

## Hindenburg asks SEBI chairperson to come clean

Congress demands JPC probe; threatens stir if demand not met by govt

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** SEBI chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch has now publicly confirmed her investment in an obscure Bermuda/Mauritius fund structure, US short-seller Hindenburg Research said, asking her to come clean on all the consulting clients her offshore Singaporean as well as Indian consulting firms dealt with.

Hours after Buch and her husband issued a statement calling Hindenburg's latest tirade as an attack on the credibility of SEBI and attempted "character assassination", Hindenburg in a series of posts on X said their response includes several important admissions and raised numerous new critical questions.

**Buch's response now publicly confirms her investment in an obscure Bermuda/Mauritius fund structure, alongside money allegedly siphoned by Vinod Adani. She also confirmed the fund was run by a childhood friend of her husband, who at the time was an Adani director**

— Hindenburg

"Buch's response now publicly confirms her investment in an obscure Bermuda/Mauritius fund structure, alongside money allegedly siphoned by Vinod Adani. She also confirmed the fund was run by a childhood friend of her husband, who at the time was an Adani director," it said.

Hindenburg had on Saturday alleged that SEBI chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband had undisclosed investments in obscure offshore funds in Bermuda and Mauritius, the same entities allegedly used by Vinod Adani - the elder brother of group chairman Gautam Adani - to round-trip funds and inflate stock prices.

In response, Buch and her husband Dhaval Buch in a joint statement on Sunday said the investments were made in 2015, well before her appointment as a whole-time member of SEBI in 2017 and the sub-

sequent elevation as chairperson in March 2022, and in capacity as "private citizens living in Singapore". These funds became "dormant" on her appointment in SEBI.

**Congress Threatens Stir**  
Stepping up its attack on the PM Narendra Modi government over the Hindenburg Research's allegations against SEBI chairperson Madhabi Buch, the Congress on Monday threatened to launch a nationwide protest if its demand for a JPC (Joint Parliamentary Committee) probe into the matter is not accepted.

AICC general secretary (Organisation), K C Venugopal, described the allegations as "very serious" and accused the Prime Minister of supporting Adani on the matter.

"The Prime Minister's silence on the matter amounts to a destruction of credibility," Venugopal told reporters at the airport here.

He accused the union government of trying to divert people's attention from the matter by using the Enforcement Directorate against Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

"Don't try to threaten Rahul Gandhi with an ED notice. We will strongly oppose such diversionary tactics," the Alappuzha MP said.

Venugopal said that "this is the most serious issue in the country" and warned that if their demand for a JPC probe is not accepted, they will go ahead with a strong protest.

**BJP Rejects JPC Probe**

The BJP on Monday rejected the Congress' demand for a JPC probe into Hindenburg's allegation against the SEBI chairperson, saying it is a sham with an eye on weakening the Indian economy and destroying investment in the country.

BJP leader and former Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad reiterated the party's line that the short-selling firm's charge and the opposition's criticism of the market regulator are part of a wider conspiracy.

## SAFEGUARDING OUR FREEDOM



A security personnel stands guard during a Tiranga rally along the banks of Dal Lake, ahead of Independence Day, in Srinagar, Monday

## Goa River Sand Protectors' Network secures resounding win before NGT

State government agrees to withdraw all Environmental Clearances granted by the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority for extraction of sand in Goa's rivers

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** In a resounding victory, the Goa River Sand Protectors' Network (GRSPN) won its case before the National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Monday, as the State government agreed to withdraw all Environmental Clearances (ECs) granted by the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) for extraction of sand in Goa's rivers.

The government informed the NGT that it would undertake the District Survey Report (DSR) as required under the sustainable sand mining guidelines and only thereafter apply for fresh ECs.

The NGT, after recording the statements of the Advocate General Devidas Pangam, disposed of the appeal filed by the GRSPN against the SEIAA's ECs for sand mining in various zones across the State.

The Goa River Sand Protectors' Network, an organisation of individuals had consistently filed complaints against illegal sand mining in their villages. The Network is hosted by the NGO Goa Foundation, but does not belong to it.

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File photo of illegal sand mining going on in various parts of Goa

**"I am very glad that the government has finally accepted what we have been saying for the past three years, that you require a district survey report which a comprehensive report involving all departments and all the areas where you are proposing to give sand mining leases, to examine the impact of them on the river and on the adjacent banks**

— Norma Alvares, senior advocate and environmental activist

**"It is a victory of sorts for anti-sand mining activists. They have to be congratulated for getting together because as you know there was a sand mining mafia. It mafia was doing sand mining with full protection of police and the other authorities and the benefit of illegal mining was shared by all the authorities**

— Claude Alvares, Director of Goa Foundation

**"We welcome the NGT order. We do not want legal sand mining to stop. Once it is stopped then the illegal sand mining starts. It has affected everybody. For the common man, legal sand extraction should start. It is the responsibility of the government to complete the formalities required under law**

— Viraj Bakre of Khandola, one of the petitioners

## HOW THE RIVER SAND PROTECTORS NETWORK WON OVER THE STATE EXPERT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE

Following directions from the Court, National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), Dona Paula undertook a study on Sand Mining Impact and River Biodiversity Index at rivers of Chapora, Mandovi, Zuari, Tiracol, etc

Based on the report, the State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) in September 2021 granted the green signal for the grant of EC at seven sites with a cap of 15 cubic metres per permit per day for each location

In Chapora, permission has been granted for sand mining in Zone 1, in Morjim in Zone 2, Pirna in Zone 5, Ozorim in Zone 6, Agarwada in Zone 3 of Part I and Camurlim in Zone 3 of Part II and Zone 4 in Revora

However, the petitioner Goa River Sand Protectors' Network (GRSPN), challenged the Environment Clearance granted by the SEIAA allowing sand mining in four river stretches in the State

## DOCTOR'S RAPE & MURDER: Mamata vows CBI probe if police fail to crack case by Sunday

Protesting students criticise the chief minister for setting a seven-day deadline to address the alleged rape and murder of a fellow doctor; junior doctors at R G Kar Hospital continue to cease work

**PTI, KOLKATA:** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee vowed to transfer the alleged rape and murder case of a woman physician inside a Kolkata hospital to the CBI if the police failed to solve it by Sunday, amid public outrage.

MORE ON PG 7 >>

Supporting the cease work by junior doctors at that hospital, interns and postgraduate trainees at other state-run medical establishments across the state vowed to continue their agitation, now in its fourth day, until the culprits are brought to justice.

Banerjee's promise, how-

ever, did not placate the protesting students, who criticised the chief minister for setting a seven-day deadline to address the alleged rape and murder of a fellow doctor. They demanded a judicial inquiry, capital punishment for the culprits, adequate compensation for the victim's family and stronger security measures at hospitals.

A two-member team of the NCW this afternoon arrived in Kolkata and is scheduled to meet city Police Commissioner Vineet Goyal and the family members of the victim.

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## Rampant tree felling near Karmali railway station angers locals

Konkan Railway claims these trees were dangerous for its overhead equipment

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** Rampant tree felling adjacent to the Karmali railway station has annoyed Carambolim residents even as the Konkan Railway claimed that these trees were dangerous for its overhead equipment.

The board members of Samarth Enclave Co-Operative Housing Society in an email to the Deputy Conservator of Forest, has stated that trees were felled for three days from Friday to Sunday during day and night time by Konkan Railways at Carambolim.

"Over the past few days, several trees have been cut, purportedly to lay a new railway track. This activity has taken place during the rainy season, a critical time for the environment, and without any apparent regard for proper legal permissions or the environmental impact," it stated.

Cont on Pg 11 >>

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— Board members, Samarth Enclave Co-Operative Housing Society, Old Goa

The trees were dangerous for overhead equipment. Our entire section is electrified. Even if it is slightly leaning, it is dangerous. There was some problem in some other sections because of the trees. They were prone to falling off during heavy rains

— Baban Ghatge, Deputy General Manager (public relations), Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd

## MANY WILL DANCE VIOLATING SOUND RULES, BUT ARE AUTHORITIES DANCING TO THE TUNES OF EDM PARTY PEOPLE

## May the light of thousand candles dim the illegal noise of techno parties on Independence Day

The pain of those who suffer loud music, with the Collector, Goa State Pollution Control Board and the police looking the other way, is immense; people of Anjuna Vagator, ready to take the Gandhian approach with candle lit protest

AUGUSTO RODRIGUES

**ANJUNA:** Convinced that the government is dancing to the tunes of organisers playing loud music in violation of Supreme Court orders, villagers from Anjuna to Arambol are pooling their resources for the candle light protest, planned on

Independence Day outside Anjuna police station.

"I am a member of the noise monitoring committee constituted as per the directions of the High Court on March 21, 2007 and being in it is useless because the authorities do not care," observed a demoralised Devanand Shirodkar.

"I went to visit an old friend who lives in a roof house in Vagator yesterday (Sunday) night and was pained to hear the music blasting through. We have reached a very sad state, where outsiders today care a damn for the old and the young of the village and this is partly because we have been taking things easy for long," reflects Shirodkar, who claims that despite being a member of the noise monitoring committee, he has still not been provided with the instruments to measure noise decibels.

"This committee is a mockery

## From Anjuna to Arambol, true Goans will fight for freedom from noise pollution, on Independence Day

Candlelight vigil against the spate of techno EDM parties at huge costs blatantly advertised on Instagram; Goa authorities appear peacefully ignorant

AUGUSTO RODRIGUES

**VAGATOR:** Convinced that the Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB), the police, the Collector's office and the Anjuna Panchayat have been feeding them empty promises, villagers from Anjuna and Vagator have decided to hold a candlelight protest against loud music allowed to be played in violation of Supreme Court orders on Independence Day outside Anjuna Police Station.

"We have decided to have our third candlelight meet on Independence Day outside the Anjuna Police

**Are Independence Day tech parties a freedom pass to break sound laws?**  
KNOCK-KNOCK RESPECTED NORTH GOA COLLECTOR (IAS)  
North Goa Collector Dr Sneha Gite did not respond to queries sent to her on WhatsApp on Sunday nor did she respond to phone calls. Nor did she reply to the query. Can you please let us know to whom and how many permissions have been issued (to those who are advertising multi-day freedom parties) to play loud music after 10 pm?

Our MLA came and promised us before the then PM that music-

We have to receive a request. The same is forwarded to the-

and will continue to be so as long as the police are not instructed to act. Loud music can easily be stopped by the police but that are not," believes Shirodkar.

"I am at a funeral now but will call you later," said Dominic Perei-

ra, the other member of the Anjuna Noise Monitoring Committee, when asked about his role so far. Dominic did not respond to calls till the time of going to the press.

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## FIGHT AGAINST NOISE POLLUTION

The Goa Bench of the Bombay at Goa had on 21.03.2007 directed that a noise monitoring committee be constituted in the Suo Moto Writ Petition No 4/2006

Florian Lobo and Desmond Alvares were the first two members appointed by the government

In 2013, Devanand Shirodkar and Dominic Pereira were appointed

In his suggestion to the High Court of Bombay at Goa in Contempt petition no 12/2023, Amicus curiae Adv Nigel Frias suggested: Scope of the members: "carry out surprise inspections at various shacks, restaurants, hotels in coastal villages which

are known to be organising late night parties with music amplified sounds and if the sound levels are found to be beyond the permissible decibels or the sound system is being used beyond 10 pm in the night, they should file a complaint and register an FIR with the local police station immediately

The report of the inspections carried out by the members of the Noise Monitoring Committee and the action taken shall be noted in the register which shall be signed by the members and the Police officer and such reports shall be submitted periodically to the superintendent of Police"

I went to visit an old friend who lives in a roof house in Vagator yesterday night and was pained to hear the music blasting through. We have reached a very sad state, where outsiders today care a damn for the old and the young of the village and this is partly because we have been taking things easy for long

— Devanand Shirodkar, Member Noise Monitoring Committee, Anjuna

Agitation is the only way forward. It is very obvious that it is the government that is benefitting by allowing laws to be broken. If the Chief Minister is not going to do anything, how can we expect the police?

— Clive D'Souza, Anjuna resident

**BIG DISCOUNT SHOPPING FESTIVAL**  
PANCHAYAT MARKET COMPLEX  
Opp. PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRE  
**CHINCHINIM**  
7th To 18th AUGUST  
TIME: 10.30am To 9.00 pm

# Frightening to see school children risking their lives on Margao's congested roads: Residents

Raising concerns about traffic congestion and pedestrian safety, locals submit memorandum to Additional Collector I demanding immediate steps to address the traffic congestion issue in the State's commercial capital

Team Herald

**MARGAO:** Expressing serious concerns over the safety of school children due to the movement of heavy traffic, the residents of Margao, the State's commercial capital, have yet again urged the government to address traffic congestion in the area immediately.

They said that it is really frightening to see school children risking their lives while walking and crossing roads on their way to school and back home due to continuous traffic movement.

A group of residents on Monday submitted a memo-

randum to Additional Collector I Srinet Kothwale raising concerns about traffic congestion and pedestrian safety. The memorandum outlined the urgent need for initiating steps to address the hazardous conditions faced by school students and pedestrians.

Speaking to media persons, Prabhav Naik, a resident and social worker, urged the government to take immediate steps to address the traffic congestion issue in the commercial capital.

He demanded that the government take proactive steps to shift the schools, which are in the heart of the town,

## MADGAVKARS SUGGEST

▶▶ Taking proactive steps to shift the schools, which are in the heart of the town, to Davorlim

▶▶ Launching a drive to demarcate parking zones on all major roads in Margao

▶▶ Deploying maximum traffic personnel on all main roads of the town to regulate traffic

movement and initiating strict action against violators

▶▶ Utilising old bus stand for parking with proper demarcation of the area

▶▶ Strict monitoring of town buses and those passing through Margao to ensure passenger safety and discipline

to Davorlim, where land is already identified to create a school complex on lines with Cujira Complex in Bambolim.

I appeal to the South Goa Collector to initiate a drive to

demarcate parking zones on all major roads in Margao," Naik said.

"These zones need to be clearly marked with white lines, and proper signboards

should be installed to indicate the designated areas for four-wheelers, two-wheelers, three-wheelers, and so on," he suggested.

Naik said that the government should also deploy maximum traffic personnel on all main roads of the town to regulate traffic movement. Strict action should be taken against violators. Traffic Police and RTO should get into coordinated efforts to resolve the traffic congestion in Margao.

Old Bus Stand needs to be utilised for parking with proper demarcation of the area. It has now become a dumping yard of vehicles

involved in accidents, lying there for months, thus blocking space for regular parking of vehicles," Naik added.

According to him, it is high time that the authorities strictly monitor town buses and those passing through Margao as there is absolutely no discipline while boarding and alighting passengers.

"I hope the South Goa Collector and the government will take note of the issues I've raised and initiate immediate action to provide relief to Margao residents as well as the thousands of Goans who visit Margao daily," said Prakash Shetkar, another resident.

## FOOTLOOSE

SAGUN GAWADE



A migrant labourer washes his feet at the drinking water facility at the railway station in Carambolim, on Monday

## Nod to pay-parking plan for grounds near SGPDA office, opposite vegetable market

Team Herald

**MARGAO:** The South Goa Planning and Development Authority (SGPDA) approved a new pay-parking proposal for its grounds located in front of its office and opposite the vegetable market.

At its recent Board meeting, the SGPDA moved ahead with a plan by directing its officials to establish a clear fee structure before implementing the system.

The move sparked a debate about the adequacy of existing parking spaces, especially with the nearby Osia Commercial Complex housing numerous offices and businesses.

SGPDA chairman Krishna 'Daji' Salkar, said that he

had taken over the SGPDA leadership two years ago, while the Osia Commercial Complex was constructed around two decades earlier.

Salkar will consult with officials to determine if the complex has reserved parking as per construction rules and examine building permissions for compliance with parking provisions.

The complex, which includes four government offices, the INOX theatre, a multiplex, and various shopping malls spread across five multi-storeyed buildings of the SGPDA mega retail market complex, attracts many visitors and employees daily, raising concerns about whether existing parking facilities can meet the demand.

The situation is further complicated by the daily stream of customers visiting the retail fish, vegetable, fruit, and meat markets within the PDA complex.

A key concern that has emerged is whether the Osia complex has provided sufficient parking space for its tenants and visitors. Moreover, the adequacy of parking provisions for the two multiplexes within the complex is under scrutiny, particularly regarding compliance with legal requirements for theatres.

Locals feel that introducing pay-parking on the spacious land acquired to relocate the Margao pick-up stand should be preceded by a comprehensive parking strategy.

## Frank elected unopposed as Chinchim-Deussua sarpanch

Emphasises development is an ongoing process; assures to carry forward current & future developmental works

Team Herald

**MARGAO:** Frank Viegas was elected unopposed as Sarpanch of Chinchim-Deussua Village Panchayat at the meeting held on Monday.

During the meeting, Frank was unanimously elected as the new Sarpanch with support of 11 members.

Speaking to media persons, Viegas stated that their motto is to keep the village green and clean with good governance.

He expressed his commitment to environmental sustainability and effective management to ensure the well-being of all residents.

Recently, Valentino Barretto stepped down from the sarpanch's post, leading to an election for his successor.

"We are in urgent need of a new panchayat ghar, which the villagers have been demanding from the government. Our current panchayat ghar is in a pathetic condition, with inadequate space for proper functioning," Viegas stated.

He emphasised that development is an ongoing process, and assured that he would continue to carry forward ongoing and future developmental works.

Viegas assured to take up the panchayat ghar issue on top priority. The focus will be on improving infrastructure and ensuring effective governance to meet the needs of the community.

The newly elected Sarpanch stated that the government should not impose unwanted projects like National Highway 66 on their village.

"The government should not divide the villages with projects such as NH 66. The villagers of Chinchim have already resolved to oppose the project, and the government needs to respect their decision," Viegas said.

Deputy sarpanch Sharmila Gracias appreciated former sarpanch Valentino Barretto for his efforts in fostering unity among the panchayat members.

"We have high hopes from the newly elected sarpanch to lead our village towards modernisation," she added.

## Govt to set up 48 new libraries, renovate 79 existing ones

Gaude emphasises the urgent need to promote reading habits across Goa

Team Herald

**MARGAO:** Stating that librarians have a significant role in promoting a reading culture, Minister for Art and Culture Govind Gaude announced that 48 new libraries will be established, and nearly 79 existing libraries will undergo renovation in the near future.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion of National Librarian Day at Dr Francisco Luis Gomes District Library in Navelim, Minister for Art and Culture Govind Gaude, along with Margao MLA Digambar Kamat and other dignitaries emphasised the urgent need to promote reading habits across Goa.

Highlighting the importance of instilling a reading habit among the youth to foster intellectual growth and lifelong learning, Gaude said, "It has been observed that in rural

“The government can provide infrastructure and carry out awareness campaigns, but it is essential for readers to actively visit the libraries to reap the benefits. True development will be evident when more and more people line up at libraries, eager to gain knowledge through books

Govind Gaude, Minister for Art and Culture

areas, the reading habit is not growing. However, the government has planned to start 48 new libraries across Goa, and nearly 79 existing libraries will be renovated. Currently, the younger generation is experiencing significant stress, and the lack of reading habits is preventing them from finding relief and overcoming these challenges."

He stated that the lack of solutions for managing stress has led many individuals to take drastic measures, including suicide.

"The government can provide infrastructure and carry out

awareness campaigns, but it is essential for readers to actively visit the libraries to reap the benefits," he added.

He said, "True development will be evident when more and more people line up at libraries, eager to gain knowledge through books."

Kamat, in his address, highlighted that the nation will become a world power when more people take an active interest in reading books and other literature.

"Instead of giving mobile phones, parents must focus on encouraging children to develop reading habits," he stated.

## Shorttakes

### 1 Senior citizen dies after falling into a trench at Mollem

**PONDA:** A senior citizen died on the spot in Jambolim-Mollem after falling into a trench dug by a contractor for laying underground power cables on Sunday night.

The deceased has been identified as Raju Bhat (60). According to available information, it is learnt that the electricity contractor has dug a trench for laying power cables at Jambolim-Mollem. Bhat from Mollem was returning home on his two-wheeler and is suspected to have fallen directly into the roadside chamber while trying to give way to a speeding vehicle. The locals initially admitted him to the health centre at Piliem-Dharbandora. He died while being taken to GMC. The locals have blamed the contractor for the incident and have demanded compensation for the family of deceased. Collem Police conducted the panchanama.

### 2 Fatorda police arrest Borda resident for possessing 'ganja'

**MARGAO:** Fatorda Police arrested Borda resident Vinayak Jadhav after he was found in possession of a green leafy substance suspected to be ganja worth Rs 31,400.

Police have registered a case under Section 20(b)(ii)(A) of NDPS Act against Jadhav.

Police said that on August 10, based on the State complaint by LPSI, Fatorda Police Station conducted a raid at Arlem and caught Jadhav red-handed for possessing a green leafy substance suspected to be ganja worth Rs 31,400.

The accused has been remanded in two days police custody. Further investigation is in progress.

### 3 Loutolim house burgled, gold and valuables worth Rs 10 lakh stolen

**MARGAO:** A theft was reported at a house in Loutolim, where robbers decamped with gold ornaments and other valuables worth around Rs 10 lakh. The exact number of robbers and the precise value of the stolen items are yet to be determined, as the occupants of the house were asleep during the incident. The theft has sent shockwaves through the village and surrounding areas, with locals expressing concern over the rising cases of such crimes.

Police sources confirmed that cash, gold ornaments, and other valuables were stolen, but the process of identifying the missing items with the homeowner is ongoing, according to the police. Preliminary estimates suggest that the stolen valuables could amount to Rs 10 lakh.

Despite the theft occurring on Saturday night, the Maina-Curtorim Police had not registered the offence as of 10 pm on Sunday. Upon receiving the information, the police quickly arrived at the scene and began their inquiry, which continued late into the night.

According to police sources, the robbers gained entry into the house through the back door and then proceeded to open cupboards, stealing cash, gold ornaments, and other valuable items. The police are working to collect CCTV footage and have enlisted the help of a dog squad and fingerprint experts, but no major clues have been uncovered so far to identify the culprits.

A large number of locals have visited the area, expressing their concerns about the increasing number of thefts.

### 4 Margao resident booked for illegally transporting buffaloes

**MARGAO:** The Fatorda Police has registered an offence under Section 11(1)(a), (d), (e) of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, along with Section 325 of the BNS Act 2023. The case was registered based on a complaint lodged by Pawan Jadhav, a resident of Rumdamol, Davorlim.

