, necessitating the move to underground cables for enhanced safety and reliability.

Concerned locals meet South Collector for a solution to stray dog menace on beaches

Team Herald

MARGAO: Concerns over the growing menace of stray dogs on Goa's beaches have prompted local authorities to seek immediate intervention.

Cavelossim sarpanch Dixon Vaz and panch Iris Passanha, along with Colva-based local fisherman Thomas Rodrigues, met with the South Goa District Collector on Tuesday, and submitted a memorandum demanding a solution under the Disaster Management Act.

The urgency of the issue was highlighted by a recent incident at Colva Beach, where a child was attacked by over 15 stray dogs. Fortunately, Rodrigues was present and able to rescue the child.

"Our tourists and locals can't go for a walk on the beaches. There are

PROPOSAL FOR DOG SHELTERS

► In the memorandum, the group proposed the establishment of two dog shelters, one each in North Goa and South Goa, modelled after gaushalas (cow shelters) to provide care, treatment, and accommodation for sick, wounded, old

dogs and puppies

► South Goa Collector informed that a meeting with the departments and stakeholders will be convened next Friday to explore sustainable solutions to the stray dog issue on beaches

complaints via emails and social media about the attacks, and we can't do much on our own," the sarpanch stated, emphasising the panchayat's limited capacity to address the problem.

In the memorandum, the group proposed the establishment of two dog shelters, one in North Goa and another in South Goa, modelled after gaushalas (cow shelters). These shelters

would provide care, treatment, and accommodation for sick, wounded, old, and puppies among the stray dog population.

Responding to the concerns, the South Goa Collector informed that a meeting with relevant departments and stakeholders will be convened next Friday to explore sustainable solutions to the stray dog issue on Goa's beaches.

SALUTING SACRIFICE

SAGUN GAWADE



Goa Police personnel pay tributes at the Martyrs Memorial at Azad Maidan, Panjim, on the occasion of 78th Goa Revolution Day

'Provide better connectivity, newer Bal Rath buses for Ponda school students'

Team Herald

PONDA: Parents in Ponda are concerned about the rundown condition of Bal Rath bus transport facilities for students, especially those in remote areas of Ponda. Suraj Garad, Chairman of the PTA at Khandepar MIBK School, said there was an urgent need for the government to provide new and additional Balrath buses to address the current challenges faced by students.

The Bal Rath bus service was introduced in 2012 with the aim of facilitating transportation for school students. However, over the years, many buses have deteriorated and are now in a dilapidated condition. Garad high-

lighted that these buses are not only unreliable but also pose safety risks to the students.

One of the major issues faced by students is the inconsistency in the timing of private buses, which often results in delays of 15 to 20 minutes on average. "This delay impacts students' punctuality and attendance at school, and affects their overall academic performance," he said.

At MIBK School in Khandepar, which has approximately 1,200 students, only one Bal Rath bus currently serves the transportation needs. Garad stressed the necessity of providing an additional bus to cater to the growing student population effectively.

In addition to the demand for new buses, Garad called for an increase in funds allocated for the maintenance and repair of existing buses. He emphasised that regular

maintenance is crucial to ensure the safety and reliability of the transportation service.

"If the government can regularly replace and upgrade the vehicles provided to Ministers and MLAs every five to six years, school buses should also be replaced periodically to maintain safety standards and provide reliable transportation for students," said Garad.

Furthermore, Garad proposed the introduction of Kadamba buses specifically for transporting students from the remote village of Pali to their schools. This initiative, he argued, would help streamline transportation services and ensure that students arrive at school on time.

— Suraj Garad, PTA Chairman, MIBK school

Polluted nullah at Sancoale inspected

Team Herald

VASCO: Sancoale panchas accompanied by Cortalim MLA Anton Vas on Tuesday held a joint inspection of the polluted nullah at Shindole, Sancoale.

The inspection was carried out following several complaints by the local residents.

Vas said that he had been inspecting the site for the last few days so as to find out the source of the contamination. He said the nullah was polluted and the stench was unbearable, making it difficult for residents to live there. He said that the team of environment engineers from the Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB) had already collected water samples and its examination report was expected within a week.

The residents have strongly suspected that some sewage tankers were discharging sewage into the nullah during night and that too during rains. During inspection, they also found a non-functional sewage treatment plant (STP) atop a nearby hill and suspected that seepage might have caused contamination of the nullah.

The Cortalim MLA assured the villagers that any tanker caught releasing sewage into the nullah will not be spared.

Sonsoddo in the making at Mercedes?

Contractor dumps debris and garbage from the new District and Sessions Court building in the low-lying fields

Team Herald

PANJIM: The garbage and debris from the new District and Sessions Court building has been dumped in the low-lying field areas outside the building at Vaddy-Merces by the contractor.

Total packaging material and other waste like wooden packing, thermocol, plastic, etc, have been dumped in the low-lying field area next to the court building. It appears that the government is allowing the contractor to dump the garbage because no authority had bothered to take action against the culprits.

The Mercedes Village Panchayat has time and again ask the contractor to clear all the waste. Inspections were also held but the



contractor paid no need. Since it is a court building, the authorities concerned should intervene in the matter and direct the contractor to clear the dump waste and take suo motu action in the matter; the villagers demanded.

Sarpanch Pramod Kamat said, "We lodged a complaint with Old Goa Police and submitted photos of vehicles throwing debris. The vehicles were caught, but were released later. But nothing happened after that. There is no correspondence after that. We have written to Imagine Panaji Smart City Development Limited and also verbally told Smart City contractors because they are also throwing the debris. We have told them not to throw debris here."

Former sarpanch and present panchayat member Walter D'Souza said that it was a very serious issue and demanded immediate measures before it turns into a dumping site. He said that more debris and garbage were dumped on Tuesday.

Usgao locals demand new full-fledged PDA market

Team Herald

PONDA: The Usgao locals may have welcomed the temporary repairs of the leaking and dilapidated PDA market at Tisk-Usgao, but they want the government to construct a new PDA market at the site with all facilities to meet growing needs of vendors and public.

It may be recalled that the three-decade-old PDA Market at Usgao has been in dilapidated condition for the past few years and vendors faced issues such as water leakage during monsoon besides there were incidents wherein the ceiling plaster would fall on shopkeepers. They were running their businesses in fear due to the market build-

ing's dilapidated condition.

Nyaneshwar Naik, a shop owner at Tisk Usgao, said that this market was in a neglected state and in need of repairs. However, recently the repairs work has been carried out by the government. He felt that instead of repairing the dilapidated building, the government should build a new market with more facilities by de-

molishing the existing structure.

A local Suraj Garad said, "Finally after many years the government has repaired the market, but we need a permanent solution, a new market building with better facilities for fish and vegetable vendors."

He said that Usgao locals have been demanding the construction of a new PDA market for a long time.

Adwait Salgaonkar, Harsha Shetye win Sahitya Akademi Puraskar

Team Herald

PANJIM: Adwait Salgaonkar and Harsha Sadguru Shetye (Konkani), both Konkani writers from Goa respectively won the Yuva Puraskar and The Bal Sahitya Puraskar of Sahitya Akademi on Saturday.

The Sahitya Akademi announced the names of 23 writers, including English writer K Vaishali and Hindi author Gaurav Pandey, who will receive the prestigious Yuva Puraskar across as many languages.

The Yuva Puraskar has been awarded for 10 poetry books, seven collections

of short stories, two collections of articles and one of essays, one novel, one book of ghazals and one memoir.

The National Academy of Letters also announced the names of 24 winners of the Bal Sahitya Puraskar for 2024. It includes seven novels, six books of poetry, four stories, five short stories, one play, and one historical fiction.

The winners of Yuva Puraskar and the Bal Sahitya Puraskar will receive a casket containing an engraved copper plaque and a cheque of Rs 50,000 at a special function to be held at a later date.

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O HERALDO

The Voice of Goa - since 1900

Agnipath scheme: Don't play with fire

After staunchly defending for long a flawed recruitment scheme, called Agnipath, for personnel below the rank of commissioned officers into the three services of the armed forces, the government is on the backfoot after facing reversals in the recently held Lok Sabha elections.

Its allies, primarily Janata Dal (United), is pressuring the BJP-led NDA government to rethink the scheme. The Army has now proposed changes in the scheme, but still not in favour of scrapping it.

The government should actually stop playing with fire and reverse the scheme as it is totally flawed. According to this scheme, all recruits will be hired only for four years. Personnel recruited under this system are to be called Agniveers. The scheme offers no gratuity or pensionary benefits.

Those protesting have complained that the new scheme hinders their claim for monetary benefits, such as pensions, since the Centre plans to absorb only 25 per cent of the 'Agniveers' after the completion of their four-year tenure.

Opposition parties have criticised and expressed concerns about the consequences of the new scheme. They have asked the scheme to be put on hold and that the scheme be discussed in the Parliament.

Prior to the introduction of the scheme, soldiers were recruited into the armed forces on a 15+ year tenure with lifelong pension.

The Centre's main objective is to save funds spent on pensions. More than half the defence budget is allocated for pensions every year, while less than five per cent is allocated for research and development.

The authorities mustn't break the homogeneity of the army to save a few rupees. We seem to be going back to the 1962 era, when saving money was a greater criterion than safety and security of the country. The result was a humiliating defeat at the hands of the Chinese army. Does the government want a repeat of the 1962 debacle?

This sounds good on paper, but practically not possible to implement because of two reasons. Firstly, we have a huge young population, which sees defence as a sector for employment. Also, we have two aggressive neighbouring countries, who have drawn their sword many times against India, compelling us to go for all-round developments of defence services, including raising

ing the army strength to commensurate with the increasing defence responsibility. This comes at a cost!

Peculiar nature of defence services is that it needs a younger profile in the army with early retirement. Gradually, there started demographic change in the defence services. From rural based recruitment, job necessity made urban youth join the army.

Before introducing Agnipath, a system of re-employment in the army to offset the early retirement, to some extent, got settled, which was running somewhat satisfactorily. But Agnipath scheme will nullify this.

It's a bunch of young recruits who would be recruited in the army for four years, go back as civilians, as half-trained soldiers, without any stake in the society, and this may be fully frustrating. One wonders, how will 75% of raw recruits face the bullets in time of war, knowing they don't have any financial security to take care of their families once they are gone.

Their status will be that of temporary workers in an industry. After a couple of years, a company will have 75% of half trained demotivated soldiers with frustrated officer cadre. After a few years, every year, thousands of untrained and disoriented young recruits will come out in this hostile world with some conceivable sum of money, falling prey to crooks and ultimately most of them may turn out to be half baked products and some of them a threat to the nation.

Whatever might be the advancement of weaponry, ultimate victory will depend on physical holding of the ground. That needs strength, courage, discipline, motivation, getting over fear, endurance and tribulation.

The biggest fallout of this scheme is that we are losing one of the prestigious regiments - the Gurkha Regiment. A day may come when we may be fighting against each other. The authorities mustn't break the homogeneity of the army to save a few rupees. We seem to be going back to the 1962 era, when saving money was a greater criterion than safety and security of the country. The result was a humiliating defeat at the hands of the Chinese army. Does the government want a repeat of the 1962 debacle?

Don't barter safety and honour of the country for a few rupees and so-called political gain. Don't play with fire.

comment



AAKAR PATEL

Once again it will be Amit Shah, Nirmala Sitharaman, S Jaishankar and Rajnath Singh. Road and highways will again be managed by Nitin Gadkari, Railways will be run again by Ashwini Vaishnaw, Commerce and Industry again by Piyush Goyal, Law again by Arjun Ram Meghwal



like the Telugu Desam (Civil Aviation), Janata Dal Secular (Steel), Janata Dal United (Micro, Medium, Small Industries), LJP (Food Processing), Shiv Sena (Ayurveda and Yoga). Or done to bring in former BJP chief ministers like Shivraj Singh Chauhan of Madhya Pradesh (Agriculture) and Manohar Khattar of Haryana (Housing).

Overall it resembles not so much a new cabinet as one that has undergone a minor reshuffle. In the old

days, when most newspapers reported news, this would have been reported 'below the fold' as it were, meaning not on the top half of the newspaper.

The question is why does 3.0 look like 2.0? The obvious reason is that there is nothing to change because everything is going well. Change is necessary only if there is a need to correct course, and because the BJP won the election, there is no such need.

But defeat, meaning sitting in the Opposition, would have meant no BJP Cabinet at all so perhaps it is unclear what the middle ground would be in such a line of thinking and what conditions would trigger change. It is unlikely then that 'all is well' is the reason. What else could it be? One possibility is that there is weak bench strength, that there are not enough talented individuals in the party to be given the important jobs and the prime minister is stuck with the small set he has.

This is not the likely reason because under this prime minister, the PMO functions as a mini Cabinet and intervenes on critical issues as the Defence, Finance and Foreign Ministries know.

There is a third possibility and that is the reluctance or inability to concede that something has in fact gone wrong. Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a speech in the Lok Sabha on February 5, that has been uploaded on his YouTube channel. As he concludes it, he says the following:

"Mr Speaker, normally I don't get into the issue of numbers. But I have observed the mindset of the nation. It will certainly take the NDA beyond 400, but it will also definitely (avashya) give the BJP 370 seats." At this point the treasury benches are thumped and the chant of 'Modi! Modi!' rises. The Prime Minister repeats: "370 seats for the BJP and beyond 400 for the NDA". The thumping and chanting continues.

As we now know, this

did not happen. The BJP did not get 370 and it did not even get 270. For the first time in his career, the Prime Minister is leading a minority government.

Is this a defeat? If you look at the Opposition and its voters they are behaving as if they have won. The fact that the new government is shaky and dependent on external support is not lost on them. As Yogendra Yadav has said, the acceptability and prestige that were there in the last decade are gone. The invincibility is gone and gone forever.

For this very reason many of the BJP's supporters and especially the Prime Minister's following remain despondent. Externally things have changed. The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh is again expressing itself on issues concerning the government's functioning after a decade of silence. The NDA partners are asserting themselves.

It is possible to be blind to this and pretend to carry on as if nothing has happened but that will not change the reality. The voters have told the Prime Minister he is less popular than he was in 2019 and less popular in 2014. The voters have also told him that it is okay with an NDA government but not a BJP one.

To pretend we are still in February is to lie to oneself. There is no question that the performances of key ministries, including Finance and perhaps even Home, were the reason for the defeat. Carrying on without change is to continue with the damage. But who in the party can tell him that? Not those who are returning to their positions surrounding him. Not those who know they will be punished for speaking the truth.

For those who are opposed to the BJP, this being in denial is not a bad thing because nothing good will come of it as the coming months will show. The world does not change itself to align with one's delusions.

(Aakar Patel is a writer and columnist)

letterstotheeditor

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

to hide such a glaring injury that could have been a cause of the victim's death. This is also gross injustice for the victim's family who deserve to know the truth of the cause of their son's death.

That common citizens can be taken for granted and given some wrong information to assuage their concerns and hide the truth by the government authorities is something that is very dangerous to society whatever their motives could have been.

The same with the Porsche accident case in Pune, recently, where the Forensic Department substituted blood samples for bribes, which seemingly was a regular practice with the department with the price set at Rs 5 lakh, as reported in the newspapers.

Money power here moderates evidence to get the perpetrators of the crime off the hook and that too in a case where two young software professionals were cut off in the prime of their lives. Here again the common citizen's claim for justice was intended to be denied to save the rich perpetrator. What is astonishing further is that there was an established system in place at the hospital with the fees also set.

This indicates that many would have utilised this system until now which sabotages and undermines the very principles of natural justice. Then look at the rape cases brought against Yediyurappa and Prajwal Revanna in Karnataka, the powerful are resorting to use every rule in the book to get off the hook while the poor victim in the Yediyurappa case, a minor who is claimed to be mentally challenged gets no justice and in the Revanna case, there are a multitude of women victims who are at the receiving

end of social stigma.

But these victims are common citizens, how can they aspire to raise their voices against the powerful? This seems the chorus from the powers-that-be. The India that we live in today is going through a lot of changes but there are some red flags that need to be set up which is that the rights of common individuals should not be encroached and that in the event of them being victims of crime, justice should be speedy, fair and equitable.

Srinivas Kamat, Alto St Cruz

Hand over KA to artistes' forum

As the condition of Kala Academy remains unchanged, a group of artistes have reportedly united to demand a white paper giving details of the repairs carried out at the premier cultural centre and the resignation of the Art and Culture Minister Govind Gaude from his position as Kala Academy chairman.

It may be noted that the iconic structure was renovated over a period of three years by spending crores of rupees. However, incidents such as water leakage in the main theatre and collapse of the false ceiling have raised a question over the quality of work undertaken.

The roof of the open-air amphitheatre collapsed in July last year. The artistes reportedly said that the agitation against degradation of the cultural centre will continue to be strengthened further. Since the government has failed miserably in maintaining the structure and since artistes are the primary stakeholders of the facility, it would be in the fitness of things

to hand over the maintenance of the cultural centre to the artistes forum. The government could provide necessary funds to the forum periodically for the preservation of the iconic structure. Artistes will also be in a better position to provide quality lighting and proper sound-system which have not been up to the standard. There are lots of funds and expertise available. The only thing missing is commitment on the part of the powers-that-be.

Adelmo Fernandes, Vasco

Train collisions: Lessons not yet learnt

The horrifying Kanchanjunga Express - goods train collision again points finger at the negligence of the Railways and also that no lesson has been learnt after last year's Balasore train tragedy.

Are the authorities not concerned taking everything in such a lackadaisical, 'come what may attitude' manner which is resulting in so many mishaps? Actions are to be taken against erring staff, who play with the lives of passengers.

Rail collisions and derailment occur on and often and immediately after an incident what follows, is an inquiry, an ex-gratia, some condolences and grief expressed by the leaders. Though so many mishaps happen, the Railways, it seems, never learn lessons and rectify the errors.

It is bewildering to note that in an era when the most sophisticated technology is being used, accidents such as these are continuously happening. Hundreds of crores of rupees are being pumped in for bullet

Justice should be speedy, fair

Our institutions compromised like in the case of the IIT Kharagpur student campus death where the second post-mortem has brought out that he was shot and stabbed which the first post-mortem was silent about.

This is a major blunder which is seemingly deliberate to protect IIT Kharagpur. It is also alarming that the government authorities like the hospitals and police try

Elvidio Miranda, Panjim

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TerraPower is Bill Gates' path-breaking initiative

From being the founder of Microsoft, the foremost IT company in the world, Bill Gates has now ventured into the power sector having founded the startup TerraPower which has researched and developed a new generation nuclear power plant that has begun work in Wyoming, United States, a new concept in nuclear power that has been developed from scratch.

Instead of using light water for producing steam, this new reactor uses liquid sodium and is going to cost about \$15 billion and will generate 345 mega watts of power which will cost the consumer half the price that the present nuclear reactors charge.

Due for completion in 2030, Gates believes that at least 10 more such reactors will be built on earth and is quite confident that the figure might become 100 reactors subject to the availability of enriched Uranium as fuel for this reactor. It will be a big achievement if such reactors are built to replace coal-fired plants and to supplement solar power and wind power turbine generation on earth.

Elvidio Miranda, Panjim

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Hate speech is a marker of discrimination, abuse, violence, conflict, and even crimes against humanity. We have seen this play out from Nazi Germany to Rwanda, Bosnia & beyond. There is no acceptable level of hate speech - we must all work to eradicate it.

A star is going to enter Indian Parliament. Now it will become livelier — and debates will become richer — with Priyanka Gandhi representing Wayanad. And democracy will get a big boost. Excellent decision by the Congress.

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NOTES ON MY EDUCATION

CHANDER GUPTA

CHANDER GUPTA

The education ecosystem prevailing at the time when I was a kid has changed radically with the passage of time. During the 1960s and early 1970s, kids of all the families in villages and towns - both rich and poor - studied in government schools. These days usually the kids of only economically weaker sections enrol in government schools. In other words, only those who cannot afford the expenses of private schools send their kids to government schools.

Even though my father earned a handsome living from his legal profession, I was admitted in government schools upto the Matriculation level (Class X). Initially, I was sent to a Government Primary School located close to our residence. In that era there were no private schools in my hometown. The school fee was nominal and never an issue of affordability. The Government Higher Secondary School I studied in was affiliated to Haryana Board of School Education. These days the 'elite' schools are affiliated to the Central Board of School Education (CBSE).

Being a product of government schools from the mid-1960s to early-1970s, my introduction to the English alphabet started in Class VI only. There was no English subject in the Primary School upto Class V. Nowadays kids first learn the English alphabets before those of Hindi language even in Hindi-speaking areas. If we ask children studying in so-called English-medium private schools about Hindi alphabets, most of them won't be able to recount all the alphabets.

Even though I started learning English from Class VI only, I developed an inclination for English from the beginning. Very quickly I acquired a good grounding in English grammar. During my graduation in Arts, English was a compulsory subject. We were taught English also in Hindi medium. Predictably, after graduation I enrolled for MA (English) in Panjab University. Linguistics was my favourite subject.

Fees in government schools were never an issue even for poor parents. Even during graduation, which I did from a private college, the fee was nominal. During university time (1979-1981), my father used to give me a princely sum of Rs 500 per month, which took care of tuition fee, hostel fee, mess fee, and all other pocket expenses. My education was almost free, if compared with the fees nowadays. After doing my MA in English, I started looking and applying for jobs. Without much headache and any approach, I landed the job of Probationary Officer in a leading Public Sector Bank after completion of studies. Those were the days when parents hardly had to worry about education expenses and jobs for their children. My siblings also landed prestigious jobs without any recommendation or approach, purely on merit.

The college I graduated from was affiliated to Kurukshetra University. The Governor of Haryana was the ex-officio Chancellor of Kurukshetra University. The Chancellor of Panjab University, my alma mater for MA (English) course, was the Vice-President of India in ex-officio capacity. I developed the notion that Chancellors were always high-level dignitaries holding constitutional posts. Later on, with the entry of private players, I found out that the businessmen and industrialists who opened universities anointed themselves as Chancellors.

Only the rich can afford admissions in private educational institutions. Many parents have to even borrow from Banks to finance the higher studies of their wards.

people'sedit

CHANDER GUPTA

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Being a product of government schools from the mid-1960s to early-1970s, my introduction to the English alphabet started in Class VI only. There was no English subject in the Primary School upto Class V. Nowadays kids first learn the English alphabets before those of Hindi language even in Hindi-speaking areas. If we ask children studying in so-called English-medium private schools about Hindi alphabets, most of them won't be able to recount all the alphabets.

Even though I started learning English from Class VI only, I developed an inclination for English from the beginning. Very quickly I acquired a good grounding in English grammar. During my graduation in Arts, English was a compulsory subject. We were taught English also in Hindi medium. Predictably, after graduation I enrolled for MA (English) in Panjab University. Linguistics was my favourite subject.

Fees in government schools were never an issue even for poor parents. Even during graduation, which I did from a private college, the fee was nominal. During university time (1979-1981), my father used to give me a princely sum of Rs 500 per month, which took care of tuition fee, hostel fee, mess fee, and all other pocket expenses. My education was almost free, if compared with the fees nowadays. After doing my MA in English, I started looking and applying for jobs. Without much headache and any approach, I landed the job of Probationary Officer in a leading Public Sector Bank after completion of studies. Those were the days when parents hardly had to worry about education expenses and jobs for their children. My siblings also landed prestigious jobs without any recommendation or approach, purely on merit.

The college I graduated from was affiliated to Kurukshetra University. The Governor of Haryana was the ex-officio Chancellor of Kurukshetra University. The Chancellor of Panjab University, my alma mater for MA (English) course, was the Vice-President of India in ex-officio capacity. I developed the notion that Chancellors were always high-level dignitaries holding constitutional posts. Later on, with the entry of private players, I found out that the businessmen and industrialists who opened universities anointed themselves as Chancellors.

Only the rich can afford admissions in private educational institutions. Many parents have to even borrow from Banks to finance the higher studies of their wards.

Trains and hi-tech world class stations, but before that dream comes a reality, why can't the higher-ups think of pumping just a few crores that can make our tracks safe and signalling system perfect and make common man's railway journey if not comfortable, at least safe?

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Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Ayush and Health and Family Welfare Prataprao Jadhav at an International Day of Yoga event, in New Delhi



Kerala Minister for Welfare of Scheduled Castes K Radhakrishnan, who has been elected as an MP in LS, tenders his resignation to the CM Pinarayi Vijayan, in Thiruvananthapuram



Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu being welcomed by Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, at the Secretary's office



VP Jagdeep Dhankhar during a meeting with Officer Trainees of the 2022 & 2023 batches of the Indian Information Service (IIS), in New Delhi

Cong accuses govt of 'destroying' Railways

Demands Ashwini Vaishnaw's resignation

PTI, NEW DELHI: Accusing the government of "destroying" Indian Railways, the Congress on Tuesday demanded Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw's resignation in the wake of the Kanchanjunga Express accident, saying he has no moral right to remain in the position.

KANCHANJUNGA ACCIDENT

The opposition party also took a swipe at Vaishnaw for reaching the accident site riding pillion on a motorcycle, asking whether he is a rail minister or a "reel minister". The Congress alleged that "criminal negligence" perpetrated by Modi govt had "doomed the Railways".

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said whenever there is a train accident, Modi government's railway minister reaches the spot under the glare of cameras and behaves as if everything is fine.

"Modi ji, tell us who should be held accountable, the Railway Minister or you?" the Congress chief asked.

Kharge posed seven questions to

Why are nearly 3 lakh posts vacant in the Railways, why were they not filled in the last 10 years? According to the NCRB (2022) report, 1,00,000 people have died in rail accidents between 2017 and 2021 alone! Who will take responsibility for this?

— Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress President

the govt and demanded answers. After a major accident like Balasore, why was not even a single kilometre of the much-hyped "Kavach" anti-train collision system added, he asked.

"Why are nearly 3 lakh posts vacant in the Railways, why were they not filled in the last 10 years? According to the NCRB (2022) report, 1,00,000 people have died in rail accidents between 2017 and 2021 alone! Who will take responsibility for this?" the Congress chief asked.

The Railway Board itself has admitted that the long working hours of loco pilots due to acute shortage of manpower are the main reason for the increasing number of accidents, he said and asked why were the

posts not filled. "In its 323rd report, the Parliamentary Standing Committee had criticised the Railways for the 'neglect' shown by the Railway Board towards the recommendations of the Commission of Railway Safety. It was underlined that the CRS investigates only 8%-10% of accidents, why was the CRS not strengthened?" Kharge asked.

According to the CAG, why was 75% funding reduced in the 'Rashtriya Rail Suraksha Kosh' (RRSK), while Rs 20,000 crore was to be made available every year, he asked.

Why is this money being used by railway officials on unnecessary expenses and comfort facilities, Kharge further asked.

"Why has travelling by train in the common Sleeper Class become very expensive? Why has the number of Sleeper Coaches been reduced? The Railway Minister recently said to use police force against the people 'overcrowding' rail coaches. But does he not know that 2.7 crore people had to cancel their tickets last year due to abysmal shortage of seats -- a direct result of Modi government's policy to reduce coaches?" Kharge said.

1.52 L safety category posts vacant: Railways

PTI, NEW DELHI: Out of around 10 lakh sanctioned posts under the safety category in the Indian Railways, more than 1.5 lakh were vacant as of March this year, the Railway Ministry has said in response to an application under the Right to Information Act.

Safety category posts include train drivers, inspectors, crew controllers, loco instructors, train controllers, track maintainers, station masters, pointsmen, electric signal maintainers and signalling supervisors among others.

Being directly involved in the running of trains, personnel in these posts are crucial to safe running of trains.

"The total number of sanctioned, on roll (working) and vacant posts

in safety category of Indian Railways, as available in this office, as on 01.03.2024 (provisional) are: 10,00,941, 8,48,207 and 1,52,734 respectively," the ministry said in response to the RTI application.