According to the complaint, the accused, identified as Benedict D'Costa from Madel, Piqueno, Margao, was found transporting three male buffaloes, aged between 3 to 4 years, in a mini pickup truck near Chowgule College, Margao. The buffaloes were reportedly confined in the carrier of the vehicle without proper documentation, subjecting them to cruelty.

During the investigation, the police served a notice under Section 35/3 upon the accused.

### 5 Delhiite ends life in Assolna, unnatural death case registered

**MARGAO:** Darshan Chetri, originally from Vasant Vihar, Delhi, was found dead in his rented room at Passagem, Assolna on Sunday. The Cuncolim Police registered a case of unnatural death under Section 194 of the BNSS.

The incident came to light when Ivon Fernandes, a resident of Passagem, Assolna, reported to the police that Darshan had committed suicide.

The police team immediately visited the spot and conducted the panchanama. The body was subsequently referred for a post-mortem examination, and then handed over to the deceased's family members.



## WILL THE PORVORIM TRAFFIC DIVERSION PLAN DECREASE OR INCREASE THE TRAFFIC WOES OF THE COMMUTERS?

“Government seems to be making a joke out of the people in trying out the traffic diversions. One cannot understand why it has waited so long to try out the new plan in view of the construction of the flyover. It was a nightmarish situation this morning where officer goes were delayed because of the new traffic plan. Worse still was the plight of the two-wheeler riders, cyclists and pedestrians. The government in its attempt to have an alternate route seems to disregard the rights of vulnerable road users. The road diversion is in an area, passing through several educational institutions. The commuters/students who get down from the buses at these institutions go by foot. The government is ignoring the safety of these students

Soter D'Souza, resident

“There were no problems, since it has been executed today itself. There was no traffic block and the traffic flow was smooth. The traffic police personnel have done good work. If there are police present every day it will be good. The diversion is good. There are no problems so far. Now it has to be seen at peak hours especially in the evenings. If traffic police are present, I expect the traffic flow to be smooth. In the morning there were no traffic blocks. Even in the afternoon, after the schools were over, there was no traffic congestion

Pramod Divgi, rider

“I'm one of the affected residents of Porvorim, due to the elevated corridor that has just begun. I stand to lose my compound wall which of course is being built by the company concerned. Today was the first day of the trial diversion which is taking place, at a junction here at Delfino's going from Porvorim towards Panjim. So far today it has been well manned with lots of traffic police personnel. It also happened to be a bright clear day. There was no delay or backlog of traffic that usually happens. I also was in Mapusa, on my way back, I saw the diversion at a nursery to the Sangolda-Guirim junction. Today's diversion seemed to be ok, it went off very smoothly. But that was probably because it was early afternoon. We will have to check as the days go by

Oreena Vaz, resident

YouTube



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## Commuters fear Borim Bridge may collapse any moment

Demand that the bridge be used only for light vehicles; call for diverting heavy vehicles via new Zuari Bridge

Team Herald

**PONDA:** The Borim Bridge, inaugurated in 1986, is overloaded with heavy traffic and has caused concern among commuters, who fear that the structure could collapse like the major bridge across the Kali River near Karwar, disrupting the lives of thousands of employees and causing hardship to the public.

The locals have demanded that the bridge, which has a capacity of 30 tonnes, be used only for light vehicles and called for diverting heavy vehicles via the new Zuari Bridge.

Despite ongoing repair works, there is anxiety among commuters about the bridge's condition as they want the government to take immediate action to address the situation.

The locals said the bridge



has been put on 'life support' considering the truss erected below it.

They fear in case the bridge collapses, it will be impossible for boats to ferry thousands of these vehicles every day. The bridge connects Ponda taluka with Salcete taluka.

Kishore Rao, an engineer, recalled that the 40-year-old bridge across Kali river, a



crucial link between Karwar and Goa collapsed and added that if this bridge meets the same fate, then daily commuters, especially the poor, will be hit hard.

He said that it's high time that the government issues a notification to divert heavy traffic to the Zuari Bridge till the new bridge is built.

He said that when Zuari Bridge was under repair, and

till a new bridge was built, heavy traffic was diverted via Borim Bridge, the condition of which has worsened. Borim Bridge has a carrying capacity of 20 to 30 tonnes, but there is movement of heavy vehicles.

Anuj Madgaonkar, another Borim local, said that till the new bridge is built, heavy traffic should be diverted via other routes.

# Porvorim traffic diversion trial run begins ahead of six-lane corridor construction

## Cops on toes: bumper to bumper traffic jam on narrow service road; difficult to take huge density of vehicular traffic

Team Herald

**PORVORIM:** The Goa Traffic Cell and the Porvorim police on Monday morning started a trial run of the Porvorim traffic diversion in view of construction of the six-lane elevated corridor.

Traffic originating from Socorro was diverted to the existing service road, while traffic in Porvorim was rerouted from Delfino's supermarket side towards an alternate service road.

The North Goa District Magistrate has temporarily prohibited movement of heavy goods vehicles entering Goa and they shall be diverted at Patradevi to proceed via Banda-Dodamarg-Bicholim-Sankhali for onward journey till the completion of the construction of National Highway-66 elevated corridor project.

All heavy goods vehicles proceeding towards talukas of the Bicholim, Sattari and Tiswadi and South Goa district shall be diverted at Banda to proceed via



Dodamarg-Bicholim throughout the day and night.

The Heavy vehicles proceeding to Pernem and Bardez taluka shall stop and park on the side of the road from Patradevi to Insuli Check-post from 6 am to 10 pm and shall enter Goa via Patradevi Check-post between 10 pm and 6 am.

Journalist and musician Sigmond de Souza of Socorro, said traffic was diverted from the main road in front of Delfino's supermarket to service road.

Meanwhile, precautions need to be taken for vehicles coming from teachers training college as it can

cause accidents and the authorities should find out ways to regulate traffic.

Juino de Souza, a resident of Porvorim said, "Though done of trial basis and in public interest to streamline free flow of traffic, diversion near Delfino's signal where the traffic is brought on the service road creates bumper to bumper traffic jam, more so that the service road is narrow and cannot take the huge density of vehicular traffic. Service road is built not to divert heavy vehicular traffic and it causes traffic snarls. There is also ACDIL High School and all these issues should be addressed. It took me 10 minutes to cover a distance of less than one-km because there was bumper to bumper traffic jam."

Wilbur Ticlo of Khorrem-Socorro said, "While travelling, a lot

of traffic police were deployed and traffic has to be controlled by them on the national highway. They should have a proper diversion, and avoid chaos and congestion. I have written to the Socorro village panchayat to ensure traffic management and to look into the matter, since roads are in bad shape and traffic slows down due to potholes. Monday was the first day of traffic diversion and police have to be deployed by 10 pm everyday. Also traffic signals near Tisk junction should be in working condition."

On the other hand, DySP (Traffic) Siddhant Shirodkar said that there was no hindrance in the traffic movement from Paniim to Mapusa where the vehicles on reaching near O' Conqueiro Hotel and Sangolda junction, will take service road, to proceed to Mapusa. For every new action, you will find some issues coming up and we are tackling them. I appeal to vehicle operators not to overtake. Also the PWD is also working on road roads to streamline the traffic."

# Autopsy confirms Delhiite, who was found at Baga, was murdered; trio held

## Postmortem reveals 20-year-old Harish Tanvar, found dead on Baga beach, had multiple stab injuries all over his body and bled to death; three suspects confess to killing Tanvar with a knife and stealing his belongings

Team Herald

**CALANGUTE:** The law and order situation in the coastal State of Goa has deteriorated further, with yet another shocking incident coming to light. The postmortem on Harish Tanvar, 20, resident of Bhaishya Vihar Rani Kera, Delhi, who was found dead on Baga beach, has confirmed that he was brutally murdered.

It may be recalled that Tanvar was found dead on the Baga beach around 200 metres away from Tito's Lane at around 1 am on Saturday. His body was later sent to the Goa Medical College for post-mortem examination where it was revealed that Tanvar has multiple stab injuries all over his body and he bled to death.

Police later scanned the area and rounded up three suspects who confessed that they had brutally stabbed Tanvar with a knife and fled



with his belongings.

The accused Sahil, a native of Uttarakhand presently residing at Maddawado Calangute, Noor from Uttar Pradesh and resident of Parra and Sunil from Nepal were later arrested by the police and have allegedly confessed to the crime.

Sources revealed that the three were touts and were residing in Goa for the last 20 years, could speak fluent Konkani and eked out a living by committing petty crimes and selling 'Golmaal' a concocted version of home-made ganja made from tobacco and urea and would spend their nights at the Tinto at Calangute. They would basically sell

the drugs to tourists at cheap rates.

"On the fateful day, the trio was in drunken stupor, noticed Tanvar on the beach and tried to sell him 'Golmaal'. When he refused to buy the spurious stuff, they tried to rob him to which he resisted and fought back. The trio then knocked him down, while one of the accused pinned him down, the two others mercilessly stabbed Tanvar with a knife," said a police officer.

"The trio then fled with Tanvar's bag, mobile and Rs 5,000 leaving the injured youth who bled to his death on a rainy night on the beach," said a cop.

The body was spotted floating in the water close to the beach on Saturday by lifeguards who retrieved it and informed the police. The Calangute Police on Monday registered a murder case against the trio after receiving the postmortem report.

## THRASH TALES

SAGUN GAWADE



It's been a fortnight since the traditional fishermen have been engaged in clearing the waste washed ashore at Caranzalem beach. The fishing community has complained of incurring losses in lakhs of rupees as they could not harvest fish at the beach

# Bandodkar Samadhi to be renovated: CM

## Khalap announces first late Bandodkar Memorial Award

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** The 51st first death anniversary of Goa's first Chief Minister Dayanand 'Bhausaheb' Bandodkar was observed across the State on Monday.

Bandodkar died in office on August 12 1973 at the age 62. He was seen as a leader of the Bahujan Samaj and worked for upliftment of the downtrodden. Bandodkar laid the foundation for the development of Goa by building primary schools and primary health centres in villages, introducing the concept of tourism hostels, industrial estates etc, on which subsequent chief ministers expanded. In his initial years, he propagated the merger of Goa with Maharashtra and Marathi as the official language of Goa.



On the occasion, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant attended and addressed a programme organised by the Gomantak Maratha Samaj, and distributed the Samaj Bhushan Puraskar to various people.

Speaking on occasion, Sawant said that late Bhausaheb Bandodkar laid the foundation for modern Goa with focus on education. He urged everyone to take inspiration from the legacy of Bandodkar to build Swayampurna

Goa and Viksit Bharat.

Speaking to mediapersons after laying a wreath at the Bandodkar's memorial, the Chief Minister informed that the renovation work of Bandodkar's Samadhi Sthal would be taken up on a war footing. He said that the designs were ready and family members will be taken into confidence before starting the renovation work.

Addressing concerns regarding maintenance and upkeep of Samadhisthal, he

## PONDAITES PAY TRIBUTES TO BHAU

**PONDA:** Cutting across various party lines, residents of Ponda paid rich floral tribute to former CM Bhausaheb Bandodkar on his death anniversary celebrated at the Farmagudi statue.

Art and Culture Minister Govind Gaude, PMC Chairperson Anand Naik, Councillors Rupak Desai, and Ritesh Naik garlanded the statue. Art and Culture Minister Govind Gaude highlighted Bhaui's significant contributions in bringing education to the doorstep of the people through the establishment of GPS schools. He praised Bhaui as a visionary leader who not only focused on education but also contributed to the overall development of health, sports, and industries in Goa. Gaude emphasised the importance of youth embodying late Bhaui's ideals.

assured that all steps will be taken to maintain the place.

Thereafter, the Chief Minister garlanded the statue of Bhausaheb Bandodkar at the Old Secretariat, Panjim and then at Secretariat, Porvorim, offering floral tributes to the former leader

er of Goa.

During a programme at Pernem, former Minister Ramakant Khalap announced the first Bhausaheb Bandodkar Memorial Award to Ashutosh Apa Teli from the taluka, and 2002 batch IAS officer of Rajasthan cadre.

## Fraudsters target Speaker, seek money from MLAs by creating fake WhatsApp ID

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** Goa Assembly Speaker Ramesh Tawadkar has filed a police complaint against unknown persons at the Cybercrime Cell of Goa police for impersonating him through a fake WhatsApp ID and demanding money from Goa MLAs.

Speaking to reporters, Tawadkar said, "Two or three days back, I noticed that someone had created a fake ID in my name and was asking money from all the MLAs in the state through WhatsApp messages. Some MLAs called me up and showed me the messages which they had received."

"The MLAs noticed that someone was trying to extort money and damaging my reputation. Today I have lodged a complaint at Canacona Police Station against an unknown person. I have also lodged a complaint with the Cyber Crime of Goa Police. I urge the MLAs and my well wishers to take note of it," he said.

## Fatorda MLA says State govt, K'taka colluding to facilitate diversion of Mhadei water

### Questions govt's silence on Prawah panel report

Team Herald

**MARGAO:** Goa Forward Party (GFP) criticised the State Government in view of the Mhadei-Prawah authority being silent on concerns of Goa regarding the diversion of water through the Kalsa-nullah.

Sardesai referred to the minutes of the second Prawah meeting, which he said exposed claims of Chief Minister Pramod Sawant that the Authority had taken cognisance of the misdeeds of the Karnataka government.

"The minutes gave no mention of what Goa has pointed out. On the con-

trary, the minutes say that Karnataka provided good hospitality and that Goa has to pay Rs 1.65 crore to the Mhadei-Prawah. So finally, nothing is happening with Mhadei. This shows the effect of the double engine," said Sardesai.

The Fatorda MLA alleged that the State government and the Karnataka government were colluding with each other to facilitate the diversion of water and lamented that the way things are going, the water from Mhadei River Basin will slowly but surely get diverted.

The Opposition MLA also slammed the attitude

of ministers in the BJP-led State government as being the cause of making the government broken beyond repair.

"There are many ministers who deserve to be sacked. A cabinet reshuffle is like a band-aid solution," Sardesai added.

The MLA also questioned the government's late response to hill cutting and accused the authorities of turning a blind eye to such activities in the past. He warned that all such talk of 'development' by the government could lead to a Wayanad landslide scenario repeating in Goa.

The Fatorda MLA also

pointed out that on August 14, the government will be laying the foundation stone for the revamped Fatorda station and police quarters. Sardesai said both were needed as the present buildings are dilapidated. He added soon Fatorda will have its own traffic cell and also a command centre with CCTV cameras to monitor and act on traffic violations.

Sardesai added that the GFP-initiated Sunday Dialogues in Curchorem, which received a good response on Sunday, will be held in all other constituencies throughout the State.

## Onus now on talathis to keep vigil over hill cutting on weekends, holidays

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** Talathis were on Monday ordered to inspect and report hill cutting exercises and construction activities and other works within their jurisdiction which are carried out in continuous manner, including on Saturdays, Sundays and on holidays.

An order issued by South Goa Collector and Chairperson of District Disaster Management Authority A Asvin Chandru, "The compliance with these directions is mandatory and will be closely monitored. Failure to act promptly and diligently may result in disciplinary action."

The order has also asked the Talathis to submit a consolidated report regarding the illegalities to the Collector immedi-

ately thereafter. Recently, Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant had said that landslide-prone hills will be identified and the government will also take the help of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in identifying landslide-prone areas.

"Hill cutting should be stopped in the state to avoid loss of lives, and properties due to landslides and related natural disasters. A monitoring system is to be established under the District Collector to curb the illegal hill cutting, and Mamlatdars and Police Inspectors are to be the members. Talathi will be responsible for informing about the illegal activities in his jurisdiction, according to which the authority shall act," he said.

## Authorities clean Kranti Maidan, make it safer for walkers, senior citizens

Team Herald

**PONDA:** In response to a report published by O Herald in its August 7 edition, the Ponda Municipal Council (PMC) and the Public Works Department (PWD) took swift action to clean Kranti Maidan. This public space, which is not only the venue for various National Day celebrations but also a popular spot for morning and evening walks, especially for senior citizens, had recently become hazardous due to slippery floor tiles following heavy rainfall.

PMC Chairperson Anand Naik confirmed that the cleaning initiative was undertaken to ensure that senior citizens can safely use the area for their regular exercises. The slippery condition of the tiles had caused inconvenience,



Maidan's entrance and surroundings has been met with appreciation from the community, particularly from the walkers, who frequently visit the space. The cleaning of the Kranti

# Goa receives record breaking rain: all gauge stations surpass 100-inch mark

## As far as water levels in dams are concerned, except Tillari and Anjunem dams, all are 100 per cent full

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** Though Goa is witnessing respite from continuous rains for the last few days but the monsoon this year has left the state soaking with all the gauge stations in the state surpassing the 100 inch mark. Even Valpoi and Sanguem have surpassed 150 inch mark while others are inching towards the same figure.

According to data from IMD Goa, from June 1, 2024, to August 11, 2024, Mapusa has received 125.9 inches of rainfall, Pernem 140.5 inches, Ponda 134.7 inches, Panjim 129.2 inches, Old Goa 135.3 inches, Sanquelim 148.6 inches, Valpoi 168 inches,



Dabolim 106.7 inches, Margao 130 inches, Mormugao 119.2 inches, Quepem 148.6 inches and Sanguem 166.7 inches of rainfall.

The state's seasonal rainfall from June 1 to August 7 stood at 132.6 inches as against the normal rainfall of 85.78 inches, registering an increase of 54.6 per cent.

As far as average rainfall is concerned, the state

has received 51.1 per cent more rainfall than the normal one. During the period of June 1 and August 11, the state has received 151 inches of average rainfall as against the normal rainfall of 90.7 inches.

According to the IMD Goa, North Goa received 51.4 per cent more average rainfall than the normal one while South Goa received

## STORAGE LEVEL OF DAMS AS ON AUGUST 12, 2024

- ▶ Selaulim 104 per cent
- ▶ Tillari 86 per cent
- ▶ Anjunem 81 per cent
- ▶ Chapoli 100 per cent
- ▶ Amthane 100 per cent
- ▶ Panchawadi 100 per cent
- ▶ Gaunem 100 per cent

50.8 per cent more rainfall during the period.

As far as dams are concerned, Selaulim dam has received 151.5 inches of rainfall from a period of June 1 to August 9, 2024, as against 122.8 inches re-

ceived during the same period last year.

Chapoli dam has received 100.8 of rainfall from June 1 to August 9, 2024, as against 128 of rainfall received during the same period last year.

Anjunem has received 139.8 of rainfall from June 1 to August 9, 2024, as against 184.1 received during the same period previous year.

As far as water levels in dams are concerned, except Tillari and Anjunem dams, all dams in the state are 100 per cent full. Even Selaulim dam is full by 102.99 per cent, although it is less than around 2.5 per cent compared to the previous year.

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Wanted Goan Chef, Mediterranean, Continental, Allrounder Chefs, Assistant Chef, Dishwasher, Food and accommodation provided, Porvorim. Call 7066404723.

Wanted Ladies Tailor for Tailoring Shop in Margao. Contact 7875226943

Caravela Café requires Chefs, Goan Cooks, Kitchen staff. Attractive salary. Whatsapp applications to 9860089254, 9730231732, 9890192254. Email: msgoanhospitality@gmail.com

Wanted graphic designer for Leading Brand Consulting Firm. Best in Industry Salary. Full time-Saligao. Whatsapp Profile & CV to 8669212986/ connect@dranding.co

Wanted experienced beautician for a beauty salon in Raia Salcete-Goa Contact. 9145380485

Urgently wanted a taxi driver with taxi batch for 5 star hotel in south goa contact 8390435226

Need a male supervisor for a reputed firm's factory at zuarinagar. Contact: 9822268115 / 9923468407

Wanted Office Admin to manage day to day company operations Drafting of Valuation Reports. Basic Accountancy and Knowledge of Tally will be an additional advantage. WhatsApp CV to 9823056298.

Bale & Bale, Chartered Accountants, require commerce graduates as accounts/ audit assistants/trainees for Margao & Curchorem. May apply to balenbale@gmail.com or post to 1st Floor, Mauranne, opp police station, Curchorem Goa. 403706.

Urgent hiring for Sales Staff for Branded Retail Stores in Porvorim, Bambolim , Margao Competent salary, benefits plus incentives offered . Candidates email resume "hr@nixretails.com" or whatsapp 9307383416.

Wanted beautician for ladies beauty salon in margao. Candidate from in and around Margao with Having minimum 1 or 2 years experience, preferred salary plus commission offered as per experience. Contact 9527370297

Required housemaid full time to stay at Savordim/ Curchorem for cooking and cleaning, salary 12000 to 14000 , 9970952785, 7219596425

Wanted female staff for making chapati for shop in Miramar. Timing: 9- 3 Or 12- 6. Salary: 7000/- Ph: 7875239320

Wanted Asst Cook / Kitchen Helpers for Café in Gogol Margao. Contact 9130001659

Urgently wanted Female Full time Sales and Billing Staff for Pastry Palace, Davorlim-Salcete Basic computer knowledge required. Ph: 7083291789 moversmartgoa@gmail.com

ALL ROUNDER COOK with good EXPERIENCE wanted for a RESTAURANT IN SOUTH GOA. AT-COMMUNICATION SKILLS. Food & Accommodation provided.Call 9657719242, 7499406765

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SITUATIONS VACANT

Urgent vacancy in Aquaqueem Goa Water & Foods in Pilerne Industrial Estate for Microbiologist. Fresher/ experienced. Candidate must be from North Goa. Kindly contact Dharmaram Jethu 9764504521, 9284340977

Wanted office staff for Event office in margao. Must have good communication skills in English, Hindi, konkani. Call 8484082334

Wanted Villa housekeeper/ room-boy (15k-17k/m Salary) for luxury Villa in Calangute. Minimum 2-4 year exp in Hotel industry and does not consume alcohol/ smoking/ gutka. Above 25+ years of age. Staff accommodation provided with kitchen. No food. Whatsapp CV +918975355591

Urgently require to work in panjim :1) Office boy for indoor and outdoor work with 2 wheeler licence. 2) sales incharge 3) Computer Engineer / Technician with complete knowledge of computer hardware and networking, fresher can apply, for interview Contact 8208153023

Wanted Truck Driver, Video/ Maintenance/ Light Technicians in Panjim. Contact 8806014400.