Responding to a question in the RTI application about vacant posts of loco pilots (mail/express/passenger/goods/shunting), the Railway Ministry said out of a total sanctioned post of 70,093, as many as 14,429 are vacant.

Chandra Shekhar Gaur, the RTI applicant based in Madhya Pradesh, said, "The response shows the Railways also suffers due to the vacancy in post of the assistant drivers. Out of the total sanctioned posts of 57,551 for assistant drivers, 4,337 are vacant." In the RTI application, Gaur

also sought to know how many new posts were created and how many posts were surrendered in the Indian Railways in the past four years.

To this, the Railways replied, "It is stated that this information is not centrally maintained in this office. It is scattered. It pertains to more than one Public Authority ie All Zonal Railways and Production Units etc." "The ministry advised me that such information can be obtained from the public authorities concerned by submitting separate applications to them under the RTI Act. I think such crucial information should be centrally maintained," Gaur said.

Railway trade unions have raised the issue of rising stress on officials and workers in the safety category due to a shortage of personnel.

NOTICE

This is to inform the Public in General that my client, Mr. Elias Escolastika Sousa, R/o. H. No. 413, Dando, Near P.A.P. Goa Velha, Tiswadi, North Goa, present resident of London., United Kingdom is the co-owner in possession of H. No. 413, Dando, Near P.A.P. Goa Velha, Tiswadi, North Goa, R/o. Flat no. F-4, Roshia Appts, Behind Don Bosco, Fatorada, Goa and Shop no.GS-01, Subhash Appartments, Opp. Suburban Diagnostics, Murda Fatorada Goa. It has come to the knowledge of my client that attempts are being made by Ms. Reena Lopes, R/o. Flat no. F-4, Roshia Appts, Behind Don Bosco, Fatorada, Goa, her agents to sell /alienate/create third party rights in the abovementioned properties belonging to my client. The general public is hereby cautioned not to enter into any deal, contract, agreement or transaction with Ms. Reena Lopes, or any other person/s for the purpose of acquiring any kind of right, title or interest in the immovable properties mentioned hereinabove, belonging to my client as any such sale, agreement, contract entered into with respect to the abovementioned properties owned by my client shall be without his consent/authorisation and shall not be binding on him and as such shall be null and void and the persons involved in such acts shall be liable for civil and criminal action, which my client shall initiate as advised in the appropriate court of law, which shall be entirely at the risk of such persons as to costs and consequences.

Sd/-
Adv. Ashwini A. Agni
Agni Building, 2nd Floor, Near Don Bosco High School, Panaji - Goa.

MANDOVI FISHERMEN MARKETING CO-OP. SOCIETY LTD.
Malim Jetty, Betim, Bardez, Goa - 403 101
e-mail: mfmcscl@rediffmail.com

Reg No. ARCS/C/9/c/2/Goa Tel: (0832) 2413656, Ph.: 9822482551
Ref. No.: MFMCSCL/tender/375/2024-25 Date: 18/06/2024

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders/quotations are invited for the following works at Malim Jetty:

1. To supply drinking water to the trawlers.

The copy of terms and conditions for the above works is available at the office of the Society at Malim Jetty, Betim, Bardez Goa. The last date for submission of Tenders/quotations is 27th June 2024 before 05.00 PM. The society reserves the right to accept or reject any of the tenders/quotations without assigning any reason.

Sd/-
(Francisco D'souza)
Chairman

Place: Betim Bardez - Goa.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to general public that, I am scrutinizing the title of the property schedule down, which my client intends to purchase and acquire from Mrs. MARIA TEREZA CELINA DA COSTA alias MARIA TEREZA CELINA DA COSTA E NORONHA alias CELINA NORONHA, widow of late Felix Noronha alias Roque Vicente Felix Noronha, resident of House No. 1/A, Bamborda, Verna, Salcote - Goa.

SCHEDULE

All that Plot 2 of the larger property known as "VODDELM BHATT" also known as "AMBLAR" situated in Village Verna, described in the Land registration Office of Salcote under No. 9057 at folios 112V of Book B No. 35, new series and enrolled in taluka revenue office under Matriz No. 600, admeasuring 8130.00 sq.mts, surveyed as part of Survey No. 146/16 of Verna Village, Salcote Taluka, South Goa district, Goa State, and bounded as under:

On the North: by property bearing Survey No. 146/15 of Village Verna; On the South: by property bearing Survey No. 146/17 of Village Verna; On the East: by P.W.D. Road; and On the West: by property bearing Survey No. 149/17 and 149/18 of Village Verna.

That the property as described above is owned by the aforementioned person, vide Judgment & order in the Court of the Civil Judge Senior Division at Margao under case No. Spl. Inv. Proceeding No. 18/2018/1.

Now, thus, in the course of title scrutiny, all persons having or claiming any right, title, claim, interest, by way of inheritance, share, law of pre-emption, sale, mortgage, transfer, lease, tenancy, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, gift, devise, bequest, exchange, possession, easement or encumbrance or otherwise however into or upon the scheduled property hereinabove described or any part thereof is/are called upon to intimate the same in writing to the undersigned at the below given address along with all the documents relating to such claim/s, if any, within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which I shall be at liberty to conclude that the title of the above named owners to the scheduled property is clean, clear, subsisting and marketable and my client shall be free to proceed with the proposed purchase of the scheduled property and shall be always considered as bonafide purchaser in good faith.

Date: 18/06/2024
Place: Margao-Goa

No CMC/Tax Sec/ Auction/2024-2025/ Canacona Municipal Council
Canacona Goa
Date: 18/06/2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that public auction for grant of Right to collect Market fees (Sopo) from market vendors occupying Municipal market and street within jurisdiction of Municipal area for the period from 01/07/2024 to 31/03/2025. And Right to collect parking fees contract and Coconut plucking contract from Municipal parking place Situated at Paleom for the period from 01/07/2024 to 31/03/2025 will be held on 26/06/2024 at 11:30 a.m. In the municipal office premises at Char-Rasta Canacona Goa.

Sr. No.	Description of items	Initial Bid	EMD to be Deposited
1	Right to collect market fees (Sopo) from market vendors occupying municipal market and street within jurisdiction of municipal area for the period from 01/07/2024 to 31st March 2025	3018277/-	75460/-
2	Right to collect Parking fees and Coconut plucking fees from municipal property at Paleom in ward No. IX for the period from 01/07/2024 to 31st March 2025	2727450/-	68190/-

Application along with terms and conditions for Participation in above auction may be obtained from this office on payment of Rs 2000/- (Non- Refundable) on or before 25/06/2024 up to 1:00 p.m

Right to reject any or all the offers without assigning any reason is reserved with the municipal council.

Sd/-
(Mangaldas B. Gaonkar)
Chief Officer
Canacona Municipal Council
Canacona Goa
DII/Adv/211/2024

Cops involved in drug trade will be dismissed, says Punjab CM

Says smugglers' property will also be attached

PTI, CHANDIGARH: Any police official found involved in drug trade would be dismissed from service and the property of traffickers attached, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said on Tuesday while announcing tough steps to break the "nexus" between low-rank police officials and smugglers.

Mann also announced the transfer of police officials at lower levels on a mass scale across the state and added that 10,000 police personnel would be recruited to strengthen the department.

Interacting with reporters after a meeting with the senior superintendents of police (SSPs)

here, Mann said the police department would see reforms soon.

During the just-concluded Lok Sabha elections, a huge quantity of drugs and cash were seized in Punjab, the chief minister said.

"We got clues from where those came and what their destinations were. We have the details," he said.

Mann said the day the model code of conduct for the Lok Sabha polls ended, he called the director general of police and told him to take further action against the drug menace.

The chief minister said police officers have been asked to transform the war against drugs into a mass movement.

PUBLIC NOTICE

By this Public Notice, the members of the public are hereby informed that my clients subject to clear and marketable title intends to purchase the property described in the Schedule, from (1) Mrs. Maria D'Souza, Daughter of Alex Bonifacio D'Souza, (2) Mr. Noel D'Souza, Husband of Maria D'Souza, (Both residents of 5586 Hollingworth Trail, Wesley Chapel, Florida 33545) (3) Mrs. Simone Joan Gomes, Daughter of Alex Bonifacio D'Souza, (4) Mr. Anselm John Gomes Husband of Simone Gomes, (Both residents of A 901 Cornerstone CHS LTD. L.B.S. Marg Kuria West, (5) Mrs. Felicidade Theresa Mary D'Souza alias Teresa Burrows; (6) late Abel D'Souza, r/o 114 Kangaroo Road, Hughesdale, Vic, 3166, Melbourne, Australia; (6) Mr. Ashley Faustlin Burrows alias Ashley Burrows; (8) Mrs. Teresa Burrows; (9) Mrs. Annabelle Burrows, Wife of Ashley Burrows, (Both residents of 17, Armadale Drv, Narre Warren Melbourne, Victoria 3805 Australia) (9) Mrs. Faye Mildred Burrows alias Faye Lopes, Daughter of Teresa Burrows, (9) Mr. Agnelo Justin Abel Lopes, Husband of Faye Mildred Lopes, (Both residents of 1 Baker Street, Moorabbin, Vic 3189, Melbourne Australia.) (10) Mr. Brian Mario Edward Burrows alias Mario Edward Burrows alias Mario Burrows, Son of Teresa Burrows, (11) Mrs. Christabelle Mildred Burrows, Wife of Mario Burrows, (Both residents of 11, Alvina Street, Oakleigh South, Vic 3167 Melbourne Australia) (12) Mr. Brian Denzil Joseph Burrows alias Brian Denzil Burrows, Son of Teresa Burrows, (13) Mrs. Gillian Anna Maria Burrows, Wife of Brian Burrows, (Both residents of 3, Florence Street, East Bentleigh, Victoria 3165, Melbourne, Australia) (14) Mr. Kevin Paul Burrows, Son of Teresa Burrows, resident of 114, Kangaroo Road, Hughesdale Vic 3166, Melbourne, Australia, (15) Mrs. Annabelle Maria Burrows alias Annabelle Almeida, Daughter of Teresa Burrows, (16) Mr. Phillip Jude Almeida, Husband of Annabelle Almeida, (Both residents of 114, Kangaroo Road, Hughesdale, Vic 3166 Melbourne Australia) (17) Mr. Elienne Ignatius Heron Coutinho, Husband of Blossom Coutinho, r/o Anica, Ground floor, 28, St. Paul's Road Bandra, West Mumbai 400050 (18) Mr. Kin David Layon Rodrigues alias Kin David Rodrigues, Son of late Celine Rodrigues (19) Mrs. Judith Belinda Rodrigues alias Judith Belinda Rodrigues, Wife of Kin David Rodrigues, (Both residents of Pascol Baug 442, New Mill Road Kuria West Mumbai 400070) (20) Mrs. Nicola Maria Pereira, Daughter of late Celine Rodrigues, (21) Mr. Gene Neil Pereira, Husband of Nicola Pereira, (Both residents of Gilmer, 46, Church Road, Kuria West, Mumba 400070) (22) Mr. Horace D'Costa, Son of late Felicity D'Costa, (23) Mrs. Amanda D'Costa alias Amanda Hawkins, w/o Horace D'Costa, both residents of 3, Deers Farm, Bodicote Banbury U.K. (24) Mr. Andre Agnelo D'Costa, Son of late Felicity D'Costa, (25) Mrs. Melodie Pinto Alias Melodie D'Costa, Wife of Andre D'Costa, (Both residents of Kingsnoad, Crumps Lane Maidstone London U.K.) (26) Mrs. Linda D' Souza Alias Ana Olinda Doreto Barreto, w/o late Michael Maximilian D'Souza, r/o 1 Mabelle Mansion, Central Avenue Road, Chembur, Mumbai, 400071; (27) Mrs. Sharon Francisca D'Souza Alias Sharon Francisca D'Souza, Daughter of Michael Maximilian D'Souza, (28) Mr. Keith Cajetan Braganza, Husband of Sharon Braganza, (Both residents of 11 Fourwinds Drive, Unit 8, Toronto, M3J/K7, Ontario, Canada) (29) Mrs. Alexandria Mary Barton Alias Alexandra D'Souza, Wife of late David D'Souza, (30) Ms. Anyara Teresa D'Souza, Daughter of late David D'Souza, (Both residents of 1 Mabelle Mansion, Central Avenue Road, Chembur, Mumbai, 400071) (31) Mrs. Ruth Matilda D'Souza Alias Ruth D'Souza, Daughter of late Michael Maximilian D'Souza, (32) Mr. John Bernard D'Costa, Husband of Ruth D'Costa, (Both residents of 10 Udayan Flats Nr. St. Xavier's High School, Loyola Memnagar, Ahmedabad 380052.

SCHEDULE

All that immovable property known as 'Chambharchi Vahali' situated at Assagao, within the limits of Village Panchayat, of Assagao, Taluka and Sub-District of Bardez, District of North Goa, admeasuring an area of 18900 sq. mts, surveyed under Survey No. 200/4 of Village Assagao, which is bounded on its sides as under:- ON THE NORTH: By the Property bearing Survey No. 200/1, 200/1-A, 200/2 and 200/3; ON THE SOUTH: By the Property bearing Survey No. 138/1; ON THE EAST: By the Property bearing Survey No. 138/1; ON THE WEST: By the Property bearing Survey Nos. 200/14, 200/5, 200/6, 200/6-A and 200/8, hereinafter referred to as the "Said Property".

Any person/s or bank or financial institution other than our client, having any claim or right of whatsoever nature in and over the Said Property or any part thereof by way of sale, memorandum of understanding, gift, lease, tenancy, license, inheritance, transfer, exchange, mortgage, pledge, charge, lien, trust, succession, possession, easement, bequeath, share, assignment, attachment, right of way, lis-pendens, reservation, contracts, agreement, partnership, family arrangement, settlement, maintenance, decree or order of any Court of Law, development rights, consumption or any liability, commitment or demand or otherwise however, may lodge his/her claim/s, if any, in writing to the undersigned substantiated by documentary evidence in support of the same within a period of 14 (fourteen) days from the date of publication hereof (both days inclusive) at their office address mentioned below, failing which, the sale of the Said Property shall be completed without reference to any such claims and the same, if any, will be considered as abandoned, surrendered, relinquished, released, completely waived and not enforceable/ binding on my clients thereafter and/or an impediment to the title of the owner for all intents and purposes or impact the proposed transaction in any manner and the title of the owner shall be treated as clear and marketable without any further reference.

Sd/- S. V. Morajkar (Advocate)
E- 216, 2nd Floor, Saldanha Business Towers, Near Court Circle, Altinho, Mapusa e-mail: moraskarsunil@gmail.com PH: 7020988458

People watch as jilted lover bludgeons woman to death

PTI, PALGHAR: A jilted lover struck 18 blows on the head of his girlfriend with a spanner, killing her on a road in Vasai on Friday, even as scores of people watched the gory spectacle, police said.

The accused attacked the woman with an industrial spanner. There were 18 wounds on her body, senior inspector Jairaj Ranaware of Valiv police station said.

The man, Rohit Yadav (32) and the woman Arati Yadav (22) were neighbours and in a relationship for the last few years, police said. Of late, she had stopped contact with him, and he suspected that she was having an affair with someone else.

Kyun kiya aisa mere saath (why did you do this to me), the man kept saying as he continued to hit her lifeless body with the spanner. Except for a person who ventured out to intervene, the scores of bystanders remained mute spectators.

CCTV footage of the incident shows a large crowd watching the attack, but no one intervening to help the woman as the man repeatedly struck her head with the spanner, police said.

The Valiv police have registered a murder case and arrested the accused.





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SWISS MUSEUM REMOVES ART
OVER NAZI LOOTING FEARS



BARBARA GLADSTONE, LEGENDARY
NEW YORK DEALER DIES AT 89

The pursuit of knowledge through reading

The National Reading Day is celebrated on June 19 each year in India. The purpose of celebrating the day is to spread awareness about the importance of reading especially to make young people aware of the various books. In Goa, several libraries are attracting the attention of children and young adults to bring them closer to books which can expand their imagination

Dolcy D'Crus dolcy@herald-go.com

June 19 is celebrated as National Reading Day in India and starting from this day, the week is celebrated as Reading Week to celebrate reading and growth. The Reading Month is celebrated from June 19 to July 18 which makes it a wonderful time to start building the habit of reading. In India, National Reading Day is observed on PN Panicker's death anniversary. Puthuvayil Narayana Panicker is known as the father of the library movement because he founded 47 local libraries under the Thiruvithamkoor Granthasala Sangham or the Travancore Library Association, which was founded in 1945. In 1956, it was changed to Kerala Gran Sasara Sangam (KGS). There was also a commemorative stamp issued in his name on June 21, 2004.

Manali S Acharya, college librarian, St Joseph Vaz College, Cortalim says, "National Reading Month is not just about remembering PN Panicker, it is a call to action to encourage reading habits nationwide. The celebration has several key benefits which includes enhancing literacy rates by encouraging reading from a young age helps improve literacy, which is crucial for education and economic growth. Secondly, promoting critical thinking as reading develops critical thinking and exposes people to diverse ideas, leading to a more informed society. Thirdly, cultivating a reading culture by making reading a daily habit fosters a lifelong love for learning and knowledge. Fourthly, reducing the digital divide as National Reading Month promotes traditional reading alongside digital media, balancing screen time and reading time for better cognitive development."

In a one of a kind library in Goa, Child's Play India Foundation opened a Classical Music Library which has books on fiction, nonfiction, reference, music magazines, books for teachers, sheet music, music exam books, coffee-table books, colouring pages, and much more for music enthusiast. An initiative of Dr Luis and Chryselle Dias, the library was in the pipeline for a long time. However, during the Covid Pandemic, they finally had time to put their own personal collection and more books to set up the library. The library is open from Monday to Saturday at the Child's Play India Foundation in St Inez, Panjim.

"We want our students to know everything about classical music - from music

National Reading Month is not just about remembering PN Panicker, it is a call to action to encourage reading habits nationwide. The celebration has several key benefits which includes enhancing literacy rates by encouraging reading from a young age helps improve literacy, which is crucial for education and economic growth. Secondly, promoting critical thinking as reading develops critical thinking and exposes people to diverse ideas, leading to a more informed society. Thirdly, cultivating a reading culture by making reading a daily habit fosters a lifelong love for learning and knowledge. Fourthly, reducing the digital divide as National Reading Month promotes traditional reading alongside digital media, balancing screen time and reading time for better cognitive development

Manali S Acharya, college librarian

history, music theory to the lives and works of the great composers. Many of our students don't have internet access all the time so these books will make an enormous difference to their learning. Donors' names are inscribed in the books as a thank you for the gift," says Chryselle.

Children as young as toddlers can visit the library and listen to the music if they can't read the books. "We also have NCPA books and BBC Music books as part of the collection. We had many books and some we developed as we sent out a wish list of books which were

donated. The collection has around 50-60 books which can be assessed by any age group," adds Chryselle.

In her 36 years career as a senior librarian, Maria Ana Pavia has seen different generations read through books at the Goan History Section at the Goa Central Library. Being the only library with books on Goa dating back to the 1800s, she came across people from different walks of life who wanted to learn more about Goa through the library. "There was a good response for reading earlier. Now, students who want to refer from their projects and assignments and elderly readers visit the library. There are many foreigners who visited the library for their research on various topics related to Goa," says Maria, who retired in 2022.

Starting her job in 1986 at the Old Central Library in Panjim, she was there when the entire library was shifted to the new location at Pattoo. The place too makes a difference, "At Panjim, there was a lot more parking and since it was in the city, there were many more people who visited the library. There is still a good footfall in the other sections of the library at Pattoo. Since the Goan History section is based on research oriented books, it has books in English, Hindi, Marathi, Romi Konkani, Devnagri Konkani, Portuguese



and French. According to the Book Delivery Act, it is compulsory for a book printed and published in Goa to submit three copies of the book, free of cost to the library," says Maria.

The love of reading in children is inculcated by their parents at a young age. As parents spend quality time with their children pouring over a book, it is what they are reading that makes them fall in love with literature. Daughter of Nirmal and Assavri Kulkarni, Naia was one of the youngest readers to register at the Central Library, Panjim. This class 3 student of Shiksha Niketan, Porvorim, was only two and a half years old when she was regularly taken to the library. Now a voracious reader, she makes it a point to carry at least one book and one bird guide on her travel away from home. "When Naia was born, we sent out an email to all our family and friends and informed them that they can send us books instead of gifts for Naia to read as she grows up. We have loads of books and now the collection has grown to two cupboards of books for her reading pleasure," says noted photographer, Assavri.

Naia adds, "I love science which is my favourite subject in school but I love reading all books. I enjoy my visits to different libraries in Goa and I make it a point to visit bookshops at the airports when I am travelling with my parents. I love reading

books by Romulus Whitaker, Ruskin Bond, Enid Blyton and Sudha Murthy."

It is important that children read every day, as this helps them build background knowledge, enhances vocabulary, exposes them to new cultures and concepts, and encourages them to make connections with characters experiencing a variety of emotions. This National Reading Day, let children choose their books. Children get excited about reading, and that happens when they are encouraged to choose their own books.

Honouring the bond of grandparents

Pio Esteves

Tiatr: 'Grandma'
Cast: Roma, Antonette de Maina, Franky Gonsalves, Aleka, Aliva, Samenca, Jr Reagan, comedian Sally, Myron, Richard
Director: Sammy Tavares
Band: Norman Cardozo (keyboard), Madonna (saxophone), Jeslyn Rodrigues (trumpet), Stacy (bass), Fevila (drums)
Stage/Lights: Anthony de Ambaji, Dinesh

The story revolves around Kevin (Franky Gonsalves), his spouse Olga (Antonette de Maina), their child (Aliva) who is a person with disabilities and Kevin's aged mother (Roma). The grandmother and the grandchild have a special bond and it is inseparable. They care for each other in their own little way and it is visibly expressed in the family.

Undoubtedly, Kevin has affection towards his fragile mother, but he is entwined to his dictatorial wife and all her diktats. Instead of focusing on her family and her child, Olga is preoccupied with only those things that interest her.

Olga ill-treats her mother-in-law and gets all her household work done by her. She waits for a single opportunity to despise and criticize her.

One fine day, when the grandmother takes seriously ill and is confined to the wheelchair, ill-treatment by the daughter-in-law reaches its peak. As she will be forced to do everything in the house, what next step does Olga take? Will it help in the overall growth of the grandchild?



Sammy Tavares' monsoon tiatr 'Grandma' focuses on the cordial relationship between grandparents and grandchildren. The special and unique bond that prevails between them has been highlighted in the drama.

The play moves at snail's pace in the first half, but gains momentum in the second half, with the peak in the concluding scene. The artistes have given a fine performance on stage. Roma wins sympathy for the apt role of a grandmother. Antonette de

Maina portrays her negative role with ease. Franky Gonsalves extends good support to the cast with his unique act. Child artiste, Aliva is the centre of attraction and delivers well. Jr Reagan, Aleka make brief entries on stage. The scene before the interval is worth the watch.

In the comic acts, comedian Sally takes along with him Samenca, Myron and Richard and the four

comedians deliver a good number of laughter pills to the audience.

In the category of songs, the opening song is rendered by Aleka, but the blowing instrumentalists Madonna and Jeslyn hop on stage to continue with the song, followed by Fevila on the drums and it is a treat to the ears and eyes.

There are solos from Lawry Travasso (a tribute to Minguel Rod, M Boyer and William de Curtorim), Jr Reagan, Roma and Sammy Tavares, which is a testimony. There are other songs by Richard and Myron, Antonette de Maina and Jr Reagan, Roma and Antonette de Maina. A political solo by Saby de Divar, another song by Lawry and Saby de Divar and a rendition by Jr Reagan, Richard and Myron receive encore. A quartet went amiss in the drama. The live music offstage led by Norman Cardozo and the band of girls deserve appreciation.

The stage sets are by Anthony de Ambaji and the lights have been handled by Dinesh.



allovertheworld



Britain's King Charles III reacts as he arrives to attend the first day of the Royal Ascot horse racing meeting in Ascot, west of London, on Tuesday

Sikh murder plot suspect pleads not guilty in US court

NEW YORK: An Indian national extradited to the United States from the Czech Republic pleaded not guilty on Monday to involvement in an alleged plot to kill a Sikh separatist leader on US soil. Nikhil Gupta, 52, who was detained at Prague airport in June 2023 on a US warrant, arrived in the United States on Friday. Gupta appeared before a federal magistrate judge in New York on Monday and pleaded not guilty to charges of murder-for-hire, according to court filings. "This extradition makes clear that the Justice Department will not tolerate attempts to silence or harm American citizens," Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a statement. The Justice Department unsealed the charges against Gupta in November, accusing him of conspiring with an unidentified Indian government official to kill a US citizen of Indian origin in New York City.

Peru to probe child sex abuse claims at indigenous schools

LIMA: The government of Peru said Monday it would investigate sex abuse allegations leveled by hundreds of indigenous children against teachers in a jungle region of the South American country. A total of 524 cases of rape and abuse dating as far back as 2010 have been reported by girls and boys from the Awajun Indigenous group who attended public schools in the Condorcanqui province in Peru's north. The alleged crimes at school residences were revealed last month by Rosemary Ploc, representative of an Awajun women's association. "We have to investigate the facts: we'll stand with the victims," government spokesman Alberto Adrianzen told foreign correspondents Monday.

Thailand's Thaksin indicted for insulting monarchy

BANGKOK: Thai prosecutors on Tuesday formally indicted influential former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra under the kingdom's strict royal insult laws over comments he made nearly a decade ago. The case against the 74-year-old billionaire, twice elected premier and ousted in a 2006 military putsch, is one of four before the courts that could unleash fresh political instability in the coup-prone kingdom. Thaksin, the patriarch of the Pheu Thai party that leads the coalition government, appeared at Bangkok's Ratchada Criminal Court accused of lese-majeste over an interview he gave to South Korean media in 2015. Thailand has some of the world's strictest royal defamation laws protecting King Maha Vajiralongkorn and his close family, with each charge bringing a potential 15-year prison sentence.

Philippine court finds four policemen guilty in drug war killings

MANILA: Four Philippine policemen were found guilty Tuesday of killing a father and son, court officials said, in a rare case of law enforcement officers being prosecuted for taking part in former president Rodrigo Duterte's deadly drug war. The low-ranking officers were all sentenced to up to 10 years in prison for the shooting deaths of the two victims at a Manila slum during an anti-drug police operation in 2016. Manila regional trial court judge Rowena Alejandria said in her written verdict that was read in court Tuesday. Luis Bonifacio was 45 and his son Gabriel Bonifacio was 19 when they were killed. Thousands of drug suspects were killed by police and unknown gunmen in a campaign that became the centrepiece of Duterte's 2016-2022 rule, a crackdown that critics described as state-sponsored extrajudicial killings and is now a subject of an investigation by the International Criminal Court.

Finn suspected of abusing hundreds of children online

HELSINKI, (FINLAND): A Finnish man is suspected of committing sex crimes against more than 200 children on video chat platform Omegle and other social media, Finnish police said on Tuesday. He is suspected of contacting "more than 200 minors" aged six to 15 across Finland via video chat, most of them girls, and asking them to "dress scantily and perform sexual acts" in front of the web camera, police said. The man in his 30s, whose name has not been disclosed, has been in custody since April, accused of aggravated sexual assault against children, sexual exploitation of children and grooming. His initial contacts with the alleged victims were on Omegle and, in some cases, then continued on other social media platforms, police said.

Japan brand launches first film camera in 20 years

TOKYO: A new Pentax film camera will be launched for the first time in two decades as demand for retro photography rises among young people, its Japanese manufacturer said on Tuesday. "The popularity of film cameras has grown rapidly in recent years especially among young photographers who have experienced this type of camera for the first time," Ricoh Imaging Company said in a press release. Film snaps have a "distinctive, somewhat nostalgic ambience" different to digital camera photos, it said.