Wanted Admin Cum Accounts Assistant. Greystone Real Estate Developers, Margao, South Goa, seeks an Admin Cum Accounts Assistant. Strong communication skills required; accounting knowledge a plus preferably who worked in construction company.Apply with photograph, and expected salary. Send CV to: greystone365@gmail.com Contact: 9370277769

Wanted Chinese Cook at Benaulim Timing 11:00 - 8:00. Ph No. 9307598722

Wanted cook and kitchen helper/ dishwasher for a restaurant in Raia south Goa Contact 8805000079

Wanted a Male Receptionist to work in night shift and a House-keeping person for a small budget Hotel at Canacona - Goa. Locals preferred. ContactNo: 9545524884

Wanted Retired Sales Managers with experience in administration with computer knowledge for Bajaj Showroom in Margao. Salary and incentives as per industry. Apply nrahu72@hotmail.com. Contact: 8805187700

Wanted Under Graduate Teacher B.Sc, B.Ed, contract Basic to teach Maths & Science in Std VI- X Submit a hand written application by enclosing all your testimonials to the Headmistress, Perpetual Succour Convent High School- Navelim on or before 20/08/2024

Rosary Higher Secondary School, Navelim requires a teacher on Contract Basis in the Vocational Stream for Catering and restaurant Management. Qualification Dip in Hotel Mgmt./ B.Sc. Home Science (food and Nutrition) walk in Interview on 16/08/2024 at 10:00 a.m along with testimonials

IDFC BANK ASSOCIATE REQUIRES in Goa. 1) TELE CALLER ( Office excel proficiency) 2) FIELD OFFICER (with tw) 3) TEAM LEADER (tw) 4) Manager (tw) Salary best in industry. Walk in interview on 14/08/2024 from 10-4 p.m WINGS A1G19, Jairam Complex Neoginagar mala Panaji. ABOVE CANARA BANK Ph: 9158884567

Wanted technicians to install fibre optics connections in South Goa. Call/Whatsapp 7020712656

We are seeking an experienced Accountant to join our electrical firm in Aggacaim and in Vasco. Responsibilities include managing accounts payable/ receivable, preparing financial statements, handling payroll, and providing financial analysis. Interested can share CV on 9765186034 /7083886034

Wanted M/L Experienced Staff with Working Knowledge in Online Form Filling and Typing Work Salary 10000/- & above Walk in Interview Contact 9823010622 /9822133822

Wanted Full Time Live in Maid (Female) in Margao. Please Call on 8888025955

Wanted female executive to handle accounts, admin and Sales for Real Estate company with 1 or 2 years experience. Office at Patto Panjim. Fluent in English Hindi Konkani, knowledge in MS office and Excel is must. Share your CV on 7776066735

St. Ann's High School, Quelossim, Wanted one laboratory Assistant, XII Science & one multi tasking staff, SSC passed. Walk-in-interview on 20/08/2024 between 8.30 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. along with hand written application addressed to the Teacher Incharge, with bio-data, at-tested copies of qualification certificates, employment exchange card and valid residence certificate.

Resort in Vagator is looking for day and night Receptionist and Electrician. Call 7796400777 / 7709137777

Wanted Female CENTER HEAD, pleasing personality, experienced, for an upcoming international play school on Chicalim junction, Vasco. Call 7875137805, 8412805055

Wanted Trained Undergraduate Teacher BA, BEd., on Contract Basis till the end of academic year 2024-25 to teach English and Social Science from Std. V-X. Walk in interview on 19.8.2024 between 10.00 am - 11.30 am alongwith application and testimonials at Holy Rosary Convent High School, Nuvm, Salcete Goa

Required Business Development Executive (Field) for Services Industry. Candidates with 1-3 years experience may apply

shorttakes

BUNU TANDEL



Two elderly siblings Santan and Aversta Pinto from Monte Villa, Sangolda had a narrow escape after a huge tree collapsed on their old house, on Monday

POLICE FIND DECOMPOSED BODY OF M'RASHTRA NATIVE AT VARCA

MARGAO: The Colva police have registered a case of unnatural death after discovering the decomposed body of a man named Rohit Roy in his rented room at Reprawaddo, Varca. The case was registered under Section 194 of the BNSS.

The police were alerted by an unknown caller who reported that a man was unconscious in his room at Reprawaddo. Upon reaching the location, the police conducted an inquiry with the owner of the room, who revealed that the tenant, Rohit, had not been seen since August 8, and a foul smell was emanating from his room.

When the police forced open the door, they discovered that Rohit, originally from Chandrapur, Maharashtra, had committed suicide by hanging. The body was found in a highly decomposed state, indicating that the death had occurred several days earlier.

The police conducted the inquest panchanama on the spot. The body has been preserved at the South Goa District Hospital in Margao for medico-legal formalities.

TWO-WHEELER RALLY ORGANISED AT RAIA I-DAY CELEBRATIONS

MARGAO: The BJP Curtorim Mandal organized a two-wheeler rally on Sunday, which began at the Manora-Raia ground, as part of the Independence Day celebrations, symbolising patriotic spirit and community engagement. Participants showcased their enthusiasm and support for the nation during the event.

The rally was flagged off by Maina-Curtorim PI Arun Dessai.

Dr Pranav Bhagwat, Curtorim BJP leader Anthony Barbosa, Mandal President Nilkanth Ekawade, Yuva Morcha President Harsh Phadte, and Mahila Morcha President Babita Borkar and other community members, joined the bike rally to display their patriotic spirit.

The rally started from Manora ground and proceeded via Raia Church, Santemol, Maina, before concluding at Curtorim.

MARGAO MASJID MEMBERS COMPLAIN OVER 'ILLEGAL' PANEL TAKEOVER

MARGAO: Aggrieved members of the Jama Masjid in Margao have criticised the authorities for failing to address their complaints over alleged illegal takeover of the Jama Masjid Committee and have vowed to start a signature campaign, which they would submit to the government as well as the MLAs of Margao, Fatorda and Navelim.

Addressing media persons on Saturday evening, these members, who are citizens of Margao, pointed out that a new committee had been formed, allegedly without holding the mandatory elections and also by keeping the majority of the Masjid society members in the dark.

They questioned the role of the present committee chairperson, and that of new entrants who they allege have come in to create mischief.

They added that they had lived in harmony and the earlier committees had worked for the welfare of the community at large, while the present committee, which has been there for one year, is working for their own interests.

'Illegal road being constructed on hill, likely to affect spring at Calangute'

Say hillside is home to a variety of flora and fauna; destruction of this habitat will lead to loss of bio-diversity and disrupt ecological balance

Team Herald

CALANGUTE: Even as talathis have been directed to keep a watch on illegal hill cutting and constructions along the slopes in the State, a road being constructed along the hill slope in Calangute has been a cause of concern.

ROAD TO DESTRUCTION

The Calangute Constituency Forum (CCF) has in a complaint to the Chief Secretary and other authorities on Friday stated that an illegal road being constructed on the hillside at Gauravaddo (E) by large-

scale hill-cutting is likely to adversely affect the famed natural spring known as Motan which is in close proximity of the area.

"This construction of a road on the hillside through property bearing survey no 87, 96, 92, 88, 90, 89, 46, 41 and 42 of village Calangute, which involves significant hill cutting is not only illegal but also highly detrimental to the pristine environment of our community. The construction of the road was stopped by the Collector North vide stop work order on February 21, 2021," the complaint stated. The road is being constructed despite the stay order.

"The removal of vegetation and soil from the hill-

side will increase the risk of soil erosion and landslides. Allowing such a destructive road will certainly pollute the natural spring water resource Motan spring which is in a close proximity of the said area.

"The hill cutting and subsequent environmental degradation will have severe and irreversible impacts. The road construction project appears to be driven solely by the interests of builders looking to raise a concrete jungle, disregarding the well-being of our village environment.

"The hillside is home to a variety of flora and fauna, some of which are unique to this area. The destruction of this habitat will lead to loss

of bio-diversity and disrupt the ecological balance.

The CCF alleged that no permissions/NOC from the Town and Country planning (TCP) Department under 17A has been obtained as required as the land is slopy in nature. Besides there is no permission/NOC from forest department as the property is notified as private forest.

"In light of these concerns, we urge you to immediately halt the construction activities," the CCF stated in the complaint which has been sent to the chief secretary, chief town planner, PWD chief engineer, collector (North), director of panchayats, and other authorities.

Vasco Damodar Saptah to be accorded State Festival status

Team Herald

VASCO: The famous Damodar Saptah festival, Vasco likely to be accorded State festival status by next year even as religious aspect of Damodar Bhajani Saptah concluded with Samapti rituals.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, who visited the Damodar temple on the occasion of the 125th year of Damodar Bhajani Saptah festival on Sunday, said that Damodar Saptah festival was likely to get State festival status by next year.

Mormugao MLA Sankalp Amonkar and Vasco MLA Krishna 'Daji' Salkar had demanded that Damodar Saptah be accorded the status of the State festival, Sawant said requesting them to follow up with the Directorate of Arts and Culture to give

the festival the status of State festival by the next year, so that the annual Saptah event can be celebrated in a better way and on a grand scale attracting people from across the State to participate.

After offering prayers and seeking the blessings of Lord Damodar, Sawant distributed bio-degradable bags to the vendors and flagged off 'Har Ghar Tiranga'.

Meanwhile, the religious rituals of the akhand Damodar Bhajani Saptah concluded with the conducting of "Samapti" rituals and immersion of the Shreefal (coconut) anointed last year in the Arabian sea at Kharewado, on Sunday.

The devotees later returned thereby marking the conclusion of the 24-hour akhand Damodar Bhajani Saptah.

SPREADING PATRIOTISM

SAGUN GAWADE



In view of the upcoming Independence Day, the Goa Police personnel pose with national flag along with tourists at Miramar beach, on Monday

Goa Muslim Forum flays recent attacks on Bangladeshi Hindus

Call for peace; deplore senseless acts of violence

Team Herald

MARGAO: Goa Muslim Forum (GMF) strongly condemns the recent attacks on Bangladeshi Hindus amid ongoing political disruption in Bangladesh.

Shaikh Iftikar, President of the Goa Muslim Forum stated that these attacks, allegedly sparked by political disruptions, are a clear violation of human rights and religious freedom.

"We stand in solidarity with our Hindu brothers and sisters in Bangladesh and deplore such senseless acts of violence," said Iftikar and added that no political agenda can justify the targeting of inno-

cent civilians, especially when they belong to a minority community. No community should have to live in fear due to their religious beliefs or political differences."

He said that they believe in the values of peace, harmony, and coexistence.

"Let us work together to promote mutual respect and understanding among all communities," he stated.

The Goa Muslim Forum urges the Bangladeshi authorities to take immediate action to protect the Hindu minority and bring the perpetrators to justice. And also appealed to the international com-

munity to condemn such acts of intolerance and support the rights of all citizens to practice their faith without fear.

The GMF President reiterated the importance of unity and peaceful coexistence, urging all communities to reject violence and work together towards harmony and mutual respect.

"In these challenging times, it is crucial for us to uphold the values of tolerance, compassion, and understanding. We must come together as one global community to condemn and combat all forms of hatred and violence," he stated.

140 cops imparted training to probe financial frauds

Team Herald

PANJIM: In its continuation of training programme to combat cyber crime, 140 police personnel from Goa police were imparted training with regards to National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP) portal, investigation of financial frauds and offences committed using social media on Saturday.

Taking to X (formerly Twitter), Goa Police said the training session was conducted by Rishi Mehta from 14 C and Police Sub Inspector (PSI) Sarvesh Sawant from Cyber Police Station, Ribandar.

"Continuous skill upgradation is key to combat cyber crimes! Today, Police Station staff trained regarding 'NCRP portal, Investigation of Financial Frauds and Social Media Offences' by Sh Rishi Mehta from 14C & PSI Sarvesh Sawant from Cyber PS. Total 140 personnel benefitted," the Goa Police said.

24 arrested for illegal gambling at Calangute; cash and gambling articles seized

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Crime Branch of Goa Police have arrested 24 persons for allegedly being involved in illegal gambling at Calangute and also seized from them cash and gambling items worth Rs 5.4 lakh, which included Rs three lakh. According to police, the arrests were made after the accused were caught red-handed during a raid conducted near the Calangute market on Sunday, August 11, 2024.

The accused who hailed from Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra were later released on bail. However, incidentally, one of the accused was injured after he tried to flee from the scene by jumping down from the building which was raided. He has been hospitalised.

The raid was conducted by a team led by PI Kishor Ramanan who is investigating the case under the overall Supervision of SP Crime Rahul Gupta, IPS.

Margao Cong panel to celebrate Independence Day in a unique way

Team Herald

MARGAO: The Indian National Congress Margao Block announced on Monday that it would celebrate the 78th Independence Day in a unique way.

Addressing a press conference alongside Adv Snehal Onskar, Anel Alvares, Lincoln Gomes, Camilo Camara, Anwar Naroo, Lalan Parsekar, Robert Vaz, Clifford Dias, Sujata Parsekar, Khurram Kazi, and others, Savio Coutinho announced the creation of a "WALL OF FREEDOM." This initiative invites the general public to share their thoughts on freedom by expressing their views in one sentence. The topic for this exercise will be "What Freedom of India Means to me."

"Blocks will be marked on a flex wall, where citizens can write their views on India's Freedom. They can opt to write

in any of the 4 languages i.e. Konkani, Hindi, Marathi or English", Margao Congress leader Coutinho informed.

Attractive prizes shall be given to the best views expressed on the "Wall of Freedom". To promote the reading habits, special prizes in the form of Life Time Membership of the South District Library shall also be presented to the winners, he informed further.

PNG Jewellers celebrates 20 years of its 'Maha Mangalsutra Mahotsav'

Unveils 2,000 new mangalsutra designs in traditional, modern, light weight, heritage, polki, diamond and gokak categories

Team Herald

PANJIM: Maharashtra's renowned legacy jewellery brand, PNG Jewellers, has announced the 20th year of its prestigious Mangalsutra Mahotsav. To mark this momentous occasion, PNG Jewellers has unveiled 2,000 new Mangalsutra designs in seven distinct categories Traditional, Modern, Light Weight, Heritage, Polki, Diamond and Gokak.

According to a press release, the much-anticipated annual event showcases a wide range of Mangalsutra designs that blend tradition, heritage, elegance and modernity. It offers an unparalleled selection of designs for every taste and style across all PNG Jewellers' stores in Maharashtra and Goa.

The Mangalsutra Mahotsav has been a cornerstone of their annual customer outreach for the past two decades. The event celebrates mangalsutra,



a symbol of marital bliss and commitment, by offering an extensive collection that honours both tradition and contemporary fashion. Maha Mangalsutra Mahotsav provides customers

with an unparalleled variety of designs, thereby enhancing their shopping experience and celebrating the significant milestone of 20 years of the Mahotsav. The event, which will

continue till September 1, provides an exclusive opportunity for jewellery enthusiasts across Maharashtra and Goa to explore and own these exceptional pieces. PNG Jewellers is offering up to 40% off on making charges for gold mangalsutras and flat 50% off on making charges for diamond mangalsutras.

"We are incredibly proud to celebrate the 20th year of the Mangalsutra Mahotsav. This year's MahaMangalsutraMahotsav showcases our commitment to innovation and tradition. With 2,000 new designs across seven different categories, we are offering our customers an unmatched selection of mangalsutras designs that cater to every style and preference of Indian women. We are hoping to cater to a huge number of customers who wait through the year for the MangalsutraMahotsav," said Dr Saurabh Gadgil, Chairman and Managing Director at PNG Jewellers.

Abandoned building in dilapidated condition demolished at St Inez

Authorities seek stability reports of other such buildings; dilapidated structures to be demolished after getting order from District Collector

Team Herald

PANJIM: The unoccupied building which had partially collapsed was completely demolished on Sunday by the authorities and the decision to do so was taken as a safety measure.

The demolition had started on Saturday night and was completed by Sunday evening. This the second building which has been demolished within a week. Last week, a house on MG Road was demolished because it caved in due to heavy rains.

Fear had gripped the locals after part of the dilapidated building collapsed on Saturday evening. Local residents said that two months back they had informed Corporation of the City of Panjim (CCP) and Taleigao Panchayat about the about 40-year-old building.

A local resident said, "Recently Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said the assembly that he will order for demolition of old buildings. But what about these type of buildings which are more dangerous? These type of buildings are coming up because government is giving opportunity to builders. Before constructing the building, soil testing should have been done. We had given a complaint to the CCP. District Collector should have taken note of it," he said.



He said there are other buildings also which need to be demolished.

Taleigao MLA Jennifer Monserrate said, "There are two houses next to the building. We will make sure that everything is done properly. The building belonged to some private person and we had sent him notices stating the the building is unsafe. May be there would not have been follow up but from the CCP side I am sure a letter would have been sent to the owner."

After the incident took place, the site was also visited by Corporation of the City of Panjim (CCP) Mayor Rohit Monserrate and North Goa District Collector Sneha Gitte, IAS.

Rohit Monserrate said that stability report of other buildings will sought and if required they too will be demolished after getting order from District Collector.

APPOINTMENTS

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O HERALDO

The Voice of Goa - since 1900

# Sporting spirit beyond boundaries

Are India and Pakistan enemies of each other? Yes! They are. But does that mean so? Is the heart of every citizen of these two countries filled with enmity against each other? Of course not! And especially when it comes to a mother's heart, all these limitations, all history fades away and all that remains is love and compassion.

The story of the hearts of two mothers from both these countries is currently being discussed all over the world. And the reason for that is the fact that athletes from both the countries who competed against each other in the Olympics but are each other's good friends. One is India's Neeraj Chopra and the other is Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem. In javelin, Arshad won a gold medal while Neeraj won a silver. When mothers of both these athletes were asked to react to the duo's performance, Neeraj's mother Saroj Devi said, our silver is like gold and whoever got gold is also our son! Arshad's mother Razia Parveen responded that he is Nadeem's friend and also his brother. Defeat and victory are matters of luck. He is also my son and may Allah bless him too.

Give him a chance to win a medal too! The videos of the reactions of both these mothers and Neeraj-Arshad together carrying the flags of their respective countries went viral in both the countries. We have seen such incidents in many films. But this is happening in reality. When two mothers who are 550 kilometers apart, their words prove that the countries may be different, but the mothers are the same. Be it the Mian Channu area of Pakistan or Panipat of India. When Neeraj and Arshad started running to throw the javelin at the Paris Olympics on August 8 midnight, all eyes were on them. Pakistan's javelin thrower Arshad Nadeem threw the javelin at 92.97 meters and India's Neeraj Chopra's javelin stopped at 89.45 meters. Arshad got gold and Neeraj got silver. But after this incident, India got Razia Parveen and Pakistan got Saroj Devi. Now how touching will it be when the sons of those whose mothers speak so lovingly converse with each other? After winning the gold, Arshad Nadeem said, I played my first tournament with Neeraj Bhai in Guwahati in 2016. Since then it has emerged that Neeraj Chopra Bhai is winning. There I broke Pakistan's record for the first time. From there, I thought that if I worked hard, I could go further. On one hand, Arshad was praising Neeraj an on the other, Neeraj was respecting Arshad's hard work. Neeraj Chopra said that every player has his day. Today was Arshad's day. A player's body is different that day. Everything is perfect for Arshad today. It was the day of Tokyo, Budapest and the Asian Games. When the reactions of both mothers reached Arshad, he said, everyone's mother is the same. We are so blessed to have mothers like us. Praying for us.

When the India-Pakistan cricket match is on, the animosity between the two countries is at its peak. There is also pressure on the players. And so naturally, we have seen the feeling of enmity in their cricket many times. But even a player like Shoaib Akhtar is introverted by the reactions of both these mothers. Shoaib said that only a mother can tell this. I realized that it is not that difficult to stop the oxygen of hatred that is often spread between India and Pakistan. The friendship between Arshad Nadeem and Neeraj Chopra is not new today. There have been many occasions when Neeraj and Arshad were seen as rivals despite being friends. Neeraj and Arshad were seen shaking hands and hugging after the Paris Olympics match.

On one hand, the fire generated from the India-Pakistan cricket match is burning the fans, Arshad and Neeraj hang a bag of love on the tip of their javelin they throw. The affection has been evident even when Neeraj won gold at the Tokyo Olympics and Arshad finished fifth. Neeraj looked downcast after winning a medal at the Paris Olympics. In some parts of the video interview, he could not hide his feelings. Neeraj's smile disappeared from his face before wearing the medal. After winning the gold medal, a video of Arshad, in which he was seen crying, went viral. India and Pakistan could be at the bottom of the points table in the Paris Olympics. But these two so-called enemies have pushed aside this mentality. Saroj and Razia are more than just friends. Neeraj, the son of a farmer and Arshad, the son of a mason, have laid such a foundation of friendship that the people of both countries can leave their spears behind and build a tomb of goodness. If one hoists the flag of the other country, the citizen can be jailed. Saroj Devi's house is situated in such a locality. There is also a picture of Arshad Nadeem displaying his country's flag on his chest. Neeraj is also there with the tricolor stuck next to him. The flags of India and Pakistan are almost rarely seen together with a smiley face.

The flags placed on the table of the many bilateral talks that took place after the annexation are a witness to this. Saroj, Razia's upbringing, philosophy and this event will forever be written in the history of both the countries.

comment



ROBIN ROY

# Sinking in Paris...

Was it a "Paris Syndrome" for most Indian athletes this time where despite lofty hopes, most of them had to leave with a feeling of being underwhelmed... or for some it was a feeling of getting... So Near, Yet So Far...

From aspirations of hitting the double digits in medals for the first time, it became a heart-breaking journey laden with near-misses by the finest of margins.

India bagged six medals in total at the Paris 2024 Olympics, recording its joint-second best performance in a single edition of the Summer Games.

With one silver and five bronze medals, India finished one medal short of Tokyo 2020 where it bagged one gold, two silver and four bronze. The tally puts India in 71st position in the medal tally among the 84 countries that bagged a medal in the ongoing Games.

To add salt to the "injury", there were also six painful and agonising fourth-slot finishes, which about 1.4 billion Indians hoped to have seen accomplished.

India's consolation with fourth-slot endings was also once a source of huge inspiration. Who can forget Milkha Singh's historic 400m run in

many, Japan, Australia, Canada -- the ones who do well in the Olympics -- are miles better than us," said Chhetri on the podcast, and the video has gone viral.

"When people say, 'talent ki kami nahi hai hamari country mei' (there is no dearth of talent in our country), it is 100 percent right. A five-year-old kid in Andaman, who was good at football or javelin throw or cricket, he didn't even know. Threw it once or twice and then disappeared, working in a call centre," Chhetri asserted.

"In identifying the talent and nurturing the talent at the right time and with the right procedure, we are way behind. And I don't care if people want to kill me for this; this is the reality."