US to ease immigration pathway for spouses of US citizens

Half a million immigrants could eventually get US citizenship under new plan from US President Joe Biden

PTI, WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden is taking an expansive election year step to offer relief to potentially hundreds of thousands of immigrants without legal status in the US, aiming to balance his own aggressive crackdown on the southern border earlier this month that enraged advocates and many Democratic lawmakers.

The White House announced Tuesday that the Biden administration will, in the coming months, allow certain spouses of US citizens without legal status to apply for permanent residency and eventually citizenship. The move could affect upwards of half a million immigrants, according to senior administration officials.

To qualify, an immigrant must have lived in the United States for 10 years as of Monday and be married to



US President Joe Biden explains the New Citizenship Plan

a US citizen. If a qualifying immigrant's application is approved, he or she would have three years to apply for a green card and receive a temporary work permit and be shielded from deportation in the meantime.

About 50,000 noncitizen children with a parent who is married to a US citizen could also potentially qualify for

the same process, according to senior administration officials who briefed reporters on the proposal on the condition of anonymity. There is no requirement on how long the couple must have been married, and no one becomes eligible after Monday. That means immigrants who reach that 10-year mark after Monday will not qualify

for the program, according to the officials.

Senior administration officials said they anticipate the process will be open for applications by the end of the summer, and fees to apply have yet to be determined.

Biden will speak about his plans at a Tuesday event at the White House, which will also mark the 12th anniversary of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, a popular Obama-era directive that offered deportation protections and temporary work permits for young immigrants who lack legal status.

White House officials privately encouraged Democrats in the House, which is in recess this week, to travel back to Washington to attend the announcement.

The move could eventually make citizens of many of the

estimated 1.1 million people who are married in to US citizens but, until now, must leave the country for years to obtain legal status. Claudia Zniga, of Houston, married a man who was in the United States since 2007 but left for Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, after they wed in 2017 to bide time until he could return legally.

Zuniga, 35, said her family's life did a 180-degree turn when her husband moved to Mexico. Reuniting with her husband would be a dream come true. "My husband could be with us," she said. "We could focus on the well-being of our children." The Democratic president will also announce new regulations that will allow certain DACA beneficiaries and other young immigrants to more easily qualify for long-established work visas.

Sri Lanka Navy arrests four Indian fishermen

PTI, COLOMBO: Four Indian fishermen were arrested and their trawler seized early on Tuesday by the Sri Lanka Navy for allegedly poaching in the island nation's waters, taking the total number of such arrests to more than 180 this year.

In the latest incident of alleged poaching by Indians, one Indian trawler was seized and four fishermen were arrested early on Tuesday around the northern islet of Delft in the Jaffna peninsula, Sri Lanka Navy said here.

Including Tuesday's arrests, a total of 182 Indian fishermen have been arrested and 25 of their trawlers seized so far in 2024 for alleged illegal fishing in Sri Lankan waters, the Navy said.

The numbers are almost 75 per cent of the approximate 240-245 held similarly in 2023. The majority of these incidents happen in the Palk Strait, a narrow strip of water separating Tamil Nadu from Sri Lanka's northern tip, which is a rich fishing ground for fishermen from both countries.

Thailand's Senate approves bill to legalise marriage equality

PTI, BANGKOK: Thailand's Senate voted overwhelmingly on Tuesday to approve a marriage equality bill, clearing the last legislative hurdle for the country to become the first in Southeast Asia to enact such a law.

The bill passed its final reading with the approval of 130 of the 152 members

of the Senate in attendance, with 4 voting against it and 18 abstaining.

The bill now needs the pro forma endorsement of King Maha Vajiralongkorn, followed by its publication in the Government Gazette, which will set a date within 120 days when it becomes effective.

Top US diplomat visits Beirut after attacks across Israel-Lebanon border intensify

PTI, JERUSALEM: Amos Hochstein, senior advisor to United States President Joe Biden, met with officials in Beirut on Tuesday in an effort to find a diplomatic solution to head off a larger war.

Cross-border attacks by Israel and the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah have been taking place almost daily since the war in

Gaza began in October and escalated dramatically a week ago, after Israel killed a high-ranking Hezbollah commander in a strike on south Lebanon.

Meanwhile, Israel's Supreme Court heard arguments Tuesday about a law granting far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir sweeping power over the police.

Ben-Gvir was convicted eight times for offenses that include racism and supporting a Jewish terrorist organization.

As national security minister, he has encouraged police to take a tough line against anti-government protesters and has actively supported officers accused of using excessive force against Palestinians.

Israeli officials say Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu dissolved his influential war Cabinet that was tasked with steering the war in Gaza a week after Benny Gantz, a popular opposition lawmaker and former military chief, quit Netanyahu's three-person governing coalition in frustration over how the war was being handled.

FROM PAGE 1

TOLL RISES TO 10 IN WEST BENGAL TRAIN ACCIDENT

"Three persons are still in the trauma care unit. They underwent surgery. A few patients have fractures. Most of them have superficial injuries. Our challenge is to send them home in good health. Our team is working tirelessly," Sengupta said.

In Kolkata, the body of a victim packed in a coffin was brought back from Siliguri and handed over to grieving relatives on Tuesday.

The body of Railway Mail Service employee Shankar Ghosh, a passenger in the parcel van of the ill-fated Kanchanjunga Express, was handed over to relatives at his Phoolbagan residence in east Kolkata in the presence of Mayor Firhad Hakim who condoled the death.

Relatives said that Ghosh was working on extension post-retirement and that the train was ironically his favourite for regular visits to north Bengal on work.

Destiny also played a cruel role for 31-year-old Subhajit Mali, a resident of Jamir Lane in south Kolkata's Ballygunge area, who succumbed to his injuries from the accident.

Father to an 11-year-old, Mali had planned to return home earlier than scheduled from Siliguri to celebrate his daughter's birthday.

The victim's body, officials said, was also despatched from north Bengal, and is scheduled to reach his traumatized relatives on Wednesday morning.

Meanwhile, train services on both the up and down lines at Rangapani near the New Jalpaiguri station were fully restored on Tuesday afternoon, railway authorities stated.

"Electrical traction was restored at the accident site and trains with electric locomotives have started plying on the stretch," Divisional Railway Manager of Katihar S Kumar said.

He also informed that trains were moving through the accident spot with speed restrictions, following repair of the tracks and other components.

SC SAYS ANY NEGLIGENCE SHOULD BE THOROUGHLY DEALT WITH

"Representing an agency which is responsible for conducting the examination, you must stand firm. If there is a mistake, yes this is a mistake and this is the action we are going to take. At least that inspires confidence in your performance," the bench told the NTA's counsel.

The top court stressed on timely action by the authority. The top court said the pleas would come up for hearing on July 8 along with other pending petitions, including those which have sought a direction to conduct the exam afresh.

It said the NTA and the Centre would file their responses on these fresh petitions within two weeks.

MAYEM FARMERS CHALLENGE MOVE TO TRANSPORT E-AUCTIONED ORE THROUGH VILLAGES

After the hearing, Adv Norma Alvares representing the Mulakh Khajan Farmers Association, Goa Foundation and other villagers, said that they had challenged the transportation of e-auctioned iron ore through Mayem village. One of the main reasons was that the Ministry of Environment and Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), New Delhi had issued an Office Memorandum stating that iron ore should not be transported through village roads because of noise pollution and hardships caused to the villagers.

Adv Alvares said that during the hearing of public interest litigation (PIL) writ petition filed by the Mulakh Khajan Farmers Association on January 17 this year, the Court had stated that this was an important issue which will apply to all the villagers across the State and it will stop transportation of or through villages until a clear policy as to who will be responsible for monitoring and enforcement.

Adv Om D'Costa said that the monitoring done by the Directorate of Mines and Geology, speed of the trucks and how much ore was loaded in these trucks had been done by the Goa Electronics Limited (GEL).

"But our issue was about the monitoring being done by the Goa State Pollution Control Board. The report came after three days by which time activities were already over and pollution was caused. So like the Directorate of Mines and Geology, there should also be a real time monitoring by the GSPCB," Adv D'Costa said.

In its order, the Court had stated that ore transportation will not be permitted through the village till such time that real time ore transportation mechanism is set up in the village including two more pollution monitoring stations and two CCTV cameras with monitoring mechanism are installed at the local village panchayat.

GOA'S PREMIER INDUSTRY BODY POWERFULLY OBJECTS TO POWER HIKE

"This disparity poses a significant threat to the competitiveness and sustainability of Goan industries in the manufacturing sector," the statement said.

It pointed out that during the public hearing conducted by JERC before the tariff increase, the trade body had proposed several alternative measures to generate additional revenue without burdening consumers.

Implementing steps to minimize power transmission losses to improve efficiency and lower costs, switching back from the current KVAH-based billing system to a KWH-based system to make billing more straightforward and cost-effective for consumers and focusing on areas with high distribution losses and peak load restrictions to take corrective actions that would benefit both consumers and the electricity department were the suggestions made by the GCCI.

The GCCI said it had also highlighted the need for improvements in the quality and reliability of power supply, noting that the current standards are much lower compared to major cities in India.

To address these issues, the chamber suggested the installation of automated sectionalisers to enhance power distribution efficiency, the statement said.

The GCCI said it had also brought to JERC's notice that no district committee has been formed to review the quality of power supply which had led to continued dissatisfaction among consumers regarding the power quality.

'REVOLUTION' OR NOT, BUT IT'S TIME ANOTHER PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT TO PROTECT GOA: GOANS

"The revolution has started in some way with the results of the 2024 General Election which has curtailed the power of the government," Adv Coutinho said.

Goenchea Rampunkarancho Ekvott (GRE) general secretary Olencio Simoes said, "From 2016 people are opposing the Port expansion. More than 90 village panchayats passed resolution that they don't want coal transportation and nationalisation of rivers. Even then the Centre and the State are not listening to the people.

When we protest, cases are filed against us. he said. "So the question is whether absentees want a second revolution or those who are grabbing their lands," Mhambre said.

Political analyst Trajano D'Mello said, "People are frustrated on many issues. There is no trust in the leader who spearheads any agitation on any issue because people believe that all leaders have a hidden agenda for their political motives."

Social activist Swapnil Sherlekar said, "We desperately need second revolution. It was Tuesday when 18 June 1946 revolution started at Margao. It was on Tuesday when Goa was liberated on 19 December 1961. So Tuesday, (18 June 2024) is auspicious to start second revolution."

CRORES OF RUPEES IN LEGAL BATTLE ARE BEING SPENT ON DEFECTORS WHO BETRAYED THE PEOPLE: UDAY BHEMBRE

He further said, "This is what Ram Manohar Lohia had told us on June 18, 1946."

Then people have to rise up, come out on the streets to correct the wrongs. Lohia's 18th June Revolution took place because there were no civil liberties. Lohia and 2,500 leaders and people came out to fight for these liberties in Margao," Bhembre declared.

FOREST DEPT OFFICIALLY INSISTS THAT TURTLE EGGS WERE NOT 'STOLEN' BUT 'SPOILT', WITH NO OFFICIAL EVIDENCE

A screenshot of a handwritten note was sent on WhatsApp to this reporter with these figures - 22,528 eggs laid, 15,146 released, 1,382 hatching dead and importantly 6,000 "spoilt".

While the **O Herald** report stated the figures had specific dates for each entry, the scribbled so-called correct figures on a piece of rough paper had no dates.

"You must understand the staff manning the register must have made a mistake in the way they wrote. It is supposed to be written as spoilt eggs but by mistake, it came as stolen," maintained Marine Range Officer, Gauns.

What is interesting is that the rest of the contents, and figures in the same guard register are not being challenged or called a mistake but just one specific column. It is not as if stolen and spoilt are very similar words and it is natural to mistake one for the other.

Here too, some doubts need to be raised. While the register at Morjim indicates that 334 hatchlings died, the new count mentions 1,382. Three officers from the Forest Department contacted since afternoon trying to explain, "the spelling /writing error" and all three requested anonymity.

To seek further clarity, especially since the entries in the guard register were written by hand, **O Herald** sent a message asking if the stolen eggs were now being classified as spoilt. Or were the stolen eggs recovered and then got spoilt? The response to these questions was "No eggs were stolen".

O Herald then sent a screenshot of the photo of the register sent by the Forest department staff at Morjim, based on which the first report of stolen eggs was filed

O Herald asked: Why does this report from your Morjim site, have a column on stolen eggs?

The official's response without addressing the issues directly was "Next time you run a story with numbers, kindly check from official sources for authenticity or clarification before publishing."

This is interesting since the Marine Range Officer himself said that the "mistake" was made by the guards who couldn't spell spoilt, so they wrote stolen. Though unbelievable, this was at least a response.

O Herald then said the senior officer would be quoted, and all the figures sent would be sourced to him. The Range Officer then hurriedly called up the reporter to say, "Please do not even refer to my name or quote me anywhere."

The fact is the report was based on entries in the Turtle Guard register as the nesting site on Morjim. The forest department has not rejected those entries

Moreover, changing the nomenclature from stolen to spoilt has not been officially explained. Moreover, if the entry in the guard register was incorrect or unclear, then the department could have easily issued an official statement saying that the column 'stolen' should be read as spoiled.

The big issue here is, the mystery behind the Forest Department officers reluctance to come on record, while insisting that the figures scribbled by them were true and not those that were entered in the register, by the men who guard the site.

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In Everloving Memory Of

ANUNCIACAO FERNANDES (ASHA)

(BETALBATH/CALATA - MAJORDA)

There will be an Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved Anunciacao Fernandes (Asha) on 20th June 2024 Tomorrow at 8:00 am at Mother of God Church, Majorda followed by prayers and blessings at the grave. Offered by her sorrowful Children Roy, Reena / Mario, Rolfa / Kevin and Grandchildren Nicole, Nysa & Nadia.

Relatives and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

MONTH'S MIND

In cherished memory of

JOE D'COSTA

Prop. Dinonca Metal Industry
(Pulamolli, Sao Jose De Areal)

There will be an Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved Joe on Thursday, 20th June 2024 at 7:30 am at St. Joseph Church, Sao Jose de Areal, followed by prayers & blessings at the grave.