Legendary shuttler, Prakash Padukone said after Lakshya Sen's defeat, "We cannot remain satisfied just having one player. We need to focus on the next line, maybe even the third line. Like they do in cricket. You have the main team, then the 'A' team, then the under-19 team, under-17 team. So, we need to focus. There is a lot of talent, there is absolutely no doubt but a combined effort is required," he had said.

"We need to focus more on mind training. We don't give enough attention to sports psychology, which is very important. In the Olympics, if you've seen a lot of top players have all lost, not because they were not good technically or physically but because they couldn't handle the pressure.

"Olympics is all about handling pressure, so all the more important that we pay more attention to our mind, do meditation, and do yoga," he said.

Padukone felt that shooter Manu Bhaker probably could do well because she was not under pressure. "People who are favorites are always under pressure and have not done as well as expected. Most of our medals even in the earlier Olympics have come from people whom we have not expected anything from because there is no pressure."

India have roped in several foreign coaches and Padukone, who trains PV Sindhu, said it's time that India brings sports psychologists from abroad. "It's high time

we have foreign sports psychologists also. This is not to take away anything from the Indian sports psychologist. Some of them are good but I think high time you know the players also realise the importance of sports psychology," he said.

"It cannot be done just three months before the Olympics or if somebody wants to do well in the next Olympics they have to start right now and be at it throughout only then will it make a difference."

"In Indian sports, what has happened is, when we get a star, there is too much focus on just one player and we don't pay enough attention to the next line of players. That is where the federation needs to focus a little more."

Meanwhile, we need to act from the takeaways of the Paris Olympics and learn to convert the near chances into reality. Also, private entities must contribute to the nation's sports building... Just blaming the federation alone will not help, it is time we put together the best professionals together to find a middle path and concentrate on the talent hunt and use our resources justifiably to get results.

After all it's JO JEETA... WOHI SIKANDAR...

(Writer is senior journalist and former senior Associate Editor, O Herald, Goa)

From aspirations of hitting the double digits in medals for the first time, it became a heart-breaking journey laden with near-misses by the finest of margins



the 1960 Rome Olympics or PT Usha, who would miss out on a medal in 400m hurdles only by one hundredth of a second at the 1984 Los Angeles Games and not to forget that at the Tokyo Games, golfer Aditi Ashok finished fourth after seeing her lead vanish on the final day.

However, Indian football icon Sunil Chhetri recently in a podcast said what India needs to take seriously.

"We don't win medals (at the Olympics) despite a population of 1.5 billion" is not factually correct because we are not able to identify and nurture the talent of 1.5 billion people. China, US, Ger-

Along past fortnight we saw on-the-field brilliance from Indian athletes, which were complemented by some very memorable quotes.

"Khal khatam nahi hua hai, bohut kuch baaki hai (my game is not over, I have a lot left in me)."

- Neeraj Chopra after winning silver.

"Mother, wrestling has won, I have lost. Please forgive me, your dreams and my courage, everything is broken. I don't have any more strength now. Goodbye wrestling 2001-2024. I shall be indebted to you all. Forgive (me)"

- Vinesh Phogat  
"Hockey is back!"  
- Harmanpreet Singh, captain of the Indian men's hockey team

## Jumbo cars create traffic congestion

There used to be small and compact family cars till the nineties and owning a big car was considered as a luxury only few could afford. Today almost everyone owns jumbo cars not because family members are increasing but as a status symbol to drive singly to office / work and back. This is causing serious traffic congestion in the cities and major blocks on the roads as there is tendency to drive at speed and cause accidents, lose control, skid, overturn or otherwise.

Only very few who are having traffic sense and feel they should not create more chaos are still continuing with smaller ones but of no use as full road stretches get occupied by jumbo cars. The Government is constantly in process of planning and implementing widening of road networks, constructing highways and by-passes etc but there is always big NO and protests in the name of ecology / environment from so called locals and stakeholders mostly of whom own jumbo cars.

The local MLAs do not seem to take interest to convince or gather support for such schemes whether it is road or rail expansion. It is very easy to blame / criticise the Govt for accidents, mishap, national calamity or any dam happening as it costs nothing. It is high time we shed short sightedness and be partners for expansion for our own benefit and ease.

Bhalchandra V S Priolkar, Margao

## Safety harness vital for linemen

In order to improve the safety of linemen working on power

transmission lines, Power Minister Ramkrishna 'Sudin' Dhavalikar reportedly said that the government will soon equip electricity department staff with smart helmets and watches in order to prevent electric shocks and enhance worker safety. It is learnt that the smart helmets and watches are capable of detecting whether a line is live from a distance of approximately 50 to 60 cms.

The state has seen numerous accidents involving linemen and line helpers, many of them ending in fatalities. Before going high tech, those working on power lines should be provided with the basic safety gear. They should be provided with safety helmets, insulating rubber gloves, shoes and insulated clothing. Turning the power off is vital. There have even been incidents of the power being turned on even when the linemen are working on high tension wires which have resulted in fatalities. A safety harness is vital when the lineman is working at a height.

Electricity workers in Goa are seen working at great heights without following the mandatory safety rules. Now, many cities in Goa have underground electric cables and work is going on at several places to replace overhead electrical wires by underground cabling. When underground cables are damaged, electricity workers can get injured by electric shock. Hence all necessary precautions need to be taken including putting off the main power line.

Adelmo Fernandes, Vasco

## letterstotheeditor

For letters to the editor contact us at editor@herald-goa.com. All letters must contain correct postal address and telephone number. Letters are liable to be edited for brevity.

### Beginnings of another scam?

As part of the Swayampurna Goa initiative, the government has launched a 'Smart Village' project which purportedly aims to transform rural communities across the state through infrastructure, digital education, accessible healthcare and sustainable energy solutions. The initiative aims to ensure remote villages have access to digital tools and infrastructure needed for modern society and includes construction of 'smart' schools, wellness centres, solar energy farms, creation of wifi hotspots and hold your breath - installation of CCTV cameras. (remember how Rs.250 crores was spent on acquiring 250 CC cameras for Panjim). The state of 'smart city' Panjim marred by gargantuan corruption and zilch accountability is there for all to see, you can bet your bottom dollar that this 'smart village' scheme is another megascam in the making, of course the first village picked for this (ignoble effort. Shiroda will go to the dogs. We need 'common sense' villages, not 'smart villages.

Vinay Dwivedi, Benaulim

### Lawmakers or lawbreakers?

Our Hon'ble CM led a bike rally in Mormugao recently in connection with the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign leading up to Independence day. First and foremost no permission was sought from the concerned authorities for

holding this rally; second, most of the riders who had joined in were not wearing helmets, why some pillion riders were even seen indulging in acrobatics while waving the flag, perhaps they got carried away by their patriotic fervour.

Thirdly the pillion riding cameramen who was recording the proceedings was seated back to front putting his own life and the lives of other in danger. If the lawmakers themselves are lawbreakers then what right do they have to ask others to abide by the law? Point to ponder.

Rekha Sarin Trehan, Benaulim

### Staff crunch plagues govt departments

A recent analysis of government departments in the State has revealed significant staff shortages thereby presenting challenges to effective service delivery and administration. This shortage, however, seems to be symptomatic of a larger problem.

When visiting a government department including hospitals, it is not uncommon to encounter a shortage of personnel, with employees expressing their concerns about limited resources and the burden of additional work. At the same time, the number of patients approaching government hospitals is increasing.

The most important of these issue is that there are not enough doctors and nurses in government hospitals. Promotions among the staffs and subsequent transfers also added to the woes.

people's edit

## MIND YOUR KNEES

CHANDER GUPTA

Nowadays, osteoarthritis (OA) in knee joints has been proliferating like a pandemic in India. The number of people afflicted with osteoarthritis, especially above the age of 50, is increasing by the day. Consequently, knee replacement surgery has become very commonplace.

Why is there a surge in early degeneration of knee cartilage and the underlying bone? Being myself a victim of osteoarthritis, I have engaged in conversations with cross-sections of people on the issue. A credible theory on the root cause has appeared from assorted opinions.

The primary cause appears to be lesser usage of knee joints these days due to technology-induced lifestyle upgradations. Reflecting on trajectory of lifestyle since my childhood, the following changes seem to have had adverse impact on the health of knees.

I remember from my early childhood that the ladies of the house used to cook meals squatting on the floor. Womenfolk cooked meals on chulha and angithi (indigenous stoves) fuelled by firewood and coal, respectively. Family members also ate food squatted on the floor. Squatting necessitated close folding of legs at knee joints. After LPG cylinders came on the scene, our kitchen was modified so that cooks could prepare meals in a standing position. Soon thereafter, dining table was brought in our house. We began to eat our meals, laid on the dining table, sitting on dining chairs.

Initially we had Indian-style toilets which were detached from the living area. For using the Indian-style toilets, we had to sit resting on our soles with legs fully folded at knee joints and the thighs pressing the stomach. The trend of attached bathrooms, which had European-style seats, caught on gradually. The use of European-style seat in toilets has further reduced the frequency of full folding of legs at knee joint.

There were no shower fittings in the bathrooms in our house when I was a kid. Gradually, when showers were fitted in bathrooms, most of us of old era would still squat on the floor of the bathroom and bathe using bucket and mug.

In modern hotels, you will not find any bucket and mug in the shower cubicle. You must bathe in standing posture only using the multiple showers installed. Now the new-age homes also have shower enclosures in bathrooms where bath can be taken in standing posture only. One more avenue of knee exercise has been annihilated by new lifestyle.

Use of elevators has also increased. Not only do high-rise residential buildings have elevators, but these are now being installed in two/ three storey residential houses also. When an elevator is available in a building, people tend to use elevator for going to the next floor also. The muscles supporting the knee bones are thus deprived of exercise.

As the lifestyle of the poor people has remained unchanged, we can see them squatting easily on the ground. They comfortably squat down on their feet with the legs fully folded at knee joints.

Shifts in lifestyles induced by the rise of technology and affluence have obviated physical exercise arising from performance of daily chores. The exemplifications delineated above have adversely impacted our knees joints and the muscles supporting them. Therefore, we should take care of our knees by regularly performing knee-specific exercises as automatic movements have ebbed from daily routine.

This shortage raises concerns about the state's ability to effectively utilise technology for governance and digital initiatives. In fact, merely filling sanctioned posts would not be enough to govern a state in size and complexities. It's clear that new posts must be created to effectively deliver services to the people. The government must mandatorily notify vacancies in its offices at employment exchanges.

The government must fill the vacant posts on priority with merit basis in a time-bound manner, and not on political influence or through back door. Recruiting and selecting people on merit and skill based is the right way. It's a process of determining which candidates have the abilities, knowledge, and skills considered the most suitable for the job. It should provide jobs to qualified individuals through a transparent recruitment policy, ensuring that eligible candidates are not deprived under any circumstances.

K GVilop, Chorao

### Colva roads in horrible shape!

I request the Transport Minister to immediately address the roads in Colva, which have potholes in so many places and speed breaker signs are washed out!

The part particularly at the Colva Church/School area is horrible to say the least... the stop signs/speed breakers washed out) are hardly visible and are extremely hazardous to drivers and people/children crossing at this place!

Hope the Goa Govt acts proactively and not wait for a tragedy to happen for the administration to wake up!

Arwin Mesquita, Colva



Former tennis player Leander Paes and artist Jogen Chowdhury during convocation of Techno India University, in Kolkata



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Canadian MP Chandrakanth Arya during a meeting, in New Delhi



Shalabh Goel, MD of NCRTC and Sanjay Kumar Jain, CMD, IRCTC, signing an MoU for ticketing for Namoh Bharat trains on IRCTC platform, in New Delhi



Former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia offers prayers on the last Monday of the month of 'Shravan' at the Shiva temple in Connaught Place, in New Delhi

# Protesting doctors question Mamata's 7-day deadline to police

PTI, KOLKATA: Junior doctors at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital on Monday questioned why West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee set a seven-day deadline for solving the rape-murder of a postgraduate trainee, asserting they would continue their strike until their demands are met.

## DOCTOR'S RAPE-MURDER

Banerjee earlier in the day asserted that her government would transfer the case to the CBI if the police failed to solve it by next Sunday.

Despite Banerjee's promise of a transparent investigation, the protesters criticised the delay, demanding a judicial inquiry, capital punishment for the culprits, and adequate compensation for the victim's family.

They also called for an apology from Kolkata Police claiming rumours are being spread about the investigation and demanded that all senior officials of the hospital be removed and not re-assigned elsewhere.

Initially, police had suspected it to be a suicide, but later changed their version. "Why is the investigation delayed till Sunday? We are not happy with the probe. Our demands are clear. We want a judicial inquiry into the matter and capital punishment for the culprits. The family of the doctor must be well compensated," an agitating junior doctor said.

## BSF says thwarted major infiltration bid by Bangladeshis in Tripura

PTI, AGARTALA: A "major" infiltration bid by a group of Bangladeshi nationals was thwarted after BSF troops fired one round of non-lethal ammunition in the forward area of Khowai district in Tripura on Monday, a spokesperson said.

## BORDER SECURITY

He said a group of 12-15 Bangladeshi nationals was trying to take advantage of inclement weather and poor visibility in the area during the day and tried to cross over from the area of the district's Pahar-mura border post.

"On being challenged by BSF (Border Security Force) troops, they tried to negotiate the border fencing forcefully. To prevent the infiltration attempt, one round of pump action gun was fired following which the group of Bangladeshis fled towards Bangladesh territory," the spokesperson for the force's Tripura frontier said.

"The alertness of BSF troops managed to prevent a major incident of infiltration," the spokesperson added.

Keeping in mind the on-going unrest and law and order situation in Bangladesh, the BSF has intensified surveillance and domination along the border, he further said.

The BSF guards 856 kilometres out of the



Doctors and nursing staff participate in a huge mass rally near R G Kar Medical College and Hospital protesting against rape and murder of a trainee doctor in Kolkata, on Monday

## West Bengal replaces key health official

PTI, KOLKATA: Amid the protests over the rape and murder of a doctor at a hospital in Kolkata, the West Bengal government on Monday appointed Dr Debasish Halder as the new Director of Health Services (DHS), officials said.

Halder, who was the

Joint DHS (Non-Communicable Diseases Screening) in his last assignment, replaced Dr Siddhartha Neogi, they said.

The state government also named Shubhanjan Das as a secretary in the Health and Family Welfare Department, they added.

also been removed," she said.

## CHANGE IN NAME

I, JUDAS SEQUEIRA, Res of H.No 18/1, Curpa Waddo, Cortalim, Mormugao, Goa would like to change my name from JUDAS JOAO SEQUEIRA to JUDAS SEQUEIRA hereafter in all my dealings and documents I will be known as JUDAS SEQUEIRA.

## THE SPORTS AUTHORITY OF GOA

Athletic Stadium, Cuijra, Bambolim-Goa. EMAIL: ed.tsag-goa@gov.in WEBSITE: www.tsag.org

## TENDER NOTICE (E-TENDERING MODE ONLY)

[https://eprocure.goa.gov.in]

Tender No.SAG/EE-ED/TECH/F08/2024-25/1913 Dt: 12/08/2024

The EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE SPORTS AUTHORITY OF GOA (SAG) on behalf of Governor of Goa invites online percentage bids in TWO BID SYSTEM from the reputed Contractors for the works:

- 1. Construction of cricket Practice pitch and long jump pit at Cuncolim Sports Complex in Cuncolim Constituency (II Call)
2. Development of Sports Complex by SAG Construction of Changing Room at Government Village School Playground at Macazana (II Call)
3. Development of Village Playground at Talpona Canacona-Goa
4. Providing Wooden Flooring and Painting for the Indoor Hall at Chicalim Sports Complex, Chicalim Goa.

## TENDER SCHEDULE

- a) ONLINE SUBMISSION of Tender is 02/09/2024 upto 15:00 hrs.
b) The Tender will be OPENED on 03/09/2024 at 15:00 hrs.
For Detailed Tender Notice & for participation please Visit https://eprocure.goa.gov.in
DI/ADVT/610/2024

Ghosh was named the principal of the Calcutta National Medical College and Hospital sparking another controversy as agitating junior doctors there locked the doors of the chamber

meant for the principal.

Dr Suhrita Paul was replaced by Ghosh at RGMCH, the order said.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to members of public that my clients Mrs. Prachi Akhavi, Mr. Vipul Joshi, Both Resident of SKE 701, Shipra Krishna Vista, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh 201014, intends to purchase the property surveyed under no. 12714-A of Village Sarzora, Salcete, Goa, measuring 897, within the Village Panchayat of Sarzora, Salcete, Goa. The said property is claimed to be acquired right, title and interest in the said property vide Deed of Sale by Mr. Angelo Joaquim Pereira.

Any persons, banks, financial institutions, legal entities etc having any right, claim of whatsoever nature to the said property are hereby notified to make the same known in writing to the undersigned along with supporting documents within a period of 15 days from the date of publication hereof, failing which my clients shall be entitled to presume that no such right / claim or objection exist and/or the same has been waived and discharged and my clients shall then be entitled to execute a Sale Deed in respect of property surveyed under no. 12714-A of Village Sarzora, Salcete, Goa.

Sd/- Adv. Mahesh D. Raul Gr. Floor, Souza Sanctuary, Taliwada, Mapusa, Bardez, Goa Mobile: 9326137770

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the general public and any interested parties, that my client intends to purchase from (1) Mr. SURAJ SADANAND SHIRODKAR, his wife (2) Mrs. TRUPTISURAJ SHIRODKAR, and (3) Mr. NITYANAND R. KANOLKAR and his wife (4) Mrs. SUPRIYA NITYANAND KANOLKAR, the below described plots bearing Plot Nos. 1, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 12 of an immovable property known as "MAIREA", totally measuring an area of 1,39,075 square meters, situated within the Village Panchayat of Sodiem-Solim, Taluka Bardez and Registration Sub-District of North Goa and State of Goa, surveyed under Survey No.256, Sub-Division No.2, of Village Solim, Bardez, Goa, neither found described in the Land Registration office of Bardez nor found enrolled in the Taluka Revenue Office.

DESCRIPTION OF PLOTS
I) Plot No.1, measuring an area of 350 square meters, forming a part of the above described property known as "MAIREA" and this plot is bounded On the East: By Road; On the West: By Plot No.2; On the North: By a part of property bearing Sy.No.256/2 and On the South: By Road.
II) Plot No.5, measuring an area of 860 square meters, forming a part of the above described immovable property known as "MAIREA" and this plot is bounded on the East: By Public Road; On the West: By Plot Nos.10 and 11; On the North: By Plot No.4 and On the South: By Plot No.7.
III) Plot No. 09, measuring 300 square meters, which is a part of the above described larger property known as "MAIREA" and this Plot is bounded On the East: By Plot No.4; On the West: By Public Road; On the North: By Plot No.8 and On the South: By Plot No.10.
IV) Plot No.10, measuring 332 square meters, which is a part of the above described larger property known as "MAIREA" and this Plot is bounded On the East: By Plot No.5; On the West: By Public Road; On the North: By Plot No.9 and On the South: By Plot No.11.
V) Plot No.11, measuring 350 square meters, which is a part of the above described larger property known as "MAIREA" and this Plot is bounded On the East: By Plot No.5; On the West: By Public Road; On the North: By Plot No.10 and On the South: By Plot No.12.

On behalf of my client, I am in the process of conducting a search and due diligence of title pertaining to the above described plots, and thus, I do hereby call upon any person/persons, Co-owners, Banks, Corporations, Financial Institutions, Courts, Quasi-judicial authorities, Departments, entities or any other claimants having a title, interest, right, charge, lien, litigation or claims of whatsoever nature to lodge objections to the abovementioned sale, if any, with supporting documents only, at the below mentioned address: Email, within 15 days from publication of this notice. Failing to receive any objections within 15 days from the publication date, through the below mentioned communication channels only, it will be presumed that no encumbrances lie on the plots described above and the people / institutions interested will be presumed to have waived their rights of any claim or objection beyond the 15 days period. My Client shall thus be free to presume that the abovementioned parties are the exclusive owners in possession of the above described plots, without any encumbrances and complete the Sale transaction.

Sd/- ADV. BRIJESH P. SARDESSAI #703, 7th Floor, GERA IMPERIUM STAR, Near Central Library, Patto, Panaji-Goa. 403001 Email id: legal@cifjgoa.com

## Six women among 7 dead in Bihar temple stampede

PTI, JEHANABAD: At least seven people, including six women, were killed and 16 others injured in a stampede at Baba Siddheshwar Nath Temple in Bihar's Jehanabad district, an official said on Monday.

The deceased have been identified as Pyare Paswan (30), Nisha Devi (30),

Punam Devi (30), Nisha Kumari (21), and Sushila Devi (64). The identity of one woman remains unknown, the official added.

District Magistrate Alankrita Pandey confirmed the fatalities and injuries, stating that the stampede took place at the temple around 11.30 pm on Sunday.

KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LIMITED (A Government of India Undertaking) OPEN E-TENDER (SINGLE PACKET SYSTEM) INVITATION NOTICE Name of Work: Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 25 KV, 50 Hz, Single phase, Traction Overhead Equipment for construction of 4 lane Road Over Bridge (ROB) at Rawanford, Madgaon in the state of GOA. Notice No: KR/CO/EL/ROB-RE/17/17/24 Dt: 13/08/2024. Completion Period: 6 (Six) Months. Estimated Cost: ₹ 2,06,28,714/- excluding GST. Bid Security: ₹ 23,20,000/- Last Date & time for Online Submission of Tender: 03/09/2024 up to 15.00 Hrs. Opening of Tender: On 03/09/2024 at 15.30 Hrs. Amendments / Corrigendum if any, would be uploaded on IREPS website only. Submission of Tender Documents: Through IREPS. Manual Tender Documents shall not be accepted.

Government of Goa Directorate of Mines Geology Institute Menezes Braganza, Panaji-Goa Website: www.dmg.goa.gov.in e-mail: auction-dmg@gov.in No.DMG/28/Auction-Cell/3rd NIT/2023/ Date: 12/08/2024

## NOTICE INVITING TENDER

"Invitation of bids for grant of Mining Lease of Iron ore"

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 10(B) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and in accordance with the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 notified thereunder, as amended from time to time notified thereunder, the Government of Goa has identified 03 (Three) Mineral Blocks of iron ore mineral for electronic auction and hereby invites tenders for the purposes of grant of Mining Lease.

Accordingly, financial bids are invited in digital format only and technical bids are invited both in digital and physical format from eligible bidders.

Eligibility conditions, date and time for participating in the electronic auction are provided in the Tender Document. Detailed Tender Documents along with timelines, notifications, updates and other details for the e-auction process for the mineral blocks are available in electronic form only and can be downloaded from the website of MSTC Limited: (https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mlc/in/index.jsp)

Interested and eligible bidders can register themselves on the above website. On successful registration, eligible bidders will obtain login ID and password necessary for participation in the e-auction process. Model Tender Document and Mineral Block Summary are available free of cost on the website of MSTC Limited.

Last date for purchase of Tender Document after payment of tender fee on website of e-auction platform provider is Tuesday, September 24, 2024 on or before 17:00 hours (Indian Standard Time) and the last date for submission of the bid is Friday, October 04, 2024 on or before 17:00 hours (Indian Standard Time).

Table with 5 columns: Sr. No, Name of the Block, Mineral, District, #Price of Tender Document. It lists three mineral blocks for auction in North and South Goa.

# The price of Tender Document for mineral block is exclusive of GST. GST is payable under Reverse Charge Mechanism. DI/ADVT/609/2024

Canara Bank E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. Includes details of auction date (28.08.2024), reserve prices, and descriptions of properties for sale.

businessday

PTI



A worker harvests grapes of Merlot in the Donnafugata winery in Contessa Entellina, south west of Sicily, Italy. High temperatures and drought in Sicily force wineries to start the harvest 10 days in advance

**NBCC bags Rs 710-crore contract to develop two land parcels in Uttar Pradesh**

**NEW DELHI:** State-owned NBCC has bagged a Rs 710-crore contract to develop two land parcels at Jhansi in Uttar Pradesh. NBCC will provide project management and marketing consultancy services. In a statement, the company said it has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Jhansi Development Authority (JDA) to undertake development of land parcels in Jhansi. The MoU was signed by Alok Yadav, Vice Chairman, JDA, and Pradeep Sharma, Executive Director, NBCC. Following the signing of the agreement, a strategic meeting was held with Bimal Dubey, Commissioner/Chairman, JDA, to discuss the project's scope and implementation strategy. The project encompasses the construction of two major land parcels in Jhansi, with an approximate value of Rs 710 crore.

**BHEL gets 1,600 MW thermal power project from Damodar Valley Corporation**

**NEW DELHI:** State-owned BHEL on Monday said it has secured a 1,600 MW project from Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC). The coal-based unit will be set up in the Koderma district of Jharkhand on an EPC (Engineering, Procurement, and Construction) basis, BHEL said in a statement. The 2x800 MW Koderma Supercritical Thermal Power Project (STPP) has been awarded through International Competitive Bidding (ICB), it said. This is the first such project in terms of capacity for DVC, and will be set up adjacent to its existing 2x500 MW units set up by BHEL earlier, the statement said. BHEL further said that it has a long-standing partnership with DVC and has installed over 80% of the coal-based power stations of the utility in Jharkhand and West Bengal.

**Avaada Group to set up two pumped storage power projects of 2,750 MW**

**NEW DELHI:** Avaada Group on Monday announced that it has inked an agreement to develop two pumped storage power projects with combined capacity of 2,750 MW, entailing an investment of Rs 14,000 cr. The agreement was signed between the Water Resources Department, Government of Maharashtra, and Avaada Aqua Batteries Pvt Ltd, a subsidiary of Avaada Group, in the presence of Maharashtra Dy CM Devendra Fadnis and Avaada Group's Chairman Vineet Mittal, according to a company statement. This agreement not only cements Avaada's role in Maharashtra's energy landscape but also underscores the company's unwavering commitment to advancing renewable energy across the state, the company said. The two projects include the 1,500 MW Pawana Falyan PSP in the Pune & Raigad districts and the 1,250 MW Kumbhavade PSP in the Kolhapur & Ratnagiri districts.

currency		bullion	
US Dollar	83.95	Silver (Rs/Kg)	81,573
British Pound	107.18	Gold (Rs/10gm)	70,650
Euro	91.73	markets	
Russian Ruble	00.92	Sensex	79648.92
Kuwaiti Dinar	274.06	Nifty	24347.00
Bahraini Dinar	107.17		
Qatari Riyal	23.06		
Emirati Dirham	22.85		
Omani Rial	218.02		

# IIP growth slows to 5-month low of 4.2% in June: Govt data

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** India's industrial production slowed to a five-month low of 4.2% in June 2024, mainly due to poor performance of the manufacturing sector, though power and mining sectors continue to perform well, as per official data released on Monday.

As per the data, the mining output growth accelerated to 10.3% in June against a 7.6% expansion in the year-ago month. The manufacturing sector's growth decelerated to 2.6% in June compared to 3.5% a year ago. The power generation increased by 8.6% in June against a growth of 4.2% in the same month of the last year.

As per use-base classification, the capital goods segment growth fell to 2.4% in June 2024 from 2.9% in the year-ago period. In June this year, consumer durables output expanded 8.6% compared to a 6.8% contraction in June 2023. Consumer non-durable goods production contracted 1.4% during the reporting month against a growth of 0.5% in May 2023.

According to the data, infrastructure/construction goods reported a growth of 4.4% in June 2024, down

**MACRO INDICATORS**

The factory output growth, measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), was 6.2% in May, 5% in April, 5.5% in March, 5.6% in February and 4.2% in January 2024. During the April-June period this fiscal, the IIP growth was 5.2% against 4.7% in the same period of the preceding financial year. India's Index of Industrial Production grew by 4% in June 2023, according to a statement by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme

**Retail inflation slips to 5-year low of 3.54% in July**

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** Retail inflation declined to a five-year low of 3.54% in July mainly on account of subdued prices of food items, and base effect, according to official data released on Monday.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based retail inflation was 5.08% in June 2024 and 7.44% in July 2023. Retail inflation slipped below the median target of 4% of the Reserve Bank for the first time since September 2019 when it was at 3.99%. The government has tasked the RBI to ensure inflation remains at 4% with a margin of 2% on either side. Inflation has remained below 6% since September 2023.

According to the data released by the National Statistical Office, the annual inflation in 'milk and milk products' was 2.99%, 'oils and fats' (-)1.17%, fruits 3.84%, and spices (-)1.43%.

The rate of price rise was 6.83% in the vegetable basket and 8.14% in 'cereals and products', NSO said.

The CPI Inflation in the food basket was 5.42% in July, down from 9.36% in June, and 11.51 a year ago. Inflation in the 'fuel and light' segment was in negative at 5.48%.

The NSO data further showed that inflation was more than the national average in rural India at 4.1% while in urban areas it was 2.98%.

Among states, the highest inflation was in Bihar at 5.87% and the lowest in Jharkhand at 1.72%.

Commenting on the data, Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, ICRA said the CPI inflation expectedly witnessed a base-led softening to a 59-month low in July, printing slightly lower than ICRA's estimate for the month.

The food and beverages segment accounted for as much as 146 bps of the 154 bps dip in the headline inflation print between these months, as anticipated, she said.

"The IMD's expectations of above normal rainfall during August-September 2024, amidst the likely de-

velopment of La Nina conditions at end-August 2024, augurs well for the kharif crops, although ICRA remains watchful of the episodes of heavy rainfall and flooding across some states that could harm the standing crops and impact perishable prices during this period," Nayar added.

The Reserve Bank expects a degree of relief in food inflation from the pick-up in the south-west monsoon and healthy progress in sowing and buffer stocks of cereals continue to be above the norms.

Global food prices also showed signs of easing in July, after registering increases since March 2024. Assuming a normal monsoon, and taking into account the 4.9% inflation print in the first quarter, the RBI expects the CPI inflation for 2024-25 is projected at 4.5%, with Q2 at 4.4%; Q3 at 4.7%; and Q4 at 4.3%.

The headline CPI inflation edged up to 5.08% in June 2024 due to higher-than-expected food inflation.

from a 13.3% expansion in the year-ago period. The data also showed that the output of primary goods logged a 6.3% growth in June this year, up from 5.3% a year earlier. The expansion in the intermediate goods segment was 3.1% in the month under review, lower than the 5.2% recorded a year ago.

## Net direct tax collection grows 22% to ₹6.93 L cr

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** Net direct tax collection grew 22.48% to about Rs 6.93 lakh crore as of August 11 this fiscal, driven by personal income tax mop-up, government data showed on Monday.

The mop-up includes personal income tax collection of Rs 4.47 lakh crore and corporate tax collection of Rs 2.22 lakh crore. Securities Transaction Tax (STT) fetched Rs 21,599 crore, while other taxes (which include equalisation levy and gift tax) earned Rs 1,617 crore.

The high tax collections came on the back of a surge in I-T returns filed for income earned in 2023-24. The last date for filing ITRs by individuals and entities, who do not have to get their accounts audited was July 31.

A record 7.28 crore income tax returns (ITRs) were filed by July 31. Refunds worth Rs 1.20 lakh crore were issued between April 1 to August 11, a growth of 33.49%.

On a gross basis, direct tax collection grew 24% to Rs 8.13 lakh crore. The collection includes PIT (personal income tax) of Rs 4.82 lakh crore and corporate tax of Rs 3.08 lakh crore.

The government has budgeted to collect Rs 22.12 lakh crore in the current fiscal from direct taxes (personal income tax, corporate tax and other taxes), up 13% over the previous fiscal.

## WORTH ITS WEIGHT IN GOLD



Afghan workers sort and process dry Saffron at a facility in Herat. Until 2021, the 'Red Gold Saffron Company' hired armed guards to escort the valuable spice from the factory to the airport, but the improved security climate has done away with the need for such overt protection

## Tatavarti resigns as Wipro's CTO

**AGENCY, NEW DELHI:** Wipro Ltd has announced the resignation of chief technology officer Subha Tatavarti in the closing hours of Monday. She was one of the executives brought in by former chief executive Thierry Delaporte.

"Subha Tatavarti, Chief Technology Officer, resigned from the services of the Company to pursue opportunities outside Wipro," read the company's filing to stock exchanges late Monday. The filing further added that 16 August would be her last working day.

## Berger Paints eyes 5% value growth in Q2FY25; targets doubling turnover to Rs 20,000cr by 2029

**PTI, KOLKATA:** Coating major Berger Paints India Ltd has implemented three price hikes since June, which are expected to boost its 'value' growth to around 5% in the second quarter ending September 2024, while maintaining a volume growth target of at least 10%, an official said on Monday.

Speaking after the company's 100th AGM, Berger revealed that its next milestone is to double its turnover to Rs 20,000 crore by 2029, up from Rs 10,000 crore in FY2024.

The company also plans to close down the Howrah plant and convert it into a larger R&D centre by the end of 2025, once the greenfield

**“The three price hikes between June and August will improve and mitigate the cost impact of 1.5%, leading our value growth to about 5% in the ongoing second quarter — Abhijit Roy, MD & CEO of Berger**

Panagarh facility in West Bengal becomes operational.

"We achieved a volume growth of 11.8% in Q1 of FY2025, but value growth was just 2.5% due to factors like price decreases, reduced raw material costs, and a slowdown in the luxury paints segment in West Bengal and Kerala.

"The three price hikes between June and August will improve and mitigate the cost impact of 1.5%, leading our value growth to about

5% in the ongoing second quarter," said Abhijit Roy, MD & CEO of Berger.

While the luxury segment was facing some pressure, construction chemicals and waterproofing segments are growing strong, he said.

Berger's revenue from operations for the quarter ended June was Rs 2,806 cr, compared to Rs 2,740 cr in the corresponding quarter last year, marking a 2.4% increase.

Roy expects margins to remain at around 40% gross margin and

EBITDA at approximately 17% for the ongoing quarter.

Discussing the full year, the Kolkata-based coating company anticipates better value and growth. Roy stated that the company's capacity will increase by 25% by 2027 when the Panagarh and Odisha plants become operational.

Roy mentioned that Berger remains largely unaffected by new entrants and expects the country's strong growth to allow for coexistence.

The official also noted that the company has 30 acres of land at Panagarh, with commercial production expected to start by the end of 2025.

## Bharti to acquire 24.5% stake in BT Group for \$4 billion; become single largest shareholder

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** Telecom czar Sunil Bharti Mittal's conglomerate will buy a 24.5% stake in BT Group for about \$4 billion to become the single largest shareholder in Britain's biggest broadband and mobile company.

**STRATEGIC INVESTMENT**

Bharti Global, the international investment arm of Bharti Enterprises, will buy a 9.99% stake in BT Group from Patrick Drahi's Altice immediately and purchase the remainder after it secures the necessary regulatory approvals, the firm stated.

It, however, did not disclose financial details but market watchers say that at BT's valuation of roughly \$15 billion, the deal is in the ballpark range of \$4 billion.

Bharti Enterprises Chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal said

BT Group's leadership position and strong portfolio of offerings spanning broadband, fibre, mobile and enterprise space marked a "good, long-term investment" opportunity for Bharti Group, and expressed confidence in the "iconic" British telecom giant's strong growth prospects and free cash flow potential for the future.

"We got this opportunity to buy a very important block of shares. It is very difficult and hard to buy such stock in the market. It takes a long period of time and there are uncertainties of pricing... here was a block with a willing seller (Altice UK) who moved in to make this offer and we quickly decided to take the same," Mittal told reporters.

Bharti, India's second-largest telecom operator with about 400 million subscribers, has had a relationship with BT previously as well. BT owned a 21% stake in Bharti Airtel from

1997 to 2001.

Bharti is neither keen on making an offer to acquire the whole of BT nor seeking a board position for now.

Altice, an investment conglomerate controlled by billionaire Drahi, is exiting BT as it struggles with high debt. It first took a stake in BT in 2021, acquiring a 12% holding, which it later increased to 24.5%.

BT's shares have fallen by about a third since Altice first became an investor.

"Bharti Global, the international investment arm of Bharti Enterprises, a leading Indian business group with world-class companies in telecoms, digital infra and space communications, has reached an agreement to acquire an interest in 24.5% of the issued share capital of BT Group plc from Altice UK," Bharti said in a statement.

Bharti hopes the investment will further help create new

**Bharti Enterprises chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal said BT Group's leadership position and strong portfolio of offerings spanning broadband, fibre, mobile and enterprise space marked a 'good, long-term investment' opportunity for Bharti Group, and expressed confidence in the 'iconic' British telecom giant's strong growth prospects and free cash flow potential for the future**

synergies in the telecom sector between India and the UK in the areas of AI and 5G R&D and core engineering, among others, "offering great potential to collaborate on industry best practices and emerging technologies".

Mittal, the top boss of Bharti, said: "Bharti and British Telecom (BT) have an enduring relationship going back more than two decades wherein BT owned a 21% stake along with two board seats in Bharti Airtel Limited from 1997-2001. Today marks a significant milestone in Bharti Group's history as we

invest in BT - an iconic British company."

His son Shravin Bharti Mittal, who is the MD of Bharti Global, said: "We review global investment opportunities in the world of technology from digital infrastructure to software. BT is well known to us from the long association with Bharti, so we are pleased to have this opportunity to acquire a significant stake in the company".

In an interaction with reporters, he highlighted that BT's investment was "exciting" for many reasons.

"It has a perfect combination of a stable cash flow profile from its consumer business...BT's business and growth coming through 'Openreach'...our expectation is that there is enough clarity that the management is delivering, there is clarity of vision and clarity on execution, and it is the right time to enter as an investor in BT," he said.

"Our belief is that in the coming years, we will see a significant expansion of the cash flow profile and the timing was rightly suited for us at the international arm for this investment."

Meanwhile, BT Group, in a separate statement, said the investment from Bharti is a strong vote of confidence in the future of the British telecom carrier and its strategy.

BT Chief Executive Allison Kirkby said: "We welcome investors, who recognise the long-term value of our business, and this scale of investment from

Bharti Global is a great vote of confidence in the future of BT Group and our strategy".

Barclays Bank PLC, acting through 'Openreach'...our expectation is that there is enough clarity that the management is delivering, there is clarity of vision and clarity on execution, and it is the right time to enter as an investor in BT," he said.

"Barclays has been the financial advisor for these transactions. They will provide some immediate cash so there will be a mix of equity and some financial support coming from Barclays..." according to Sunil Mittal.

Timotheus Hottges, CEO of Deutsche Telekom (which holds a 12% stake in BT), termed the latest announcement as a positive step for BT.

"We have a long and good working relationship with Bharti. So, we are looking forward to working together with Bharti on the Board of Directors for the sake of BT shareholders and customers," Hottges said.

# Herald Cafe

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INDIAN VARIETIES OF REFRESHING TEAS



LETTING OFF STEAM

## World hits with Konkani flavour

August is the month of celebrating everything Goan. From World Konkani Day to the numerous World Goa Day celebrations that take place across the world in the month, here is a chance to participate in a unique Konkani lyrics writing competition, Konkani Lyrics Contest 2024. The one-of-a-kind competition encourages participants to use hit songs from around the world as the musical base for original Lyrics

Dolcy D'Crus [dolcy@herald-goa.com](mailto:dolcy@herald-goa.com)

Whether living abroad or in India, Goan singers have a different sense of pride when it comes to singing in the mother tongue. But wouldn't it be a listening pleasure to sing instant global hits with Konkani words? In the digital age, one is just a click away from listening to a song in a language that we don't understand, yet the catchy tune attracts music lovers to the song. The song itself then encourages the listener to know more about the language and what the lyrics mean.

One immediately steps on the dance floor when hits like Spanish songs, Michel Teló's 'Ai Se Eu Te Pego', or Los Del Rio's 'Macarena' starts playing. And who can forget, PSY's viral hit 'Gangnam Style' and the recent craze of BTS with songs in Korean. Now imagine these same songs in Konkani.

Singing in Konkani has a different feeling to it, a feeling of belonging and unity for Goans. When singers sing in Konkani, every Goan connects to the song. Singing in Konkani gives me a sense of pride and honour but before the song is ready, one has to start working on its all meaningful lyrics.

The competition, organised by Uzoorba Technologies LLP, Choroa, as a project under its IT-enabled social-impact work, gives participants the opportunity to write lyrics to global hits in different languages. Participants can choose any global hits from the organizers' especially curated playlists on YouTube and Spotify comprising over 500 songs across 45 languages. The contest is aimed at promoting excellence in Konkani lyrics writing.

A resident of Choroa, Vincent Paul Toscano, managing partner of Uzoorba, explains the aim of the contest, "We started working on this competition with a different concept in April this year. There are many singing competitions in Konkani but there is not much variety. I am not

taking anything away from the noted singers and musicians but the portfolio of songs that can be performed is limited. Through this competition, there will be more variety with Konkani lyrics. These are songs that are already well known and it will add more challenges to the already high level of musical talent we have in Konkani."

The entries for the Konkani lyrics have to be submitted by August 31, after participants register their intended songs latest by August 20. Each entry will be evaluated against nine parameters totalling 1000 points. These include original lyrics, translation completeness, lyrical suitability, Konkani metering, Konkani usage, target Top20 from the chosen Top20 Global Hits playlist, lyrics demo video, judges' Golden Buzzer and people's favourite through online public voting. The winners have a chance to win exciting cash and other prizes totalling over Rs 1 Lakh for the Top 6 entries.

"The theme of the contest is 'Write catchy Konkani Lyrics for your favourite Global Hits!'. We began accepting entries in June and so far we have received 118 entries. Through the entries, we realised that the participants are from different parts of Goa and even the UK. The participants include people from students to senior citizens and not just singers and musicians but also students, teachers, housewives, doctors, businessmen, lawyers, IT professionals and even four priests. Nearly 50 percent of the entries are based on English songs, followed by Spanish and Hindi, however, we have also received entries for songs in Greek and Uzbek. Presently, there are songs being translated into Konkani from 17 source languages including Arabic, Assamese, English, Greek, Hindi, Italian, Marathi, Nepali, Norwegian, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Swahili, Uzbek. The songs are also from different music genres like Pop, Country, Rock, EDM, Reggae, Reggaeton, Bollywood, etc," says Vincent, who



adds that currently Mercedes and Vasco are leading with 19 entries each.

One of the key aspects that participants should follow is the mood of the song. If the song is a happy song, the lyrics should reflect the same. The Konkani lyrics are not expected to be literal line-for-line translations but should ideally capture the overall essence and spirit of the original song while unique/innovative twists and spins are also welcome. Free online tools like Google Translate, Konkannerter.com, ChatGPT etc. have been suggested to the participants to enable their work of crafting catchy Konkani Lyrics. Entries can be submitted in either the Devnagari or the Romi Konkani scripts. Also,

the copyrights of all submitted Konkani lyrics will remain with the participant lyricists and their teams. A participant may be involved in a maximum of 5 Konkani Lyrics entries.

"The contest takes out the challenges of melody and music production by using existing global hits so that the participants can focus solely on writing captivating Konkani lyrics for these. Konkani is a rich language and the dialects change from Pernem to Canacona and we would love to see different dialects in a single song. Writing lyrics is laborious as you have to get the rhyme and metering right. Participants can create their own Konkani words and make innovations and also

ENTRIES WILL BE EVALUATED AGAINST NINE PARAMETERS TOTTALING 1000 POINTS:

- Original Lyrics Size (100)
- Translation Completeness (100)
- Lyrical Suitability (100)
- Konkani Metering (200)
- Konkani Usage (300)
- Target Top20 (50)
- Lyrics Demo Video (50)
- Judges' Golden Buzzer (50)
- People's Favourite! (50)

reuse keywords and punch-lines from the original songs," elaborates Vincent. Children and Persons with Disabilities will get free registration on any song till August 20 besides special prizes courtesy the uniRISE Research Foundation.

The judging panel of 3-5 members will comprise of Konkani singers, linguistic experts, song-writing/music experts besides an organizer's representative. However, the competition will be publicly scrutinised and the shortlisted songs will be shared on social media on Instagram and Facebook. "Each song will be provided a unique ID number and will be anonymously judged. The scoring will be done according to the set parameters and viewers will be able to see the songs," says Vincent. In the future, the organisers hope to follow up this contest with a singing competition.



Arti Das

Who would think of travelling 70-odd kilometers from Panjim in the forested area of Tambdi Surla, late in the evening in heavy downpour to be part of a night trail? Those who love nature and are eager to explore the marvelous wonders it has to offer will surely do. That's what a group of 30-odd people from all over Goa did recently, to witness something out of this world, which is hard to explain in words or even to capture in your cameras.

It is the beauty of bioluminescence fungi which is seen in very few places of Western Ghats. This wonder of nature is seen in only those places where there is balance of moisture and humidity in forests of tropical and temperate climate. In Goa, it is mostly seen during monsoon season.