Offered by his sorrowful wife Kelly Cheryl Fernandes, children Dinonca Duency, Delisha & family.

Relatives, neighbours & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

CONDOLENCE

DIOGO ESTEVAO FERNANDES

(NERUL DANDADI)

Be strong and courageous.
Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged,
for the LORD your God will be with
you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

Born: 20-12-1933
Died: 17-06-2024

Although we know you are in the presence of our God and saviour Jesus Christ, our hearts mourn the loss of your presence.

A beautiful life which will be deeply missed and cherished by his eldest daughter Maria, son in law Floriano Marques and grandchildren Nazia and Nevin.

Relatives & Friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

MONTH'S MIND MASS

In ever loving memory of



Francisco De Menezes
November 28, 1952 - May 19, 2024

Beloved husband, father and grandfather
The Month's Mind mass for the soul of our beloved father will take place on June 19th at 7pm at St. Mary's Church, Dubai & June 22nd at 7:30 am at St. Michael's Church, Taleigao Goa.

Much loved and sadly missed everyday by your family.

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

MARIA AURELIA OLGA DE MIRANDA (LOUTOLIM)

There will be an Eucharist celebration for the soul of our beloved Olga, on Thursday, 20th June 2024 (Tomorrow) at 4:00 pm at Saviour Of The World Church, Loutolim, Followed by prayers at the grave, offered by her sorrowful Family.

DEATH



BORN:
07/11/1959

DIED:
18/06/2024

PAULO ASSIZ RIBEIRO

(Foro Waddo, St. Estevam / La Citadel colony, Dona Paula/ Dubai)

Most loving husband of Ana Maria Ribeiro. Affectionate father of Santano Cedric Ribeiro (Dubai). Devoted son of Late Santana Ribeiro & Late Maria Estella Alfonso and son-in-law of late Joaquim Mario Fernandes/Late Maria Fernanda Rodrigues.

Thoughtful brother/brother-in-law of Salzira Fernandes (Canada)/late Francis Xavier Fernandes, Late Diana Ribeiro, Freddie Ribeiro (Dubai)/Maria Ribeiro, Sylvia Dcunha (Dubai)/Late Vincent Dcunha, Late Antonio Fernandes/Elvira Dias, Lilia Fernandes/Late Benedict D'souza, Marcus Fernandes/Micaela Oliveira. Adored uncle, to all his nephews and nieces.

Funeral Cortege will leave his Residence at 3:30 pm on Wednesday, 19th June 2024 (TODAY), for Eucharistic Celebration at 3:45 p.m. at Our Lady of Rosary Church, Caranzalem, followed by burial at Taleigao Cemetery.

Relatives, neighbours & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

Aquila Advt. 942137777 / 942157777

THIRD DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In everloving memory of

PIEPADE PAULO FERNANDES (PP)

(Ex-S.C.I.)

(Murida - Cuncolim)

There will be a Eucharistic celebration for the soul of our beloved PIEPADE at 7.30 A.M. on Thursday, the 20th of June 2024 at Our Lady of Health Church, Cuncolim, followed by blessing and prayers at the grave offered by his wife-Effy Fernandes.

RELATIVES, FRIENDS & NEIGHBOURS KINDLY ACCEPT THIS AS THE ONLY INTIMATION

DEATH

ANTONIO REBELLO

(Davorlim / Baga)

BORN: 02.04.1948 - DIED: 18.06.2024

Son of late Mariani Semedo / Joao Rebello. Husband of Maria Archanjela Rebello. Father / Father-in-law of Archana / Lucas, Joel Allwyn / Fayanne. Brother / Brother-in-law of late Rozin / late Ruzar, late Bento / Adelina, Clementine / late Custodio, Romalldhin / late Joe.

Grandfather of Leander, Ashton, Liselle, Jezreel & Demi.
Funeral cortege will leave his residence TODAY, 19th June 2024 at 3.45 PM to Our Lady Of Rosary Church, Davorlim for Mass at 4 PM followed by burial.

Relatives and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

MONTH'S MIND

In everloving memory of

MARIA LEONIDA CONCEICAO DINIZ

1st Ward, Bandea - Colva

There will be a Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved mother on Thursday, 20th June 2024 (Tomorrow) at 7:45 am at Our Lady of Mercies Church, Colva, followed by prayers & blessings at the grave, offered by her sorrowful children Lucas/Annie, late Valentina (Santolina)/Savio Fernandes, grandchildren Leandra and Haylan.

Relatives & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

DEATH

DIOGO ESTEVAO FERNANDES

(NERUL DANDADI)

Born: 20-12-1933 Died: 17-06-2024

Loving husband of late Mariquinha Santana Josefina Pires. Father/father-in-law of Pedro & Josefa, Joaquim & Urmila, Ernest & Manuelina (Monica), Luis & Meenaxi (Meena) Fernandes. Daughter/Son-in-law: Maria & Florine, Eliza & Robino.

Grandchildren: Nazia, Nevin, Alban, Renita.
Funeral cortege will leave his residence on 20.06.2024 (Tomorrow) at 3.30 p.m. at Our Lady of Remedios Church, Nerul for Eucharistic Celebration followed by burial.

Relatives & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

A Month In The Lord's Kingdom

In loving memory of

John D'Souza

(John's Wine Shop - Mungul, Margao)

March 31, 1964 May 21, 2024

Month's Mind mass will be held on Thursday, 20th June 2024, at 6:45 am at Loyola High School, Chapel, Margao. Offered by his grieving family.

ONE YEAR WITH THE LORD

CATARINA CONCEICAO MASCARENHAS

Duler - Mapusa

"Those we love don't go away,
they walk beside us everyday.
Unseen, unheard, but always near;
still loved, still missed and very dear."

Born: 12/12/1938
Died: 07/06/2023

There will be an Eucharistic Celebration for the departed soul of our beloved Catarina Conceicao Mascarenhas on 20/6/2024 at 8.00 am at St. Jerome Church, Mapusa followed by prayers at the grave, offered by her loving Colaco family.

Relatives & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

~Returned to the Lord~



Born:
19.01.1948

Died
18.06.2024

COLETINA CANUTA FURTADO COLLOSO, GUIRDOLIM-CHANDOR

Wife of late Diogo Manuel Antao.

Mother/mother-in-law of Nelson/Loretta Antao, Savita/Socorro Vaz.

Grandmother of Jwelon, Jaden, Saviro & Sheldon.

Funeral cortege will leave his residence at 3.45pm on 19th June 2024 to Nossa Sra de Belem Church Chandor for Eucharistic celebration at 4:00pm followed by burial.

Relatives, friends, neighbours kindly accept this as the only intimation

BOOKIES 9822129657

13 killed as heavy rains pound Central America

AFP, SAN SALVADOR, (EL SALVADOR): Thirteen people have died in flooding and landslides in El Salvador and Guatemala as heavy rains pound Central America, authorities from the two countries said.

In El Salvador, the hardest hit country so far, five people died Monday in a landslide in the western district of Tacuba, in the department of Ahuachapán, Civil defense chief Luis Amaya said.

Those deaths follow two fatalities recorded on Sunday after a tree and a pole fell on a car that was traveling on a highway in the capital.

Another four people



Firefighters carry out rescue work in a flooded area in Nacaome, Valle department, Honduras, in Central America

were killed in flooding and landslides between Friday and Sunday, Amaya added.

On Sunday, Congress approved a state of emergency to facilitate the mobilization of resources.

President Nayib Bukele

said on X that he had asked Congress to make Tuesday a federal holiday to avoid commutes and "reduce the risk of tragedies."

Rains have been slamming both countries since Saturday.

In Guatemala, a 59-year-old woman and a 68-year-old man died on Sunday in the village of Chacaya, in the western municipality Sacapulas, when they were buried by a collapsed wall, authorities said.

Dozens to hundreds die each year in Central America as the rainy season leaves extensive damage to countries' infrastructure.

Additionally, the death toll from a landslide in Ecuador rose from six to seven people, with 22 others injured, authorities said Monday.

The landslide was triggered by heavy rains in the tourist Tungurahua province in southern Ecuador.

Hospital fire kills 9 in Iran

AFP, TEHRAN: At least nine patients died Tuesday when a fire tore through a hospital in Iran's northern city of Rasht, state media said.

The fire at Ghaem Hospital broke out at 1:30 am, state broadcaster IRIB said, adding that it had been put out and investigators were working to determine what had caused it.

"Unfortunately, nine people lost their lives in this fire accident," said Mohammad Taghi Ashobi, president of the Gilan University of Medical Sciences in Rasht.

He told state TV that "most of the patients who died... were hospitalised in the intensive care unit". According to the reports, the hospital has 250 beds and 142 of them were occupied at the time of the fire.

In Nov 2023, a massive blaze ripped through a drug rehab centre in Langard city, also in Gilan province, killing 32 people.

In June 2020, 19 people died in a powerful explosion caused by gas canisters.

Four dead, over a dozen missing as extreme weather hits China

AFP, BEIJING: At least four people were killed when record rains hit parts of southern China, state media reported Tuesday, while more than a dozen were missing even as the north baked under some of its highest temperatures this year.

Downpours "exceeding historical daily maximums" in some areas of Fujian province caused the four deaths, state news agency Xinhua said, citing the flood control headquarters of Shanghai County.

More than 66,000 people in the county have been affected by the extreme weather, Xinhua said, adding that "communications and electricity infrastructure... has not been fully restored". It also warned of possible landslides.

It said that "investigations into the situations of affected people" were underway.

In nearby Meizhou, Guangdong province, landslides on Monday killed five people, left 15 missing and another 13 were "trapped" by early morning, state broadcaster CCTV reported Tuesday.

CCTV footage showed upturned cars and damaged buildings near Meizhou,



An aerial drone view shows a flooded area in Dongping Township of Zhenghe County, Nanping City in southeastern China's Fujian Province, on Tuesday

with residents in rubber boots picking through muddy, debris-laden streets to salvage their belongings.

Other images showed sections of highway swept away by landslides and rescue workers in orange lifejackets steering dinghies through the floodwaters to reach trapped villagers.

Chinese President Xi Jinping called for emergency workers to "make every effort to respond to disaster situations and do a good job of relief and rescue work to combat flooding and drought", Xinhua said on Tuesday.

He instructed rescuers to "guarantee the security of people's lives and property, and overall social stability", it said.

Flooding has also hit the southern and central provinces of Guangxi and Hunan, as well as the northwestern region of Xinjiang, where Xinhua said on Tuesday four people were missing after a flash flood near the city of Changji.

At the same time, China's north is witting under some of the year's hottest weather. The mercury was expected to soar to up to 39 degrees Celsius (102 degrees Fahrenheit) in the capital Beijing and the surrounding areas of Tianjin and Hebei on Tuesday, the National Meteorological Centre said.

Lanka court blocks gender equality bill

AFP, COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's highest court has shot down a government bill seeking gender equality, arguing it could set a legal precedent for the decriminalisation of homosexuality and same-sex marriage, parliament said Tuesday.

The three-judge bench of the Supreme Court ruled the bill, which sought to tackle sexism and violence, undermined conservative values on the majority-Buddhist island.

"It is clear that when this bill becomes law it becomes possible for any interested party to claim legal status for same-sex marriages," presiding judge P. Padman Surasena

wrote, backed by the two other judges.

"This is something which neither our constitution nor our culture has envisaged."

Surasena said the de-criminalisation of homosexuality and the recognition of same-sex marriages would have "significant cultural and moral implications".

The court said recognising "persons with different gender identities" would also violate the constitution.

The Gender Equality Bill seeks to enshrine in law equal opportunities to all "irrespective of differences in sex or gender identity".

Thousands of Israelis turn out for anti-government protest

AFP, JERUSALEM: Thousands of Israelis protested against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government on Monday over the Gaza war and failure to negotiate the release of scores of hostages still held in the Palestinian territory.

Protests against Netanyahu's handling of the war against Hamas militants have gathered pace, with tens of thousands taking to the streets of Israel's biggest city, Tel Aviv, every weekend.

But protesters travelled to Jerusalem to rally outside the Israeli parliament and Netanyahu's residence on Monday, clashing with

police and urging new elections as part of what has been dubbed a week of disturbance by activists.

"Every action that he does is in the direction of the destruction of Israel. He was responsible for what happened on October 7," said retired civil engineer Moshe Sandarovich, 73.

"Now he is destroying everything. Even if there is war now, every day that the war goes on with him, is a worse day."

Nine people were arrested, some of them in connection with violence that left police officers "slightly injured", Israeli police said in a statement overnight.

sportspopup

Gambhir, Raman interviewed by CAC, former set to be named India coach

NEW DELHI: Former India openers Gautam Gambhir and V V Raman were on Tuesday interviewed by the BCCI's Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) for the national team's head coach's position. The interviews took place over a zoom call with Gambhir, Raman and CAC head Ashok Malhotra attending it virtually. "Yes, Gambhir appeared for the interview with the CAC. One round of discussions happened today. There is another round expected tomorrow," a BCCI source told PTI. "Raman was interviewed after Gambhir. It was also on zoom. He also gave his presentation on his vision and road map on Indian cricket. The interview went for around 40 minutes. There were some initial questions by the committee before they looked at the presentation," the source informed. Gambhir is believed to be the only candidate who is in contention and the announcement of his name is a mere formality, which could happen in the next 48 hours.

Shreyas may come back for Lanka ODIs; Riyan, Abhishek, Mayank in line for Zimbabwe T20Is

NEW DELHI: Gautam Gambhir's expected appointment as India's head coach could provide a new lease of life to IPL champion skipper Shreyas Iyer's international career during the three-match ODI series against Sri Lanka in July-August. Having led Kolkata Knight Riders successfully in the IPL, Iyer could also go for the five-match T20I series against Zimbabwe starting July 5, but the more realistic chance of a comeback is the ODI series against Sri Lanka. Gambhir, who is the front-runner for India coach position, and Iyer forged a successful partnership during KKR's victorious IPL campaign this year and the talented Mumbai right-hander, who has been a prolific 50-over batter, might finally have fortune favouring him after a few tumultuous months. Iyer was dropped from BCCI's central contracts, along with Ishan Kishan, after he fell out with the establishment for his apparent reluctance to play Ranji Trophy. However, Iyer always maintained that his recurring lower back issue kept him out of the game even though he did play the Ranji Trophy final scoring 90-odd runs.