With this information, the participants explored the private forest in the village called Talade, near

## Magical forests of Goa

The beauty of bioluminescence fungi is seen in very few places of Western Ghats. However, when one does see it in the dark of the night, it is sight that reminds one to conserve the environment more diligently

Tambdi Surla. They ventured out in the heavy downpour with strict instructions from the resource person as this place is also known for hump pit nose viper. All precautions and care was taken by organisers, Vivekanand Environment Awareness Brigade (VEAB).

Thus, as part of this night natural trail, the participants got a rare chance to witness some amazing species of amphibians, reptiles, and insects in their pristine habitat. They saw Bristly Tropical Cup (Cookeina tricholoma) or cup mushroom while releasing its spores with the help of a torch light. It looked like a waft releasing from them. They also heard deafening calls of various frogs like Indian Bull frog, Amboli Bush frog, Cricket frog and Ornate Narrow Mouthed frog (Microhylla ornata). Many of these creatures are critically endangered and also endemic to Western Ghats.

The night trail also gave them a scope to see Coromus millipede, beautiful purple tree crab which resides in tree holes, variety of grasshoppers, stick insects, etc. However, the highlight was watching two hump nosed pit vipers—one sub-adult and another adult from close quarters.

Such exploration is possible when one is teamed with experts like Gajanan Shetye or Ramesh Zarmekar, to name a few, who are associated with VEAB and are working hard to document a variety of flora and fauna of Goa's forests.

After walking for few meters which involved



even crossing a small stream, the participants were told to start the return journey. The participants were little apprehensive as they thought that they may not see the bioluminescence fungi.

But then they were told to gather in a circle under a tree. Gajanan then told them to look down and switch off all torch lights. As soon as they did that, they couldn't believe what they saw.

It was an unbelievable sight of glowing twigs and dead tree branches on land. It was as if the forest land was lit up with some underground light. And one interesting aspect of this was that this glow became brighter as they continued watching it. Indeed, it was nature's dazzling light show. It is stated that bioluminescence is a natural



light-emitting process and it has been observed in 71 out of the 1,0,0000 documented species in the kingdom of fungi. It is not clear yet why these fungi glow.

Goa's forests are so rich, diverse and full of magical wonders including wonders like myristica swamps—freshwater swamp forests, so many endemic species of flora and fauna. Looking at this biodiversity of the forest it is now pertinent to work on its conservation more than before. President of VEAB, Chandrakant Shinde believes that such excursions and educational programmes will help create awareness and will make local



villagers aware of their biodiversity and also help them economically. The trail concluded with scrumptious dinner made by the local women, who are part of Shri Brahmani self-help group.

PICS: ARTI DAS

## Indian varieties of refreshing teas

India, with its diverse geographical terrain, has given rise to various kinds of the most popular Indian beverage, tea or chai. Tea has always been an exquisite beverage of India that is widely popular worldwide. Tea cultivation was introduced to India by the Britishers to thwart China's monopoly, and it was quite effective. India is known to be the second-largest tea producer, but the rich and aromatic flavours make them special. In the Indian lifestyle, tea has become an integral part of everyone's daily life. Starting with their own morning beverage and moving to a symbol of hospitality in which guests appear.

The country's varied climate and topography have blessed it with several regions ideal for tea cultivation, each producing distinct flavours and types of tea. From the lush tea gardens of Assam to the misty hills of Darjeeling and the verdant plantations of Nilgiri, the diverse landscapes of India give rise to a plethora of tea varieties that cater to the palates of tea enthusiasts around the globe.

### DARJEELING TEA

Darjeeling tea is a premium tea variety from India known for its unique muscatel flavour, a delicate aroma with floral and fruity notes. This tea is grown in the Darjeeling district of West Bengal, where the cool climate and high elevation enhance its distinct characteristics. The tea comes in several versions: first flush,



second flush, monsoon flush, autumn flush, green, and white. Traditionally, it is made by steeping whole leaves in hot water, offering a light golden colour and a refreshing taste that tea connoisseurs treasure worldwide.

### KANGRA TEA



Kangra tea, grown in the lush valleys of Himachal Pradesh, is a unique Indian tea variety renowned for its distinct flavour. This tea offers a delicate aroma with a slightly sweet aftertaste, often with hints of fruits or nuts. The making process involves careful plucking of young leaves, which are then withered, rolled, and oxidised to enhance their flavour.

### NILGIRI TEA

Nilgiri tea, from the Blue Mountains of Southern India, is a renowned tea variety known for its brisk, aromatic flavour with a hint of citrus. This tea is made using the orthodox method, which involves rolling the leaves to preserve their natural oils, enhancing its distinct taste. Its refreshing character makes it ideal for both hot and iced tea preparations.



### ASSAM TEA



As the name suggests, Assam tea is a robust black tea variety cultivated in Assam and is known for its bold, malty flavour and rich, reddish-brown colour. It is typically made by withering, rolling, fermenting, and drying the tea leaves. This tea is often used in breakfast blends like English Breakfast and Irish Breakfast and is enjoyed with milk and sugar to enhance its hearty flavour.

### TEMI TEA

Temi tea, a prized variety from the Indian state of Sikkim, is celebrated for its aromatic flavour and vibrant taste. Known for its bright, floral notes and a hint of sweetness, Temi tea offers a smooth, refreshing experience. Temi Tea is often enjoyed without milk, allowing its natural flavours to shine, making it a favourite among tea connoisseurs worldwide.



## Feast of St Lawrence: Four centuries of faith in Arossim, Cansaulim

St Lawrence Chapel, in Arossim - Cansaulim, celebrated the annual feast of its patron, St Lawrence with great devotion. The main celebrant for the Eucharistic celebration was Fr Tony Fernandes, Superior at Shanti Dham, Carmona. Fr Waldheim Rodrigues, former Provincial Superior of the Capuchins (OFM Cap) preached the sermon for the Mass focusing on the theme, 'inculcating fearlessness as a practicing and faithful Christian.' Fr Myron Jeson Baretto, chaplain, Fr Valmiki Dias, Fr Isidorio Dias and Fr Romeo D'Silva concelebrated the mass.

On this occasion, a souvenir was released, as the Chapel celebrates two significant milestones this year. The chapel is completing 425 years of its foundation (since 1599), and it is also completing 240 years of it being re-built (1784). Before the Mass, the Chaplain blessed the harvest and cut the sheaves which were later carried in procession to the chapel.



### Feast at Chapel in Raj Bhavan

The Feast of the Chapel of Our Lady of the Cape (Nossa Senhora do Cabo) at the Raj Bhavan in Dona Paula will be celebrated with an Eucharistic celebration in Konkani.  
**Venue:** Raj Bhavan, Dona Paula  
**Date:** August 15  
**Time:** 10 am

## St Lawrence feast celebrated at Sinquerim

The Feast of St Lawrence was celebrated at St Lawrence Church, Sinquerim.

The Masses were celebrated by Fr Adriano Furtado, Fr Franky Fernandes, Fr Gabriel Fernandes, Fr Rodson Goes, followed by blessing of the sea by parish priest, Fr Dinesh Mendonca in the presence of other priests and devotees. The evening Mass was celebrated by Kennedy and capuchin brothers.



PICS: INACIO NORONHA



## Healing retreat

Divine Retreat Center, Nuvem will conduct a Healing retreat on the theme, 'By Jesus wounds you were completely healed' led by Fr Zacharias Neelankavil and team from Mumbai with Fr Shinu Paulose, VC Director, Divine Retreat Centre, Nuvem and All For Jesus Band.

**Venue:** Divine Retreat Center, Nuvem  
**Date:** August 16, 17 and 18  
**Time:** 2 pm to 7 pm



Mini Ribeiro

An independent food critic and columnist, will be acquainting readers with the latest food and beverage trends based on personal insights and experiences

*Idlis, Dhoklas, Handvo, are not what I am talking about, even though I have steaming, as a cooking method on my mind. It's about light, fluffy, desserts, this time, that are steamed*

The other day, a chef mentioned Watalappan, a Sri Lankan steamed cardamom-coconut custard sweetened with kithul jaggery. Watalappan was apparently brought to Sri Lanka in the 18th Century by immigrants from Indonesia and Malaysia. It is extremely popular during the Eid-ul-Fitr celebrations, apart from other special occasions.

Soft, light, and spongy, a Japanese steamed cake or Mushi Pan, is another steamed dessert - a unique delicacy. A British classic, is the steamed syrup sponge served with custard. For many Kiwis, particularly Maori, Purini Mamaoa (Steamed Pudding), is the

## Mini's Food Fundas

### Letting off Steam

ultimate dessert. Koreans are known for their Baesuk, or steamed pears and Filipinos make a mellow cake, Puto, using steaming as a method of cooking. Obviously, across the globe, steaming is a technique used to prepare desserts and India is no exception.

I couldn't help thinking how popular steamed desserts are in India too, and my thoughts instantly veered to our Caramel Custard in Goa, which is steamed to perfection. The Parsi wedding custard - the silky, smooth rich, cardamom flavoured, Lagan nu Custard is usually baked, but many steam it too.

Another favourite of mine is our local, light, Tavsali, a steamed cake that is made in Goa, with coarse semolina, grated cucumbers, fresh coconut, jaggery and cardamom. Who can resist the Bhappa Doi or steamed yogurt pudding in Bengal? This thick creamy dessert, made with few ingredients, is an unparalleled treat for the taste buds. I once tasted the most delectable, steamed tapioca cake at a friend's home in Kerala. Reluctant to try it at first, I almost polished off the entire cake, once I dug into it. Soft and fluffy, it was a pure delight for the palate and is not easily available in shops or restaurants.

There are puddings galore that are steamed. The ultimate comfort and indulgent dessert, the chocolate pudding, becomes healthier when steamed and that's how I love mine.

A decadent chocolate - orange pudding, that I make at home using steaming, during the festive season, served with toffee sauce, is an all-time hit with my family. A bread pudding is another dessert, which can be steamed and makes for a rich and gooey dessert. Many families prefer a steamed Christmas pudding, but I must confess, I love my boozy Christmas cake baked. No compromise here.

I recall eating a steamed coconut panna cotta at a restaurant many years

ago and it was executed to perfection. The consistency and texture were excellent, obviously it was painstakingly prepared by a culinary wizard.

Steaming apart from being a simple, easy cooking method, helps to retain the flavours and locks the moisture of the ingredients and is thus a preferred method for desserts.

Although a seemingly simple method, one must get the timing right, while steaming, else the pudding or cake, will be damp or even chewy. No fancy equipment is needed and it is hard to go wrong. I remember my mother expertly steaming cakes and puddings in her pressure cooker. Place the pudding into the steamer set over a saucepan of simmering water, or use a large saucerpan with a saucer in the bottom. One of the most basic cooking methods, and yet, one can create wonders with it.

The aroma of a steamed dessert wafts through the air and fills your nostrils as you lift the lid. Lighter, not so dense, yet, packed with flavours, steamed desserts, are my absolute weakness. Flans, pudding, cakes, custards, souffles. The list of steamed desserts is endless. Which one is your favourite? For me, it is difficult to pick one.



## Vegetarian diets really do lower cholesterol

Plant-based diets really do lower cholesterol, according to a review of nearly 50 studies. Vegetarians generally eat more greens, fruits and nuts which means they have a lower intake of saturated fat, researchers found. These foods are naturally rich in components such as soluble fibre, soy protein, and plant sterols (a cholesterol found in plants), all of which lower cholesterol.

High cholesterol is particularly dangerous as it often goes undiagnosed and therefore untreated. It is associated with increased risk of coronary heart disease, strokes and vascular diseases. The authors suggest eating more greens could be a good preventive care for people who might be concerned about their cardiovascular health - helping them to address the problem before it's too late.

### VEGETARIANS HAVE LOWER CHOLESTEROL

Cholesterol is a fatty, wax-like substance, is present in every cell in your body. Research led by Dr Yoko Yokoyama, from Keio University in Fujisawa found vegetarians had 29.2 milligrams less of total cholesterol per decilitre (one tenth of a litre) than meat-eaters.

For the review, researchers took

'vegetarian diets' to mean a diet that includes eating meat products less than once every month. For meat-eaters following a vegetarian diet could lower cholesterol by 12.5 milligrams per decilitre. The findings were compared with an omnivorous, meat-inclusive diet. If cholesterol builds up in your arteries it can result in reduced blood flow which causes angina or even a heart attack if a blood vessel gets blocked completely. If a vessel carrying blood to the brain gets blocked you could have a stroke. It has also been linked to diabetes and high blood pressure.

author Susan Levin, director of nutrition education at the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine in Washington, DC.

studies and 19 clinical trials met the inclusion criteria. "Those [individuals] who have followed vegetarian dietary patterns for longer periods may have healthier body compositions as well as better adherence to a vegetarian diet, both of which may have an effect on blood lipids," researchers wrote in the paper.

"To make any form of health care work and to truly power economic mobility, we have to get healthy," said co-

author Susan Levin, director of nutrition education at the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine in Washington, DC.

### BUILD MEALS AROUND PLANT-BASED FOODS

Dr Levin said she encourages people to start being careful about nutrition as early as possible. "The first place to start is by building meals around nutrient-packed, plant-based foods, which fit into nearly every cultural template, taste preference, and budget," she said. "As a dietician, my take-home message is to encourage anyone to start making dietary changes early on in his or her life," said Dr Levin. It's easier to maintain optimal health than it is to change your diet at age 60 or 75, although, to be clear, it's never too late to make healthful lifestyle changes."



## Herald Gaming Console

### Dilbert

### Garfield

### Wizard of id

### crossword 4609

**ACROSS**  
1- Stun gun; 6- Piercing places; 10- Type of D.A.; 14- Single-handedly; 15- Send out; 16- Dogg; 17- Speed contests; 18- Funny Fox; 19- Child support?; 20- Lanka; 21- Crazy singer Patsy; 23- What you put on snooze; 24- Mistreat; 26- Body of salt water; 27- Deprived of life; 29- Burgundy grape; 31- Great Lake; 32- Faucet stuff; 33- Itty-bitty; 36- In spite of; 40- United; 41- Like a smokestack; 42- Poet St. Vincent Millay; 43- Washer cycle; 44- Hosted; 46- "Goodnight" girl; 48- City near Kobe; 49- For (cheap); 50- One in prison for good; 52- Hockey goal part; 55- Latvian, e.g.; 56- Pessimist's word; 57- Large cat; 59- Bundle; 60- Winglike parts; 61- Greeting; 62- Passed with flying colors; 63- Jazz flutist Herbie; 64- Give it a...!

**DOWN**  
1- Sailors; 2- Banned apple spray; 3- Debutante; 4- U-turn from WSW; 5- Free from danger; 6- Creepy; 7- Traditional prayer ending; 8- Travel on; 9- Avg.; 10- Short sock; 11- Capital city of Yemen; 12- Severe; 13- Swarm; 22- Timothy Leary stash; 23- Future oak; 25- Exploded; 26- Day vitamins; 27- Lotto-like game; 28- Pressing need?; 29- Kindergarten adhesive; 30- Itty-bitty; 32- on first?;

**solution 4608**

U	G	L	A	S	E	E	R	S	T	S				
S	L	I	T	H	I	D	E	S	H	A	R	P		
M	A	S	S	A	N	E	N	O	A	R	I	A		
A	P	P	E	A	R	I	N	E	A	R	I	S		
A	A	A	N	E	T	S	S	E	S	I	T	C	O	M
S	E	R	A	S	C	O	T	L	E	A	N	S		
S	T	O	P	T	H	R	O	B	R	U	E	D		
A	N	A	I	S	Y	E	S	E	S	R	O			
M	A	R	T	H	A	S	E	S	E	S	S			
F	O	R	M	E	T	A	S							
T	Y	S	A	D	E	A	L	R	U	P	T	A	H	
D	U	L	L	A	L	I	B	I	T	T	O			
E	T	A	L	S	T	O	O	D	E	T	O	N		
A	U	G												
A	N	N	E	S	S									
S	Y	N	E											

### sudoku 4609

				3						
8		4	9						3	7
		1		4		5				
7				8						2
		8	4		9	3				
4				5						6
		3		7		6				
5	7				8	4				1
				1						

**Instructions for Sudoku**  
9 x 9 letter. To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every number from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes

**solution 4608**

6	7	4	2	8	5	9	3	1
1	5	9	6	3	4	7	2	8
2	3	8	9	7	1	5	6	4
9	2	7	4	5	8	6	1	3
8	6	1	7	9	3	4	5	2
5	4	3	1	2	6	8	9	7
4	9	5	3	1	7	2	8	6
3	8	6	5	4	2	1	7	9
7	1	2	8	6	9	3	4	5



**Bolivian Prez Luis Arce (L) embraces his newly appointed Energy Minister Alejandro Gallardo Valdivieso at the swearing-in ceremony in La Paz**



**Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri meets Nepal's Dy PM and Minister for Urban Development Prakash Man Singh at the latter's office in Kathmandu**



**Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani (L) and Swiss counterpart Ignazio Cassis prior to a bilateral meeting aboard the 'Torino' on Lake Maggiore in Switzerland**



**French President Emmanuel Macron attends a ceremony to mark the 80th anniversary of the police Prefecture liberation in Paris**

allovertheworld



**13-year-old Lei Muzi, the Chinese Bharatanatyam student, performs at the first ever Arangetram in Beijing, China, on Sunday**

**Chinese Bharatanatyam dancer makes history; performs 'Arangetram' in China**

**BEIJING:** A 13-year-old Chinese girl scripted history when she performed Bharatanatyam "Arangetram" in China, a landmark in the journey of the ancient Indian dance form that is gaining popularity in the neighbouring country. Lei Muzi made her solo dance debut here on Sunday in front of the celebrated Bharatanatyam dancer Leela Samson, Indian diplomats and a large audience of Chinese fans. For ardent Chinese fans of Indian classical art and dance forms who devoted their lives to learning and performing them for decades, her debut was a moment of history and a milestone as it was the first-ever "Arangetram" — Bharatanatyam's graduation ceremony — in China. For the performers of the ancient dance from South India, Arangetram, as it is called in Tamil, is their debut performance on stage in front of teachers and experts besides the audience. Only after Arangetram are the students allowed to perform on their own or train aspiring dancers. "This is the first-ever Arangetram by a student fully trained in China and performed in China," said T S Vivekanand, the First Secretary of the Indian Embassy in charge of culture who attended the event.

**Kwatra arrives in Washington to assume charge as India's new Ambassador to US**

**WASHINGTON:** India's Ambassador-designate to the US Vinay Mohan Kwatra arrived here on Monday in the American capital. Kwatra, 61, till recently was India's Foreign Secretary. He succeeds Taranjit Singh Sandhu, who retired from the foreign service early this year and served as India's top diplomat in the US from 2020 to 2024. "Delighted to welcome Ambassador Vinay Mohan Kwatra as the new Ambassador of India to the United States of America. All of us (at the Indian Embassy) are excited to work under his leadership," Charge D'Affaires Sripriya Ranganathan said in a post on X.

**Pakistan's former ISI chief Faiz Hameed taken into military custody: Army**

**ISLAMABAD:** In an unprecedented move, the Pakistan Army on Monday announced that it has arrested former ISI chief Lt Gen (ret'd) Faiz Hameed and initiated court martial proceedings against him in connection with a housing scheme scandal. "Complying with the orders of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, a detailed court of inquiry was undertaken by Pakistan Army, to ascertain correctness of complaints in Top City Case made against Lt Gen Faiz Hameed (Ret'd)," the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) - the media wing of the army - said in a statement. "Consequently, appropriate disciplinary action has been initiated against Lt Gen Faiz Hameed (Ret'd), under provisions of the Pakistan Army Act," it said. "In addition, multiple instances of violation of the Pakistan Army Act post-retirement have also been established. The process of Field General Court Martial has been initiated and Lt Gen Faiz Hameed (Ret'd) has been taken into military custody," it added.

**South Korea, US will start summer military drills next week to counter N Korean threats**

**SEOUL:** South Korea and the US will begin their annual joint military exercises next week with a focus on improving their combined capabilities to deter and defend against growing North Korean nuclear threats, the allies said on Monday. The drills could trigger a belligerent response from North Korea, which portrays them as invasion rehearsals and have used the allies' military cooperation as a pretext to advance the development of nuclear weapons and missile systems. South Korea and US military officials said this year's Ulchi Freedom Shield exercise, scheduled for Aug 19-29, will include computer-simulated exercises designed to enhance readiness against such threats as missiles, GPS jamming and cyberattacks, and concurrent field maneuvers and live-fire exercises. The allies in particular aim to "further strengthen (their) capability and posture to deter and defend against weapons of mass destruction," military officials said in a joint news conference.

**Ukraine's incursion into Kursk an attempt to stop Moscow's eastern offensive: Putin**

**AP, KYIV:** Russian President Vladimir Putin said Monday that the Ukrainian army's incursion into the Kursk region, which has caused more than 100,000 civilians to flee and embarrassed the Kremlin, is an attempt by Kyiv to stop Moscow's offensive in eastern Ukraine's Donbas region and gain leverage in possible future peace talks.

**UKRAINE CONFLICT**

Russian forces are still scrambling to respond to the surprise Ukrainian attack after almost a week of fierce fighting, but Putin insisted Moscow's army will prevail. Speaking at a meeting with top security and defense officials, Putin said the attack that began Aug. 6 appeared to reflect Kyiv's attempt to gain a better negotiating position in possible future talks to end the war. Meanwhile, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy confirmed for the first time that Ukrainian military forces are operating inside the Kursk region. In a post on Telegram, he praised the country's soldiers and com-



**Russia's President Vladimir Putin (C) chairs a meeting regarding the situation in the Kursk region, in his residence in Novo-Ogaryovo outside Moscow, on Monday**

manders for their steadfastness and decisive actions. He did not elaborate. He also suggested that Ukraine would offer humanitarian assistance in the region. Putin said Ukraine may have hoped that the attack would cause public unrest in Russia, but that it has failed to achieve that goal, and he claimed that the number of volunteers to join the Russian military has increased because of the assault. He said Russian forces will carry on with their offensive in eastern Ukraine regardless.