Mandhana among top three in women's ODI rankings

DUBAI: India vice-captain Smriti Mandhana jumped two places to move to the third spot on the ICC Women's ODI batting rankings released in Dubai, on Tuesday. The Indian left-handed opener struck a match-winning 117, her maiden century at home, to lead India's 143-run win over South Africa in a three-match series. Mandhana, who has 715 points is behind Sri Lanka's Chamari Athapaththu, who lost her number one ranking to England's Natalie Sciver-Brunet. The English all-rounder regained her number one spot by scoring a superb 124 not out against Pakistan last month. Senior India all-rounder Deepti Sharma climbed up three spots to 20th, while Pooja Vastrakar was up by three places to 38th. Vastarkar was the big mover up the ODI charts for all-rounders, with the 24-year-old gaining four places to improve to 18th. South Africa veteran Marizanne Kapp remains the No.1 ranked ODI all-rounder. In the ODI bowling list, Deepti gained one place to move to fourth after tidy figures of 2/10 in the series opener. England spinner Sophie Ecclestone maintained a healthy lead at the top of the rankings for ODI bowlers.

Croatia's Vlasic withdraws from Euro 2024 over injury

ZAGREB (Croatia): Croatia midfielder Nikola Vlasic will miss the rest of Euro 2024 due to a muscle injury, the Croatian football federation (HNS) said on Tuesday. Torino's Vlasic was injured during a training session with an MRI scan later revealing a torn muscle, according to a statement released by the federation, which did not offer more information about the nature of the injury. The 26-year-old was an unused substitute in Croatia's tournament opening 3-0 loss to Spain on Saturday. Before the competition, Vlasic also suffered an adductor injury but was eventually cleared to play with the squad in Germany. "Nikola invested a lot of effort to help the team at the Euro 2024, and he is an integral part of the squad," said Croatia's coach Zlatko Dalic in an HNS statement. "Unfortunately, this second injury happened, and I can only thank Nikola for his great effort and wish him a speedy recovery," Dalic added. Vlasic said he was "extremely sorry" he was unable to continue playing with his team.

Man City opens title defence at Chelsea

LONDON: Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola will come up against a familiar face in his team's opening match of its Premier League title defense. City will start the season away at Chelsea, whose new manager is Enzo Maresca — an assistant to Guardiola at City in the 2022-23 season. It's part of a tough start for City, which also hosts Arsenal and visits Newcastle away in the opening six games as the team begins its bid for a record-extending fifth straight English top-flight title. The season will kick off on August 16 when Manchester United hosts Fulham.

GM Arjun wins Stepan Avagyan Memorial, jumps to career-high 4th spot in live rating

NEW DELHI: Indian Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi delivered yet another domineering performance to clinch the Stepan Avagyan Memorial 2024 crown in Jermuk, Armenia with a round to spare. The 20-year-old, India's highest-rated chess player, defeated Russian GM Volodar Murzin in 63 moves in the eighth and penultimate round to move to six points with four wins and as many draws. He now has an unassailable lead of 1.5 points over three players tied for second spot in a strong 10-player field. The victory also helped Arjun jump to a career-high live rating of No. 4 as he has so far added 9 points from the eight rounds to reach a total of 2779.9 ELO points. He trails Norway's Magnus Carlsen and Hikaru Nakamura and Fabiano Caruana of USA in live ratings. "This has been a fantastic tournament for me as I have been able to make the most of my opportunities. These tournaments are never easy as the level of competition is very high but I am happy with the way I played and clinched my second title of the year," said Arjun.

East Bengal rope in David Lalhlansanga on three-year contract

KOLKATA: Super Cup champions East Bengal FC on Tuesday announced the signing of rising Indian forward David Lalhlansanga on a three-year contract. One of the most prolific young strikers in India, David was the top scorer in last year's Calcutta Football League and Durand Cup, and also played a pivotal role in Mohammedan Sporting Club's maiden I-League triumph. "East Bengal is a big club with millions of fans spread across India. I love playing in front of passionate fans," said David in a statement. David was named by head coach Igor Stimac in India's last two World Cup Qualifiers squads against Kuwait at home and Qatar away but did not get any minutes. "I've already spent some time with Mahesh, Nandha and Lalchungsung in the India camp. They are very helpful and always motivate me to get better. I want to give my best for this club."

New coach will be appointed, void left by Chhetri biggest worry: Vijayan

PTI, NEW DELHI: Filling the huge void left by the iconic Sunil Chhetri's retirement is the biggest challenge facing the Indian football team at the moment, the legendary I M Vijayan said on Tuesday while playing down the sacking of head coach Igor Stimac.

The high-profile Stimac was removed by the All India Football Federation on Monday due to lack of results in recent times but former stars Vijayan and Climax Lawrence are not worried about the decision that brought to an end the Croatian World Cupper's five-year reign as the head coach of the senior men's team.

The absence of a ready replacement for Chhetri is a bigger cause for concern for them, who are now part of the AIFF's technical committee with Vijayan heading it. Both Vijayan and Lawrence's view is that a coach can be appointed at any time but a striker, of the calibre of Chhetri, cannot be unearthed overnight.

Men like Vijayan and Lawrence, who have served the Indian team with distinction, know that the sacking of Stimac was on expected lines following a forgettable AFC Asian Cup and the failure to go beyond the second round of

“The coach will be appointed as early as possible so that the team doesn't lose out on anything before the next FIFA window in September. They will soon sit together and start the process of finding a coach. However, how do you find a replacement for Chhetri. That is going to be very difficult as a great player like Chhetri comes rarely. We have some good strikers, and we are trying to get them to play as much as possible. The biggest issue is that our strikers don't get a lot of playing time in domestic leagues, be it the ISL or the I-League – I M Vijayan, head of AIFF's technical committee



FIFA World Cup Qualifiers despite getting a relatively easy draw.

The AIFF brass, including the members of the executive committee and those in the technical committee, was on the same page as far as Stimac was concerned after the disappointing campaign in the World Cup Qualifiers. "It was a unanimous decision," said Vijayan.

"The coach will be appointed as early as possible so that the team doesn't lose out on anything before the next FIFA window in September. They will soon sit together and start the process of finding a coach," Vijayan, one of India's finest players, said.

"However, how do you find a replacement for Chhetri. That is going to be very difficult as a great player like Chhetri comes rarely. We have some good strikers, and we are trying to get them to play as much as possible. "The biggest issue is that our strikers don't get a lot of playing time in domestic leagues, be it the ISL or the I-League."

In tournaments such as the ISL and I-League, the clubs look to recruit foreigners that serves their interest as they want to win trophies. While that has been a stumbling block in the development of quality home-bred strikers, Lawrence feels that it's high time the game's

stakeholders train their focus on scouting talent at the grassroots.

"Grassroots is where we have to focus. Yes, Indian strikers are not getting to play the amount of time they should, but there is no point cribbing over that. That's how professional football works. We have to look for talent at the grassroots and mould them into quality strikers," Lawrence said.

"True, you are not going to suddenly get another Sunil Chhetri, another Bhaichung Bhutia and another IM Vijayan. So, we have to focus on building a good team and not just hope for one great striker to emerge and bail the team," Lawrence added.

The likes of Vikram Paratap Singh, Manvir Singh, Lallianzuala Chhangte, Liston Colaco and Rahim Ali have emerged as options to lead India's charge upfront in the near future but Chhetri, with his record 94 international goals over a glorious 19-year career, have raised the bar too high for them to emulate.

Chennaiyin FC rope in Gurkirat

AGENCIES, CHENNAI: Chennaiyin FC have secured the services of talented young forward Gurkirat Singh as their eighth signing for the upcoming 2024-25 season.

The 20-year-old from Punjab is known for his ability to operate on the left side of the field and contribute heavily to the attack. He has joined the Marina Machans from Mumbai City FC on a two-year deal that will keep him in the club till 2026.

Gurkirat Singh made his Indian Super League (ISL) debut with Mumbai City FC and he was also part of the team that lifted the ISL League Shield and ISL title in 2023 and 2024, respectively.

"We wanted to add power and pace to our forward line and Gurkirat was someone we were keeping an eye on. He was a handful when he played against us in the Super Cup and his goalscoring record for the India U20's speaks for itself," head coach Coyle said.

Having played regularly for an ISL club,

the talented footballer has a great understanding of the level required to win in the league and is expected to play a crucial role with his sublime skills at Chennaiyin.

"To be honest I love Owen Coyle as a coach. He's a brilliant coach and I want to play under him," Gurkirat said.

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23rd JUNE 3.30 P.M. (SUNDAY) R. B. VASCO
 (TICKETS CONTACT MISS CELESTE 7057172185)

30th JUNE (SUNDAY) 3.30 P.M. K. A. PANJIM
 (TICKETS AT THE COUNTER)



Galaxy Advt. 9823244657

Goa Velha SC in semis

Team Herald
 sports@herald-goa.com

RAIA: Goa Velha SC defeated United Club Benaulim 5-3 via tie-breaker to move into the semi-finals of Cana-Benaulim Panchayat Cup inter-village football tournament played at St John de Baptista football ground, Dando-Benaulim, on Tuesday.

UC Benaulim made an aggressive start and Goa Velha SC goalkeeper Pratik Kankor rescued his team with brilliant save from UC Benaulim striker Joseburn Cardozo in giving his team an early lead in the 6th minute.

The host persistent efforts were rewarded in the 13th minute when Nicholas Rodrigues floated a



Former sarpanch Remy Fernandes hands over the man-of-the-match to Tino Fernandes of UC Benaulim

ball which was misjudged by Pratik allowing UC Benaulim striker Keegan Fernandes to dart in and head the ball into the net.

After the resumption of play, Goa Velha SC were a transformed side and got the equaliser in the 38th

minute when playmaker Akash Sanadi sent a low cross to Alme Fernandes to nod in past UC Benaulim keeper Tino Fernandes.

Stunned by the shocking goal, UC Benaulim tried hard but Enosh Goes and Cedran Rodrigues were ineffective. Goa Velha SC almost snatched the match winner in the dying minutes but Tino pushed out a pile drive from rival medio Francis Afonso.

In the ensuing tie-breaker, Sainath Kankonkar, Akash Sanadi, Rishabh Madkalkar and Francis Afonso were successful for Goa Velha SC, while Nicholas Rodrigues and Alejo Fernandes found the mark for UC Benaulim. Former sarpanch Remy Fernandes handed the man-of-the-match to Tino Fernandes of UC Benaulim.

Bhatti SC move into last four

Team Herald
 sports@herald-goa.com

RAIA: Bhatti Sports Club edged out Novowaddo Sports Club 6-4 via tie-breaker to enter the semi-finals of 9-a-side football tournament organised by Sporting Club Virabhat at St Alex Church ground, Curtorim, on Tuesday.

Match started on slow pace due to rainy conditions and both teams tried to



Macnal Dias receives the man-of-match award from Baptista Fernandes

and made way for penalty shoot out to decide the winner.

In resultant tie-breaker Bhatti SC scored through Jovial dias, MaVen Dias, Macnal Dias, Tony and Aaron Dias, while Novowaddo SC found the net through Alistar, Frazer and Milagres Fernandes. Macnal Dias received the man-of-match award for his outstanding performance, which was presented by Baptista Fernandes.

CURTORIM FOOTBALL

take control of the game, while Novowaddo SC scored the first goal through Milagres Fernandes with a neat placement before half time.

Bhatti SC regrouped quickly and took control in the second session and got the much needed equaliser through the boots of Marcus Peixoto before full time

GOA DIARY

GFA to hold selection trials for U-17 girls

PANJIM: The Goa Football Association will hold selection trials for U-17 girls from June 19 to 22, at 3.45 pm. On June 19 and 20, at Duler Stadium, Mapusa. On June 21 and 22, at King's School ground, Sao Jose de Areal. Players born on or after January 1, 2008 are eligible for the selections and should report at the venue with the full playing kit to Coach Jonathan Faleiro.

TODAY'S SPORTS

Sporting Club Virabhat 9-a-side football: Youth of Pidadigal vs SC Virabhat, at St Alex Church ground, Curtorim, 5 pm

13th Cana-Benaulim Panchayat Cup 2024 (semi-final): Parish Youth Nuvem vs Don Bosco Oratory, Fatorda, at St John de Baptist ground, Dando-Benaulim, 4.30 pm

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Galaxy Advt. 9823244657

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE COUNTER

TODAY 19th JUNE 3:30 pm (PAI HALL, MARGAO)

22nd JUNE 7:30 pm (RAVINDRA BHAVAN, BAINA VASCO)

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Mbappe breaks nose in France's win

Woerber diverts Kylian's cutback into his own net seven minutes before half-time

AFP, DÜSSELDORF: Maximilian Woerber's own goal was enough to give France a winning start to their Euro 2024 campaign on Monday as they edged Austria 1-0 in their opening game but Kylian Mbappe came off late on with a broken nose.

Woerber diverted Mbappe's cutback into his own net seven minutes before half-time in Duesseldorf to allow the French, one of the leading contenders to win the tournament, to come through a stiff test.

Austria have been much-improved under Ralf Rangnick and they often made life uncomfortable for the 2022 World Cup runners-up, who saw Mbappe leave the field near the end after being hurt in a collision. He had earlier failed to convert a glorious chance that would have allowed France to win by a wider margin, and sources close to the player confirmed he had broken his nose in the accidental clash with Kevin Danso.

Despite Mbappe's injury, France will be relieved to have emerged victorious after a build-up overshadowed by talk of politics rather than football.

Mbappe and other French players had spent much of their time before the media in recent days answering questions about upcoming elections in the country which could see the far-right National Rally become



France's forward #10 Kylian Mbappe collides with Austria's defender #04 Kevin Danso during the UEFA Euro 2024 Group D match at the Duesseldorf Arena in Duesseldorf. (Right) Mbappe receives medical treatment

the biggest party.

Any slip-up here would have led to suggestions their minds had not been fully focused on the competition.

Instead, the result leaves France level on three points in Group D with the Netherlands, who defeated Poland 2-1 on Sunday.

France and the Netherlands meet next in Leipzig on Friday, while Austria face Poland the same day in Berlin.

Austria had enjoyed some impressive results coming into the tournament and their team is on familiar ground during these Euros -- Rangnick is from Germany

and eight of their starting line-up played in the German Bundesliga last season. The French, however, are arguably the most talented team at the tournament, led by their captain Mbappe.

He endured a miserable time at his only previous Euros in 2021, failing to score and missing the decisive penalty in a shoot-out defeat by Switzerland in the last 16. The new Real Madrid signing will wonder how he did not score in this game, with his first big opportunity arriving inside eight minutes.

Antoine Griezmann and Theo Hernandez combined

to release Mbappe, who cut in from the left and shaped to curl a shot into the far corner before instead aiming for the near post.

However, Austria goalkeeper Patrick Pentz managed make the save.

The Austrians settled into the contest and passed up a wonderful chance of their own to go ahead on 36 minutes. Skipper Marcel Sabitzer touched down a Michael Gregoritsch cross from the left for Christoph Baumgartner, but he was foiled by goalkeeper Mike Maignan.

That proved crucial as France took the lead two

minutes later. Ousmane Dembele gave the ball to Mbappe on the right, and he produced a stepover to get to the byline before his cutback was nodded into the far corner of his own net by the unfortunate Woerber.

Mbappe was then thwarted by Pentz as he tried to go around the goalkeeper in first-half stoppage time, but that was nothing compared to the chance he squandered 10 minutes after the restart. Adrien Rabiot sent Mbappe away, bounding in behind the Austrian defence, but he somehow put his shot wide with just the

goalkeeper to beat.

That left the game in the balance, and Austria continued to push for a leveller, without success.

Their fans were less than impressed by what they perceived as time wasting late on from Mbappe, who needed treatment after colliding with Danso in the box. He left the pitch with his shirt stained by blood, only to then come back on and sit down, earning himself a yellow card before being replaced by Olivier Giroud.

RESULT

Austria 0 France 1 (Woerber 38-og)

Turkey win thriller

AFP, DORTMUND: Turkey got their Euro 2024 campaign off to a thrilling start on Tuesday with a 3-1 win over Georgia that brought delight to a passionate army of fans in soaking wet Dortmund.

Real Madrid midfielder Arda Guler crashed in a brilliant goal in the 65th minute at a Westfalenstadion dominated by tens of thousands of Turkey supporters before Kerem Akturkoglu rolled home the third deep in stoppage time as Georgia pushed for a late leveller.

Guler, 19, had a difficult time with injuries in his first season in Madrid but stepped up for Turkey in a fiercely-contested match with Georgia, who did not look out of place in their first-ever match at a major international tournament.

Georgia were dangerous after Georges Mikautadze levelled Mert Muldur's 25th-minute opener for Turkey just after the half-hour mark, and were denied a second equaliser by the woodwork and a series of saves and blocks.

But Akturkoglu made sure Turkey would top the group ahead of Portugal's opening match with the Czech Republic. Turkey took the cue from their fer-

vent support and went at Georgia from the off, pressing their inexperienced opposition high up the pitch as a huge din came rolling down the stands.

Kaan Ayhan and Abdulkirim Bardakci both went close with headers from corners inside the first 10 minutes before Ayhan crashed a low drive off the inside of the post. And Mikautadze stunned what was effectively the home crowd in the 32nd minute by sweeping home Giorgi Kochorashvili's low cross after brilliant play down the right.

Kvaratskhelia, who was below-par throughout, then poked a good chance wide in the 62nd minute and only moments later Guler took aim from distance and arrowed in an unstoppable shot past the despairing Giorgi Mamardashvili.

But Kochorashvili and Zuriko Davitashvili were both unfortunate not to level in added time as Mamardashvili pushed forward for one last effort and Akturkoglu charged home on the break to seal a thrilling win.

RESULT

Turkey 3 (Muldur 25, Guler 65, Akturkoglu 90+7) Georgia 1 (Mikautadze 32)

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Croatia vs Albania, at the Volksparkstadion Hamburg Stadium, Hamburg, 6.30 pm

Germany vs Hungary, at the Stuttgart Arena, Stuttgart, 9.30 pm

THURSDAY

Scotland vs Switzerland, at the Cologne Stadium, Cologne, 12.30 am

Germany's golden oldies leading the charge for glory

AFP, HERZOGENAURACH: With a combined age of 106, Germany's three remaining 2014 World Cup winners Manuel Neuer, Thomas Mueller and Toni Kroos are leading the hosts' charge for Euro 2024 glory.

Friends off the pitch, Neuer, Mueller and Kroos are the only players in the 26-man squad to have each played over 100 games for Germany. But not only are they the most experienced members of the squad, they can also remember a time when Germany were on top of the football world.

Since a semi-final elimination to France at Euro 2016, the Germans have struggled in major tournaments, with two World Cup group stage exits bookending a last 16 elimination by England at Euro 2020.

After a 5-1 romp against Scotland in the tournament opener,

their best performance at a major tournament for almost a decade, Germany's golden oldies will be hoping for a successful last dance on home soil.

Oldest Germany squad since 2000

While the exploits of Jamal Musiala and Florian Wirtz, both 21, stationed either side of the 25-year-old Kai Havertz, have dominated highlights reels, Germany have gone with an experienced squad for the Euros.

With an average age of 28.5, Germany's squad is the oldest at the tournament, with 10 of the 26 members aged 30 or older.

Germany's starting XI against Scotland on Friday was the oldest they have fielded at a tournament since Euro 2000, when Lothar Matthaeus led them onto the pitch against Romania.



Manuel Neuer

Neuer, 38, is two years older than coach Julian Nagelsmann. Kroos and Mueller are both 34 -- a year older than captain Ilkay Gundogan. Gundogan made his Germany debut in 2011 but missed out as Germany lifted the World Cup in Brazil in 2014 with a back injury. Neuer's first Germany cap



Thomas Mueller

was in June 2009, while Mueller and Kroos made their debuts in the same match nine months later. Kroos, who has confirmed he will end his career at the end of the tournament, had retired from international duty in 2021 but came back with a Euro 2024 win in mind. And Kroos has undoubtedly



Toni Kroos

been the most impressive of the three, showcasing his calmness and control against Scotland.

Despite being under fire for some pre-tournament mistakes, Neuer remains a calming presence between the sticks and is still an excellent distributor of the ball. Mueller's playing peak

may be behind him but few are better at bringing a diverse cohort together. When announcing the Euro 2024 squad, Nagelsmann named Mueller "a connector" who "can link the rappers with the yodellers" in the squad.

The veteran forward seems to be doing his part at Germany's camp in the Bavarian village of Herzogenaurach. Neuer lauded the "mood and the atmosphere within the camp", saying "there's just a really good, colourful mix in our team". Neuer said he was "happy to hang out" with the younger squad members, joking that he can "hear conversations that are perhaps a little different to those with Toni Kroos or Thomas Mueller".

Experienced a lot together

Speaking on Monday, Neuer

said the trio "bring a very good perspective" to the squad.

"We've already experienced a lot together. We've had times with good or bad first games and at the beginning you don't always know where you stand."

Neuer said they would make sure Germany "keep our feet on the ground" despite blowing Scotland off the park.

"I think the relationship between us is simply very good and has been over the years too."

"But we don't just get on well off the pitch, we're also fine characters on the pitch who always give everything to the team." "Even if someone isn't playing, like Thomas isn't starting, but he is a player who contributes everything."

"We know about his ability and I'm glad I've been able to bring such great people and players into my career."

Little hectic but we're ready: Rohit on Super Eight

PTI, BRIDGETOWN (Barbados): India captain Rohit Sharma conceded that the T20 World Cup's Super 8 stage is going to be a "little hectic" but his players are prepared for the grind as there is "real keenness" among them to do "something special".

India will open their Super 8 campaign against Afghanistan on June 20, followed by games against Bangladesh (June 22, Antigua) and Australia (June 24, St Lucia). "Once we play our first game, we are going to play the next two in a span of 3 or 4 days," Rohit said in a video uploaded by the BCCI.

"It is going to be a little hectic but we are used to all of this. We travel and play a lot so that is never going to be an excuse," the 37-year-old added. The Indian team had an extended practice session on Monday with senior players like Virat Kohli and Rohit spending more-than-usual time in the nets. "There is real keenness in the group to go and do

something special. That's a good way to start the second stage. It clearly shows that everyone wants to make a difference and we take our skill sessions quite seriously," he said.

"There is something to achieve in every skill session that you do," Rohit said on the mood inside the

dressing room after an undefeated run in the group league stage.

The Indian team endured hostile batting conditions during the US leg due to the drop-in pitches used by the organisers. Rohit said the ongoing Caribbean leg brings with it a sense of familiarity and his team

would look to make the most of it.

"We have seen a lot of games here, we have played a lot of games here. So everyone understands what one needs to do to get the result in our favour. Everyone is looking forward and are quite excited as well at the same time," Rohit said.

T20 WORLD CUP SUPER EIGHT FIXTURES

JUNE 19

South Africa vs USA, at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, at the Antigua & Barbuda, 8 pm

JUNE 20

West Indies vs England, at the Daren Sammy cricket ground, St Lucia, 6 am

Afghanistan vs India, at the Kensington Oval Stadium, Bridgetown-Barbados, 8 pm

JUNE 21

Australia vs Bangladesh, at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, Antigua & Barbuda, 6 am
England vs South Africa, at the Daren Sammy cricket ground, St Lucia, 8 pm

JUNE 22

West Indies vs USA, at the Kensington Oval Stadium, Bridgetown-Barbados, 6 am

India vs Bangladesh, at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, Antigua & Barbuda, 8 pm

JUNE 23

Afghanistan vs Australia, at the Arnos Vale Stadium, Arnos Vale-St Vincent & the Grenadines, 6 am

England vs USA, at the Kensington Oval Stadium, Bridgetown-Barbados, 8 pm

JUNE 24

West Indies vs South Africa, at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, Antigua & Barbuda, 6 am
Australia vs India, at the Daren Sammy cricket ground, St Lucia, 8 pm

JUNE 25

Afghanistan vs Bangladesh, at the Arnos Vale Stadium, Arnos Vale-St Vincent & the Grenadines, 6 am

Pooran's 98 takes WI to 104-run win

PTI, GROS ISLET (St Lucia): Nicholas Pooran displayed his incredible six-hitting prowess as West Indies geared up for the Super 8 with a dominating 104-run win over Afghanistan in their final Group C match of the T20 World Cup, here, on Tuesday.

With both teams assured of a Super 8 berth, it was the two-time champions WI who displayed their batting might, amassing a formidable 218 for five, with Pooran going on a six-hitting spree during his 53-ball 98. It was the highest total for the hosts in men's T20 World Cups.

In reply, Afghanistan succumbed to scoreboard pressure, managing just 114 in 16.2 overs.

Afghanistan had bundled out their opponents for sub-100 totals in their first three games but skipper Rashid Khan's decision to bowl first here backfired as Pooran put on a ruthless display, hitting as many as 8 maximums and 6 fours during his stay.

Brief scores: West Indies 218-5 off 20 overs (Nicholas Pooran 98, Johnson Charles 43, Rovman Powell 26; Gulbadin Naib 2-14, Azmatullah Omarzai 1-41, Naveen ul Haq 1-41). Afghanistan 114 all out off 16.2 overs (Ibrahim Zadran 38, Azmatullah Omarzai 23; Obed McCoy 3-14, Akeal Hosein 2-21, Gudakesh Motie 2-28).

Emotional Boulton calls T20 World Cup exit

AFP, TAROUBA (Trinidad and Tobago): Left-arm paceman Trent Boulton said he had played his "last day" of international cricket after New Zealand's disappointing T20 World Cup campaign ended with a seven-wicket win over Papua New Guinea in Trinidad on Monday.

His 13-year stint in international cricket appeared to have ended in the downbeat setting of a 'dead' T20 World Cup game. "It feels a little bit weird, a few emotions obviously the last couple of days," said Boulton.

Pressed on whether the game represented his final New Zealand appearance, Boulton added an element of doubt: "I haven't thought much further than this, I'm in no position to comment right now. I enjoyed being out there one last time." Defeats by Afghanistan and tournament co-hosts the West Indies earlier in Group C had helped end the Black Caps' hopes of qualifying for the second-round Super Eights.

Papua New Guinea had also been eliminated before the match in front of a sparse crowd at the Brian Lara Stadium. Boulton took two wickets for 14 runs as PNG were skittled out for 78 in an innings where fellow quick Lockie Ferguson finished with a remarkable 3-0 from his maximum four overs but "Gutted to not go any further, but I'm very proud of what I've done with

the Black Caps and sad it's my last day with New Zealand," said Boulton.

The 34-year-old has been infrequently selected for international duty since being released from his New Zealand central contract in August 2022, allowing him to play in more domestic T20 leagues abroad.

The swing bowler did feature in New Zealand's 50-over World Cup campaign last year, where they reached the semi-finals only to suffer a 70-run defeat by tournament hosts India at a packed Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. Boulton's tally of 317 wickets in 78 Tests, is the fourth highest by any New Zealand bowler. Longstanding new-ball colleague Tim Southee (380 Test wickets) is second, behind Richard Hadlee (431 wickets).

"I've shared a dressing room with Tim Southee for well over a dozen years," said Boulton, with the pair both involved when New Zealand beat India in the inaugural 2021 World Test Championship final. "It's a partnership I've enjoyed forming, and we're very good friends off the field."

Brief scores: Papua New Guinea 78 all out, 19.4 overs (Charles Amiri 17; Lockie Ferguson 3-0, Tim Southee 2-11, Trent Boulton 2-14) v New Zealand 79-3, 12.2 overs (Devon Conway 35, Daryl Mitchell 19 not out, Kane Williamson 18 not out).