It's obvious that the enemy will keep trying to destabilize the situation in the border zone to try to destabilize the domestic political situation in our country, Putin said. Russia's main task is to squeeze out, drive the enemy out of our territories and, together with the border service, to ensure reliable cover of the state border, he said. Acting Kursk Gov. Alexei Smirnov reported to Putin that Ukrainian forces had pushed 12 kms into the Kursk region across a 40-kilometer front and currently control 28

Russian settlements. Smirnov said 12 civilians have been killed and 121 others, including 10 children, have been wounded in the operation. About 121,000 people have been evacuated or left the areas affected by fighting on their own, he said. The total planned number of evacuations is 180,000. Tracking down all the Ukrainian units that are roaming the region and creating diversions is difficult, Smirnov said, noting that some are using fake Russian IDs. The governor of the Belgo-

**'Ukraine now controls 1,000 sq kms of Kursk region'**

**AP, KYIV:** Ukraine's top military commander says his forces now control 1,000 square kilometers of Russia's neighboring Kursk region, the first time a Ukrainian military official has publicly commented on the gains of the lightning incursion that has embarrassed the Kremlin. Gen Olexsandr Syrskyy made the statement in a video posted Monday to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's Telegram channel. In the video, he briefed the president on the front-line situation. "The troops are fulfilling their tasks. Fighting continues actually along the entire front line. The situation is under our control," Syrskyy said. Russian forces are still scrambling to respond to the surprise Ukrainian attack after almost a week of fierce fighting.

rod region adjacent to Kursk also announced the evacuation of people from a district near the Ukrainian border. Ukrainian forces swiftly rolled into the town of Sudzha about 10 kilometers over the border after launching the attack. They reportedly still hold the western part of the town, which is the site of an important natural gas station. The Ukrainian operation is under tight secrecy, and its goals remain unclear, especially whether Kyiv's forces aim to hold territory or to stage hit-and-run raids. The stunning maneuver that

caught the Kremlin's forces off guard counters Russia's unrelenting effort in recent months to punch through Ukrainian defenses at selected points along the front line in eastern Ukraine. Russia has seen previous incursions into its territory during the nearly 2 1/2-year war, but the foray into the Kursk region marked the largest attack on its soil since World War II, constituting a milestone in the hostilities. It is also the first time the Ukrainian army has spearheaded an incursion rather than pro-Ukraine Russian fighters.

**FROM PAGE 1**

**GOA RIVER SAND PROTECTORS' NETWORK SECURES RESOUNDING WIN BEFORE NGT**

The members of the organisation and the GF, being deeply concerned about the erosion of river banks and destruction of the riverine ecology from the illegal sand mining activities, decided to join hands to bring the activity to a complete halt.

The appeal filed by the GRSPN on November 17, 2021, challenged the four environment clearances, all dated October 12, 2021, issued by the SEIAA for sand mining to the North Goa District Collector for four stretches along the River Chapora. Based on the ECs, the Collector was empowered to sublet leases to individuals for sand mining.

During the pendency of the appeal, the State had given an undertaking to the NGT that no permits for sand extraction would be granted till the matter was disposed of. This position has been maintained for the past three years.

The main challenges in the appeal were two-fold. First was a District Survey Report (DSR) was not prepared by the State government, which is mandatory under the EIA Notification, as the DSR must form the basis for an application for an EC for sand mining. The NGT has unequivocally reinforced this aspect of the law in several judgments and further stated that there can be no exceptions to the rule.

The second ground for challenge was that the estuarine area of the River Chapora is highly sensitive especially as it is one of the prime grounds for breeding of turtles, apart from sand dunes and mangroves in the vicinity.

On Monday, when the matter came up for hearing, the Advocate General made a statement that the Goa government has decided not to pursue the four ECs that were issued in October 2021 as they were issued without the DSR. Instead the government is now preparing a DSR as required by law and fresh applications for ECs will be made thereafter.

In view of this statement, the NGT disposed of the appeal by recording that the ECs had become infructuous as they will no longer be given effect to.

Senior Advocate Norma Alvares, assisted by Adv Om D'Costa argued on behalf of the Goa River Sand Protectors' Network. When contacted, senior advocate Norma Alvares said, "I am very glad that the government has finally accepted what we have been saying for the past three years, that you require a district survey report which a comprehensive report involving all departments and all the areas where you are proposing to give sand mining leases, to examine the impact of them on the river and on the adjacent banks."

"We said this to the government in November 2021 when we filed the appeal because the government was relying on the pre-feasibility study by National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), which was given to the biodiversity department. The objective of the report was biodiversity," Alvares said.

"The NIO report stated where sand is found. Also it mentioned that a study has to be done on two things -- one is the impact and the other is the rate of replenishment which is a very important thing. That is the primary objective of the district survey report," Alvares said.

"The government should have paid attention because law says that it is required and there is NGT order also which says that a DSR is the basis for an application to be considered. If you do not do the basis for the application to be considered then how will the certificate for environment clearance (EC) stand?" she asked.

"NIO is not taking onus for the places of sand mining. It gives quantity and not impact and rate of replenishment. We raised the issue that the places where the permissions are being given are estuary area of Chapora river which is ecologically very fragile. At one side in Morjim, the turtle nesting site, and there are sand dunes and mangroves," Alvares added.

"Today (Monday), the Advocate General made a statement that they have decided not to proceed on the basis of those environment clearances all dated October 12, 2021. He said they will not issue leases for sand mining but instead prepare a DSR and once it is prepared an application for environment clearance will be made. We succeeded fully. We had asked for cancellation of the environment clearances. The government has wasted three years by not doing DSR," she said.

Director of Goa Foundation, Claude Alvares said, "It is a victory of sorts for anti-sand mining activists. They have to be congratulated for getting together because as you know there was a sand mining mafia."

"This mafia was doing sand mining with full protection of police and the other authorities and the benefit of illegal mining was shared by all the authorities. It was very difficult at times to monitor the illegal mining because there was danger to people's lives. The Network was battling at the NGT where the latter was insisting on procedure being followed but the Goa government was saying that it is following the procedure," Claude said.

"However, they were relying on NIO reports instead of DSRs, which was not as per the requirement. But finally after three years today (Monday) the government conceded that the DSR report was mandatory and informed the NGT that it has decided to withdraw all the ECs and issue them after preparing DSRs," he said.

"It is the victory of the network. They had to work very hard for two to three years to resolve these issues of illegal sand mining and challenge the ECs. It is a good example for citizens when they get together as a group on specific issues they can always resolve any issues," the environment crusader said.

One of the petitioners Viraj Bakre of Khandola, said, "We welcome the NGT order. We do not want legal sand mining to stop. Once it is stopped then the illegal sand mining starts. It has affected everybody. For the common man, legal sand extraction should start. It is the responsibility of the government to complete the formalities required under law. That is not being done and because of that people are indulging in illegal extraction. It should be done in a proper manner."

Ashok Shirodkar said of Savoi Verem, said, "I hope the order will instill some sense of fear and illegal sand mining will stop. The rampant and reckless sand mining has caused landslides."

Shailesh Shetye said, "Illegal sand mining is still going on at Maina-Navelim in Bicholim taluka. We have been fighting it for the last so many years. People in general were not aware of this. The NGT order is very good and it should be enforced in the spirit of law."

**MAY THE LIGHT OF THOUSAND CANDLES DIM THE ILLEGAL NOISE OF TECHNO PARTIES ON INDEPENDENCE DAY**

Convinced that there is much more than meets the eye - the government and organisers nexus - residents on the coastal belt think the Goa Bench of the Bombay High Court is their last recourse and the candle light meet on August 15, their best attempt to highlight their woes.

"Agitation is the only way forward. It is very obvious that it is the government that is benefitting by allowing laws to be broken. If the Chief Minister is not going to do anything, how can we expect the police?" questions Clive D'Souza from south Anjuna.

"The problem can easily be solved by the police and it is obvious they are instructed not to. The organisers of such events, on the contrary, are not even scared thus making the link obvious," asserts D'Souza, who believes this Independence Day protest is an opportunity not to be wasted.

For instance, In a letter submitted and acknowledged by Anjuna police at 4.15 am on August 3, 2024 Desmond Alvares, petitioner to the High Court states: "It is 4 am Saturday 3rd August, 2024 and even after informing PCR and Anjuna Police at about 2.30 am about the loud trance music no action was taken. Went to the spot at Ozrant Anjuna and video recorded the events."

"Even though HC has passed several orders, no action is being taken by Anjuna police," said Alvares.

"We have formed a group and have tried to raise awareness through it about the ill effects and how to fight the menace. It is now clear that only the High Court will save us

and we are sure our voices will be heard through the media by the courts," asserted Rita Ali from Vagator.

Peoples angst on loud music has travelled right up to Arambol and it is reflected through Remdios Fernandes' who says, "This guy who has advertised his four day party, conveniently drops the name of the Chief Minister and thinks he can roll over us by doing so."

**RAMPANT TREE FELLING NEAR KARMALI RAILWAY STATION ANGERS LOCALS**

The tree felling has resulted in environmental destruction as they were an integral part of local ecosystem, providing shelter for wildlife, maintaining soil integrity, and contributing to the overall green cover of our area. The loss of these trees is particularly detrimental during the rainy season when the risk of soil erosion and landslides is heightened, the Society board members stated.

The felling of trees, there is now a direct line of sight to the railway tracks from their residential area, which has led to a significant increase in noise levels. This noise pollution is disrupting the peace and quiet of the community and is likely to have long-term negative effects on the health and well-being of residents, they said.

The board members stated that there was no prior notification or consultation with the community regarding the tree cutting, nor had been any visible indication that the necessary environmental clearances or permissions were obtained. The hasty removal of these trees during such a sensitive season raised serious concerns about the legality and ethicality of this operation.

They have urged the forest department to conduct an immediate investigation into the matter to determine whether Konkarn Railway had adhered to the necessary legal requirements and environmental protocols. If any violations were found, then swift and appropriate action be taken to hold the responsible parties accountable and to prevent further damage to the environment.

When contacted, Konkarn Railway deputy general manager (public relations) Baban Ghatge said, "The trees were dangerous for overhead equipment. Our entire section is electrified. Even if it is slightly leaning, it is dangerous. There was some problem in some other sections because of the trees. They were prone to falling off during heavy rains. KRCL electrical and engineering department has carried out joint inspection and which trees were dangerous for operations have been cut. This has been done right from Roha to Thokur section."

When asked whether the KRCL had obtained permission from the department to cut trees, Ghatge said, "Permission from the forest department is not required as the trees are in our land. We have to take action if trees are dangerous to rail traffic. These trees were dangerous for movement of rail traffic. There was a possibility of them falling on railway platforms."

**MAMATA VOWS CBI PROBE IF POLICE FAIL TO CRACK CASE BY SUNDAY**

The body of the woman post-graduate trainee, who was allegedly raped and murdered inside a seminar hall of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, was found on Friday morning. Junior doctors began a cease work from the evening that day.

A civic volunteer was arrested on Saturday in connection with the case and was sent to 14-day police custody. At least three Public Interest Litigations (PILs) were also filed before the Calcutta High Court, demanding that the investigation be transferred to the CBI.

A division bench, presided over by Chief Justice T S Sivagnanam, will hear these PILs on Tuesday.

Visiting the residence of the deceased doctor, the chief minister vowed to seek the death penalty for those responsible and stated her determination to see that justice is served. Banerjee said the family members of the deceased doctor suspect that an insider was involved.

"I want the police to arrest the culprits as soon as possible. If they are unable to crack the case by Sunday, we will hand it over to the CBI. I don't have an issue with the central agency taking over, but its success rate is low," Banerjee said.

# SC seek responses from CBI, ED on BRS leader Kavitha's bail pleas

PTI, NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday sought responses from the CBI and ED on BRS leader K Kavitha's pleas seeking bail in corruption and money laundering cases linked to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam.

A bench of justices B R Gavai and K V Viswanathan agreed to hear Kavitha's pleas challenging the Delhi High Court's July 1 verdict denying her bail in these cases.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Ka-

witha, told the bench that she has been in custody for around five months and the charge sheet and prosecution complaint have been filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) respectively.

A prosecution complaint is the ED's equivalent of a charge sheet.

Rohatgi said there were around 500 witnesses in both these cases.

Contending that she was entitled to bail, Rohatgi referred to the apex court's verdict and order passed on the pleas filed by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Manish Sisodia.

The top court had granted interim bail to Kejriwal in the money laundering case linked to the alleged scam. Sisodia was granted bail in both the corruption and money laundering cases linked to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam.

Rohatgi said Kavitha's case was covered by these orders of the top court.

"We will issue notice," the bench said.

"May I pray for interim bail," Rohatgi said.

The bench observed, "Not without hearing them (CBI and ED)".

The bench then issued notices to the CBI and the ED seeking their responses on Kavitha's pleas and posted the matter for hearing on August 20.

The high court had on July 1 dismissed Kavitha's bail pleas in both the cases, saying she was prima facie one of the main conspirators in the criminal conspiracy related to the formation and implementation of the now-scrapped Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22. The CBI and the ED have lodged separate cases pertaining to alleged corruption and money laundering in the formulation and implementation of the policy.

The ED arrested Kavitha (46) from her Banjara Hills residence in Hyderabad on March 15. The CBI arrested her on April 11 in connection with the corruption case linked to the alleged scam.

Kavitha has denied the allegations.

While dismissing her bail pleas, the high court had said no case for grant of regular bail was made for now as the investigation is at a crucial stage.

It had rejected her plea for relief on the grounds of being a well-educated person and a former MP, she cannot be equated to a vulnerable female, and the court cannot lose sight of the "serious allegations" against her.

This "court is of the opinion that K Kavitha was prima facie one of the main conspirators in the criminal conspiracy hatched in relation to formulation and implementation of Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22," the high court had said.

In the high court, Kavitha had challenged the May 6 order of a trial court which had dismissed her bail applications in the CBI's corruption case as well as the ED's money-laundering case.

**MONTH'S MIND**  
In loving memory of  
**CUSTODIO FRANCISCO D'SILVA**  
(Ex- Corporation Bank, Fort Mumbai)  
Palmar Grande, Chinchinim

There will be an Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved CUSTODIO on 14/08/2024 (Tomorrow) at 8.00 a.m. at Our Lady of Hope Church, Chinchinim followed by prayers & blessing at the grave.

Offered by his sorrowful wife, Children & family  
Relatives & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation

**FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY**  
In loving memory of  
**ZEFERINA S. DA COSTA (DELFINA PEREIRA)**  
FRADILEM - NAVELIM

There will be an Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved mother on 14.08.24 (Tomorrow) at 8.15 a.m. at Our Lady of Rosary Church, Navelim followed by prayers and blessing of the grave

Offered by her sorrowful children and grandchildren.  
Relatives & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

**ONE YEAR WITH THE LORD**  
In Everloving Memory of  
**TERESA COLAÇO e DESOUSA**  
VHODDLEM BHATT - TALEIGÃO

Wife of late Jose Filomeno Desouza.

There will be Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved Mai Teresa on Wednesday, 14th August, 2024 (tomorrow) at St. Michael's Church, Taleigao at 7.30 a.m., followed by prayers at the grave, offered by her sorrowful son/daughter-in-law William/Brenda, grandsons Mark and Brian and family.

Relatives & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

**Returned to the Lord**  
**JOSEFINA PEREIRA (Edna)**  
Solva, Raia

Born: 02.02.1966 - Died: 12.08.2024

Wife of John Pereira.  
Mother of Nathan Pereira.

Daughter of Lourдина Silva/Late Inacio Pereira, Daughter-in-law of Joanita Pereira/Late Duarte Pereira. Sisters/sister-in-law of Catarina/Remedios Quadros, Soccorina/Late Luis D'Mello, Caetan Cruz Pereira, Maria/Francisco Da Costa.

Aunt of Pamela/Jose, Gracy/Inacito, Felix, Manuel/Allifa. Funeral rites will be held at 04:00 p.m. on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2024 at Our Lady of Snows Church, Raia, for Eucharistic celebration and burial.

RELATIVES & FRIENDS KINDLY ACCEPT THIS AS THE ONLY INTIMATION  
Confidant Advtg & Funeral Services, Margao 9823022194

**DEATH**

BORN: 9.12.1936 DIED: 12.8.2024

**MARIE ANTOINETTE FURTADO (NETETTE)**

Daughter of late Joaquim Torcato Furtado/ late Helena Barbosa Noronha. Sister/ sister-in-law of Ruth/ late Avelino (Avy) Athayde, Francisco (Chicote)/ Cleia, Paulo & Maria Ana (Pequinha).

Mortal remains will be brought directly to Holy Spirit Church, Margao at 3.30 p.m., followed by Eucharistic Celebration at 4.00 p.m., followed by burial at Margao cemetery on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2024 (TODAY).

Relatives and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.  
NO CONDOLENE VISITS PLEASE.

Confidant Advtg. & Funeral Services, Margao. Ph. 9823022194

**EXCISE POLICY CASES**

**FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY**  
In ever-loving memory of  
**FRANCISCO BARBOSA**  
-: Manora - Raia :-  
Born: 26.03.1946 Died: 14.08.2023

If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord.  
So, whether we live or die, We belong to the Lord.

There will be a Eucharistic celebration for the soul of our beloved Francisco at 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday, 14th August 2024 at Our Lady of Snow's Church, Raia, followed by prayers and blessing at the grave, offered by his sorrowful wife: Joana Gomes, children and grandchildren.

Relatives, neighbours & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.  
Confidant Advtg. & Funeral Service, Margao 9823022194

**MONTH'S MIND**  
In Loving Memory of  
**CARMELINA DE OLIVEIRA**  
(Varcondem- Ponda)

There will be an Eucharistic celebration for the soul of our beloved Mother Carmelina De Oliveira on (Wednesday) 14<sup>th</sup> August 2024, at 8.15 am, at St Anne's Church, Ponda, followed by prayers & blessings of the grave, offered by her sorrowful Children Brenda/Cleto Pereira, Jocelyn/ Anthony Pereira, Cidalia/Reagan D'Souza. Grandchildren Anaiah, Alana, Steven and Rhys.

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

**SECOND DEATH ANNIVERSARY**  
In ever loving memory of  
**CARLOS FRANCISCO XAVIER DOS REMEDIOS MONTEIRO**  
Born: 22/01/1954 Died: 13/08/2022

*Time passes, memories stay.  
Loved ones don't go away,  
they walk beside us every day,  
unseen, unheard but always near,  
so loved, so missed, so very dear.*

There will be a Eucharistic Celebration for the Soul of our beloved CARLOS, on 14th August 2024, Wednesday (tomorrow) at 7.00 am at the Church of Our Lady of Hope Candolim, followed by prayers and blessings of the grave.

Offered by his wife and 3 sons  
Relatives, friends & neighbours kindly accept this as the only intimation

**DEATH**  
**MATILDA D'SOUZA (MATTY)**  
XETIA VADDO, DULER MAPUSA

Born: 27/02/1928 Died: 12/08/2024

Beloved wife of late Cyril D'souza  
Loving mother/mother-in-law of Sisinio/Effie (Canada), Celly/late Mario.

Grandmother of Samantha/Robert. Great grandmother of Ryan. Sister of late Pamela/late John De'sa

Funeral service will be held on Wednesday 14.08.24 (Tomorrow) at St. Jeromes Church, Mapusa at 4.00 pm  
Relatives, friends and neighbours kindly accept this as the only intimation

**Month's Mind**  
In Everloving Memory of

Born: 13/01/1959 Died: 06/08/2024

**Bernadine Pinto e Menezes (Corjuem)**

There will be a Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved Bernadine on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2024 (Tomorrow) at 08.00 a.m. at St. Thomas Church, Aldona followed by Prayers and Blessing of the grave offered by her sorrowful family.

Relatives, Friends & Neighbours kindly accept this as the only intimation.  
Empathy Ambassadors 9022200801 / 7558653211

**MONTH'S MIND**  
Mrs. ANA SEVERINA CARVALHO  
(Muddawaddo, Saligao)

There will be an Eucharistic celebration for the soul of my beloved mother Mrs Ana Severina Carvalho on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at 8:00 am at Mae - De - Deus Church, Saligao followed by the prayers and blessings of the grave.

Remembered by her sorrowful daughter/son-in-law Saviona / Francis Cardozo and grandchildren Lourenco, Ronaldo, Ana Joaquina (Rossi).

**First Death Anniversary**  
In Ever-loving Memory of our beloved  
**JORGE JOSE PINTO**  
GAVONA- CHORAO

EX- CHIEF CHEF  
ESSAR SHIPPING

There will be a Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved Jorge on 14.08.2024, Tomorrow at 6.45am at Nossa Senhora De Saude Chapel, Choroa followed by prayers and blessing at the grave.

Offered by his sorrowful wife Feliciano Pinto  
Children: Digno/Jhonny Fernandes, Jeniho/Myrose Pinto, late Welsh Pinto, Edwin Pinto, Saudia/Selwyn Dias. Loving grandchildren and family  
Relatives, friends & neighbours kindly accept this as the only intimation.

**MONTH'S MIND**  
In Everloving Memory Of  
**CARMELINA PEREIRA**  
CALATA - MAJORDA

"A golden heart stopped beating,  
Hard Working hands at rest  
God broke our hearts to prove to us,  
he only takes the best"

There will be Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved CARMELINA, on Wednesday (Tomorrow) 14th August 2024 at 8.00am at Mother of God Church, Majorda. Followed by prayers & blessings of the grave, offered by her Sorrowful Children Olinda/Tony, Rosario/Nescy, Cyril/Filu, Fidelis/Blasia & Xavier/Jesina.

Relatives, Neighbours and Friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

**LORD I AM COMING HOME**

Born: 06/12/1940 Died: 11/08/2024

**MARIA FRANCISCA RODRIGUES**  
ODLEM BHAT - TALEIGÃO

Beloved wife of late Menino J. de Almeida; Daughter of late Jose Rodrigues and late Maria C. Viegas; Loving Mother/mother-in-law of Rosa de Almeida/Reginaldo Dias, late Arlette de Almeida/late Francisco X. Carvalho, Antonio J. C. de Almeida (Joeboy)/Celina Pereira, late Maria Conceição de Almeida/Cirilo Frederico Sousa and Jeronimo E. de Almeida (Egit)/Fiona Fernandes; Doting grandmother and great grandmother.

Funeral cortege will leave her residence TODAY, 13th August, 2024 to St. Michael's Church, Taleigão for Eucharistic Celebration at 4.00 p.m., followed by burial.

Relatives & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
*M. A. Chacko*

APRIL 21, 1945 - AUGUST 13, 2022

"Forever in our hearts, your memory lives on."  
Your Beloved Family

Confidant Advtg. & Funeral Service, Margao 9823022194

**LORD I AM COMING HOME**  
**JOAQUIM ROSARIO Da SILVA**  
FRADILEM - NAVELIM  
DOB - 25.06.1951 DOD - 11.08.2024

Son of Late Menino & Esmeralda Anunciasao a.k.a Estefante  
Husband of Santana Guilhermina Pires  
Father & Father-in-law of \*Breston & Ramya \*Reynold & Jalajakshi  
Grandfather of Dilan & Alayna  
Brother & Brother-in-law of \*Antonio Joao, \*Agnelo & Olivia, \*Late Francisco Xavier & Maria, \*Bento & Maria, \*Peter & Filda, \*Late Esperança & late Antonio, \*Lucy & John.

Funeral Mass will be held on 14.08.24 Wednesday at 4.30pm at Our Lady of Rosary Church, Navelim.  
Relatives & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation

**FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY**  
In Loving Memory of

Born on 26.05.1944 Died on 15.08.2023

**JOSEFA FILIPINA FURTADO (GEORGINA)**  
Wife of Late Tomas Aquino Da Costa

-: Novangully, Varca :-

There will be a Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our loving Mai on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at 7.30 a.m. at Our Lady of Gloria Church, Varca followed by prayers at the grave.

Offered by her sorrowful children, grandchildren, and great-grandchild.

**Returned to the Lord**  
**DERYK MILAGRES FERNANDES**  
BATORA - CURTORIM  
(Ex Committee Member of Curtorim Gymkhana)

Born: 02.11.1966 Died 12.08.2024

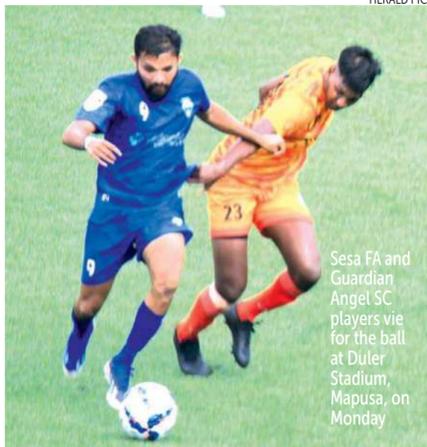
Son of late Joaquim Gabriel Fernandes & late Amelia Mascarenhas. Husband of Ida Fernandes. Father of Dain & Delton Fernandes. Brother/brother in law of Melwyn/Theresa, Lydia/Raul, Gorethi/late Constanco, Doris/Fredy. Uncle to Lynet, Lizette, Ronaldo, Sanrick, Fagan and Flency, Trevyn, Mylyn & Meglisha.

Funeral cortege will leave the residence at Batora, TODAY, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at 3:15pm to St. Alex Church, Curtorim for Eucharistic celebration at 3:30pm followed by burial.

Relatives, friends & neighbours kindly accept this as the only intimation.  
BOOKIES 9822129657

# Sesa FA too good for Guardian Angel SC

## Goa Police SC and PAX of Nagoa play a goalless draw at Chowgule ground



Sesa FA and Guardian Angel SC players vie for the ball at Duler Stadium, Mapusa, on Monday

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

**MAPUSA:** Sesa Football Academy proved to be too good as they trounced Guardian Angel SC 5-0 in the 2nd edition of late Bhausaheb Bhandodkar Trophy organised by Goa Football Association at Duler Stadium, here, on Monday.

### BHAUSAHEB BANDODKAR MEMORIAL TROPHY

One minute of silence was observed on the 51st death anniversary of late Bhausaheb Bhandodkar at the start of the match.

Sesa FA having lost their

first match saw coach Charles Dias bring two changes in his Starting XI, goalkeeper Roanal Gaunkar and defender Akash Kudnekar.

At the other end, Guardian Angel SC under the guidance of head coach Riston Rodrigues played their first league match, with a young squad.

Sesa FA lads started earnestly where two close attempts by Chaitan Dabholkar and Thokchom Singh early in the match was saved by Guardian Angel SC's goalkeeper Oswin Rodrigues.

However in the 11th minute, Sesa FA Omkar Shetgaonkar's strong header brushed keeper Oswin gloves to find the ball

enter the goal before striking the inner goal post, 1-0.

It did not take long for Sesa FA to double their lead where a diving header by new signing Clive Miranda of Aman Rajbhar's cross left keeper Oswin rooted to the ground, 2-0.

In the 27th minute, Guardian Angel SC had their first good attempt at the rival goal where a 25-yard stinging shot by medio Clifton Rebello was brilliantly fisted for a corner by Sesa FA's custodian Roanal Gaunkar. Just two minutes later, Sesa FA skipper Shridharmath Gawas scored a gem of a goal as he connected a half volley past keeper Oswin, 3-0.

At the strike of 45th minute, Thokchom Singh pumped in the

fourth goal with a neat placement which hit the far post before entering the goal, 4-0.

On crossing ends, Sesa FA coach Charles brought in number of substitution where Clenico Pinto saw his first touch materialise for the fifth goal.

In another match, Goa Police SC and PAX of Nagoa played a goalless draw, at Chowgule ground, Margao.

From the start, both teams showed urgency to score goals but their goalkeepers were equal to the task to trot the both teams opportunities which came their way in both the sessions. Their forwards also made some good inroads but were not on the target to open the account.

## PY Nuvem in quarters

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

**RAIA:** Parish Youth Nuvem moved past St Anthony SC, Colva, 3-2 to enter into the quarter-finals of the Cana-Benaulum Soccer inter-village football tournament organised by Cana-Benaulum Sporting Association at St John de Baptista ground, Benaulum, on Monday. Jayson Dias, Schubert Borges and Francis Colaco netted a goal each for Parish Youth Nuvem. St Anthony SC fought relentlessly and managed to score back to back goals through substitute Kabir Khan.

### Chandor Veterans win

Chandor Veterans edged past Mitra Veterans 3-1 to move ahead in the Pogo Boys Veterans football tournament played at Merces church ground, on Monday. Both the teams were tied goalless at the breather. Elvis scored a brace, while Philip netted the other goal for Chandor Veterans. The only goal for Mitra Veterans was scored by Gennavi.

## Xetrapal SC-Bhumika SC, Miracles SC-Sodiem Siolim SC split points

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

**MAPUSA:** Bhumika SC managed to hold Xetrapal SC to a 2-2 draw in the GFA's Division III League Bardez Zone match played at Mandrem ground, on Monday.

### GFA DIV III LEAGUE

Yash Simepurushkar put Xetrapal SC ahead in the first session.

On crossing ends, Prakash Ashvenkar netted a brace for Bhumika. Kanaya Govekar netted the second goal for Xetrapal SC.

At Moira ground, Sodiem Siolim Sports Club managed to hold Miracles Sports Club to a 1-1 draw.

Shawn Vesaokar opened the account for Miracles Sports Club in the 50th minute only to find Sodiem Siolim SC level terms 10 minutes later through Kevin D'Souza, 1-1.



Dr K B Hedgewar Higher Secondary School, Cujira, won the U-19 boys Inter-Higher Secondary School Sepaktakraw tournament organised by the Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs, at indoor hall, Campal, Panjim, recently. In the Zonal level final, Dr K B Hedgewar HSS defeated St Michael Higher Secondary School, Taleigao. The team (standing left to right) Rudresh Adkonkar, Bhavesh Hadkonkar, Raunak Dhuri, Viraj Shirodkar and Mayank Tople along with sitting (left to right) Abdul Shaikh (official), Atul Kankonkar (Assistant organiser), Sanjay Shirodkar (ZSO-DSYA), Milind Gawas (PE teacher) and Alok Yadav (official)

## Ambelim SC face Navelim Villagers Union in final

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

**RAIA:** Ambelim SC outplayed Fr Agnelo YSC, Paroda, 4-2 via tie-breaker to enter into the final of Our Lady of Merces Cup inter-village football tournament organised by Sirlim Sports Club, at Chinchinim church ground, on Monday.

The match saw both the teams mostly battling out in the midfield with Fr Agnelo YSC having a slight upper hand, thanks to Selton Fernandes, who controlled the game from the centre. Both the teams were tied goalless at the full session.

In the resultant tie-breaker, Ambelim SC scored through Michael, Velroy, Crossley and Blasco, while Fr Agnelo YSC netted through Kanxhan and Melvino. Ambelim SC to meet Navelim Villagers Union in the final slated on August 15.

## Perpetual Convent HS, Mae dos Pobres in semi-finals

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

**PANJIM:** Perpetual Convent High School, Navelim, defeated Marina English High School, Verna, 4-2 via tie-breaker to move into the semi-finals of Independence Cup - 1st All-Goa Inter-School U-17 football tournament organised by Verna Sports Club, at Verna church ground, on Monday.



Vernon Cardozo of Perpetual Convent High School receives the man-of-the-match award from John Abranches, former player of Verna SC



Savio Fernandes, organising secretary of Verna SC, presents the man-of-the-match award to Wayne Stalin Colaco of Mae dos Pobres

There was no score at full time. Vernon Cardozo of Perpetual Convent High School was awarded the man-of-the-match award by John Abranches, former player of Verna Sports Club.

In the second match, Mae dos Pobres High School, Nuvem, outplayed Fr Agnelo High School, Pilar, 4-3 via tie-breaker to move into the semi-finals. There was no score at full time. Wayne Stalin Colaco of Mae dos Pobres was awarded the man-of-the-match by Savio Fernandes, organising secretary of Verna Sports Club.

## Sanvi emerges champion in Sonawane Memorial Canacona Taluka Chess tourney

HERALD PIC



The winners along with chief guest Canacona Municipal Council Chairperson Sara Naik Gaonkar, Harsh Sonawane, Canacona Taluka Chess Association President Sharendra Naik, Chief Arbiter IA Sanjay Kavlekar, Rajendrakumar Sonawane and Preeti Sonawane (son and daughter-in-law of late Shri Daji Sonawane), Canacona Taluka Chess Association Treasurer Viju Naik Gaonkar, Deputy Chief Arbiter SNA Tanishq Kavlekar and Arbiter SNA Pretty Mendes at the Shri Mallikarjun School, Canacona, recently

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

**RAIA:** Sanvi Naik Gaonkar emerged champion in the wins late Shri Daji Sonawane Memorial Canacona Taluka Chess Tournament 2024 organised by Harsh Sonawane in association with the Canacona Taluka Chess Association in memory of his grandfather late Shri Daji Sonawane at Shri Mallikarjun School, Canacona, recently. Sanvi secured 7.5 points.

Her brother Suyash finished in the second place with the same score of 7.5 points but had a lower Buchholz tie-breaker than Sanvi. Shaurya Prabhu Agrasani secured the third place.

The top 20 prize winners are: Sanvi, Suyash, Shaurya, Advait Kamat, Saurav Komarpant, Shivam Raikar, Piyush Dessai, Tvisha Desai, Sarvesh Komarpant, Vansh Dessai, Druv Pagi, Charan Komarpant, Anvi Dessai, Param phal Dessai, Yashraj Komarpant,

Sankalp Pagi, Vasudev Prabhudesai, Nital Gaonkar, Satwik Pagi and Kshitij Naik Gaonkar.

In the age category: U-7 - boys: Roman Moviseev. Girls: Maria Moviseeva. U-9 boys: Suyog Todur. Girls: Shanaya Desai. U-11 boys: Yuvraj Gaonkar. Girls: Smriti Naik. U-13 boys: Zade Fernandes. Girls: Eesha Sawant. U-15: boys: Tejas Dessai. Girls: Sambhavi Gaonkar.

The prizes were presented by chief guest Canacona Municipal Council

Chairperson Sara Naik Gaonkar, along with Harsh Sonawane, Canacona Taluka Chess Association President Sharendra Naik, Chief Arbiter IA Sanjay Kavlekar, Rajendrakumar Sonawane and Preeti Sonawane (son and daughter-in-law of late Shri Daji Sonawane), Canacona Taluka Chess Association Treasurer Viju Naik Gaonkar, Deputy Chief Arbiter SNA Tanishq Kavlekar and Arbiter SNA Pretty Mendes.

## AIFF assures I-League clubs of better quality broadcast production

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** The All India Football Federation (AIFF) on Monday assured I-League clubs of better quality broadcast production using "up to 8 high definition cameras" and club-centric optimised fixture in the upcoming season, provided the participating teams meet a minimum infrastructure mandate.

The decision was taken during a meeting of I-League club representatives and AIFF President Kalyan Chaubey here.

Eight of the 12 club owners/co-owners attended the meeting at the Football House here, while four joined virtually. The 2024-25 I-League season is set to start on October 19.

"Addressing the feedback received from the clubs, AIFF has assured to work with the stakeholders on proactive steps to help raise I-League profile with renewed focus on its marketing and promotion, broadcast, fix-

ture and refereeing," the AIFF said in a release.

"AIFF is keen to schedule I-League games on prime time with an increased 'up to 8 camera' HD broadcast kit. It has requested clubs to revert with updates on their home stadium infrastructure including committing the availability of infrastructure, the release said. For 2023-24 fixtures, it has been decided that the AIFF competition department in consultation with the club owners and the relevant task force, will present a best-scenario scheduling, geographically mapping clubs travelling and to optimise away games fixture in a way to reduce the clubs' travel cost and time.

The I-League clubs, the AIFF and the Task Force are scheduled to meet on August 26 to review the reports, suggestions and to decide on next course of action.

The club representatives Monday assured I-League clubs

will also be marked as marquee events in the fixtures for marketing purposes.

"However, for venues which may not be able to meet the minimum requirements this season, AIFF will allocate a minimum of two to six camera kit, considering the availability of the infrastructure," the release said.

For 2023-24 fixtures, it has been decided that the AIFF competition department in consultation with the club owners and the relevant task force, will present a best-scenario scheduling, geographically mapping clubs travelling and to optimise away games fixture in a way to reduce the clubs' travel cost and time.

The club representatives Monday assured I-League clubs

## GOA DIARY

### All-Goa Major Ranking Badminton Tournament at Navelim

**RAIA:** To showcase young badminton talent, the Salcete Badminton Club in association with the Vision Goa, Goa Badminton Association and Sports Authority of Goa will organise All-Goa Major Ranking Badminton Tournament from August 16 to 18, at the Manohar Parrikar Indoor Stadium, Navelim. This tournament will be a crucial selection event for the players aspiring to represent Goa in the upcoming All-India tournaments across the country. It promises to be a significant occasion for young athletes, aiming to make their mark at the national level.

## TODAY'S SPORTS

**GFA Division III League 2024-25 (Bardez Zone) Group A:** Peddem Bom SC, Anjuna vs FC Siolim, at Mandrem Panchayat ground, 4 pm

**Independence Cup - 1st All-Goa Inter-School U-17 football (semi-finals):** Perpetual Succour Convent High School, Navelim, vs Our Lady of Perpetual Succour High School, Cortalim, 4 pm. Bethany Convent High School, Sao Jose de Areal, vs Mae Dos Pobres High School, Nuvem, 5 pm. Both matches at Verna church ground

**Cana-Benaulum Soccer:** Navelim SC vs SC Davorlim, St John de Baptista ground, Benaulum, 4.30 pm

**Pogo Boys Cup:** Bardez Veterans vs Fatorda Veterans, at Merces church ground, 5 pm

**NO MORE SHOWS IN MARGAO**  
15TH AUG 3.30PM  
GOMANT VIDYA NIKETAN  
**MARGAO**  
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE COUNTER

**PARVEACHEM ROGOT**  
DRAVIDIAN AND  
KANULACHEM ROGOT  
KALLEM?

CONTACT: 8888718809 / 9822393408

**POSITIVELY LAST SHOW AT MARGAO**  
**TODAY 13TH AUG**  
7.30 P.M.  
**PAI HALL MARGAO**  
VILLAGE SHOWS ACCEPTED  
SEPTEMBER TO OCTOBER

CONTACT: 9822583216

**ITS TOMORROW**  
14TH AUG 7:30 PM MARGAO  
RAVINDRA BHAVAN  
**ANTHONY SYLVESTER'S**  
A TRADITIONAL TIATR

**GOEM GHANTTAR VIKLEM KONNEM?**  
CONT: 9890056994

17TH AUG 7:30 PM VASCO  
TICKETS AT RODRIGUES STORE

18TH AUG 3:30 PM PONDA  
AMUL ICECREAM Upper Bazar HANSEL 963774718 MINQUEL DE PONDA 9764919687 ROSE ENTERPRISES 81 6008766SAVIO QUEIROZ 9960609920

**Drishti Entertainments**  
&  
**Directorate of Art & Culture**  
Celebrates 77th Independence Day  
presenting  
**Bharoti Svotntrai Songit Sanz**  
Patriotic Songs, Dance and Konknni Musical Show

**Johnny B Gud**  
7 Budding Tiatr Artistes & A Director  
will be Felicitated by the Chief Guest  
**Dr. Pramod Sawant**  
Hon. Chief Minister of Goa  
Guest of Honor  
**Shri Nilesh Cabral**  
Hon. MLL of Curchorem Constituency

**On August 14, Wednesday at 3 p.m.**  
**Ravindra Bhavan, Curchorem**

Join us to Celebrate Our Independence Day

## sports popup

## New Zealand pick five spin options for Tests against Afghanistan, Sri Lanka

AUCKLAND: New Zealand on Monday named a strong squad, which includes five spin bowling options, for next month's one-off Test against Afghanistan and the ensuing two-match rubber against Sri Lanka. While the one-off Test against Afghanistan will be played in Greater Noida, India, from September 9-13, the Black Caps will fly to Sri Lanka for the two ICC World Test Championship matches, starting September 18 and 26, respectively. Veteran pacer Tim Southee will lead the side which includes the likes of Kane Williamson, Devon Conway, Glenn Phillips and Rachin Ravindra, while Tom Latham continues to be the vice-captain. However, head coach Gary Stead hinted that if conditions call for a different balance, the skipper too may have to sit out for a game or two. Squad: Tim Southee (captain), Tom Blundell, Michael Bracewell, Devon Conway, Matt Henry, Tom Latham, Daryl Mitchell, Will O'Rourke, Ajaz Patel, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Mitchell Santner, Ben Sears, Kane Williamson, Will Young.

## Nepal to train at NCA ahead of Cricket World Cup League 2 series

KATHMANDU: The Nepal cricket team will train at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru as part of its preparations for the Cricket World Cup League 2 series to be held in Canada. Nepal will train at the NCA facility for two weeks before heading to Canada to play the tri-series, also involving Oman. They are currently at sixth place on the League 2 table. "Rhinos are off to India to gear up for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup League 2 Preparation Series! Training at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru for two weeks will sharpen our players' skills and strategies. Let's wish them all the best!" wrote the Cricket Association of Nepal on its official X page on Monday. Some of the frontline Nepal players such as captain Rohit Paudel, Dipendra Singh Airee and Sandeep Lamichhane were recently in Canada, playing in the Global T20 league. Incidentally, Nepal had visited India for a set of training matches, where they played Gujarat and Baroda at Vapi before flying out to participate in the T20 World Cup 2024 in the Americas. The Rhinos will aim to finish in the top four of the League 2 table by December 2026, allowing the team to make it to the CWC Qualifier. Failing to secure a top-four finish would force the side to play the CWC Qualifier Play-off, from where the top four teams will make it to the CWC Qualifier.

## Neeraj's homecoming delayed, in Germany to consult doctor: family source

NEW DELHI: Star Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has left for Germany after winning a silver medal in the Paris Games to take medical advice regarding a possible surgery and to decide whether to feature in the upcoming Diamond League meetings, according to sources. A family source told PTI that he has left for Germany and is unlikely to return to India for at least one month. In Paris, Indian Olympic Association sources also confirmed that Chopra has left for Germany. "Chopra has left for Germany and he will not return to India for another month and a half," a family source told PTI. "I am not aware of the much of the details, but for sure he will consult a doctor there (Germany)," he added. After winning at the Paavo Nurmi Games in Finland in June, Chopra had said that he would consult doctors after the Paris Olympics to deal with his injury. He had won the World Championships in 2023 while carrying the groin injury. Before the Paris Olympics this year, he took a break of more than one month due to adductor muscle niggle. The 26-year-old Chopra had earlier also consulted a doctor in Germany regarding his injury. He also had a short training stint in Saarbrücken in Germany last month before the Olympics.

## World No. 22 Sreeja Akula ruled out of UTT due to stress fracture

CHENNAI: Indian table tennis star Sreeja Akula has been ruled out of the upcoming season of the Ultimate Table Tennis due to a stress fracture. Sreeja, who along with world No. 25 Manika Batra created history by becoming the first Indian players to enter the round of 16 in individual events at the Paris Olympics, is currently the highest ranked player in the country at the 22nd position. The two-time national champion Sreeja was slated to play for Jaipur Patriots but in a statement released on Monday, the 26-year-old informed that she will need a recuperating period of six weeks. "I am sorry to share that I have been diagnosed with a stress fracture and on my doctor's advice, I will need to rest for six weeks, which unfortunately means (that) I will not be able to participate in the UTT," she said. Sreeja has been replaced by U-19 Youth National Champion Nithyashree Mani. The upcoming edition of the UTT will be held in Chennai from August 22 to September 7.

## Sergi Roberto leaves Barca after 14 seasons

BARCELONA: Barcelona confirmed on Sunday captain Sergi Roberto has left the club after 14 seasons with the Catalan giants. The 32-year-old's contract expired at the end of June but no decision had been made on his future until now. Midfielder Sergi Roberto came through Barca's La Masia academy and made his first team debut in 2010. He was the unlikely hero of Barcelona's stunning 6-1 comeback to beat Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League last 16 in 2017, netting the final and decisive goal after the French side won 4-0 in the first leg. "After 373 games, 25 trophies and an unforgettable goal, the footballer who arrived at La Masia at the age of 14 is leaving the club," said Barcelona in a statement. Sergi Roberto netted 19 times for Barcelona and won two Champions Leagues and seven La Liga titles among other silverware. The versatile Spain international played mostly as a right-back in recent seasons as well as filling in elsewhere when required.

## Argentina striker Alvarez joins Atletico Madrid from Man City in deal worth around \$103m

LONDON: Argentina striker Julian Alvarez joined Atletico Madrid from Manchester City in a deal reportedly worth more than \$103 million on Monday, ending his trophy-laden two-year spell at the English champions. City manager Pep Guardiola said last week that Alvarez told him he wanted to leave for a new challenge. Alvarez left Argentine team River Plate in 2022 for 14 million pounds (now \$17.8 million) and helped City win the Premier League in both seasons he was in England, as well as the Champions League, the FA Cup and the Club World Cup. In 103 appearances in all competitions, Alvarez scored 36 goals. However, despite being first choice for Argentina, he was behind Erling Haaland in the City pecking order. City could reportedly get up to 95 million euros (\$104 million) for the 24-year-old Alvarez. "Today I say goodbye to this amazing club, with a lot of emotion," he said. "These have been two very special years. During this time, I have grown and learnt a lot - both as a player and as a person." City director of football Txiki Begiristain said Alvarez's "attitude has been first-class since he first walked through the door here."

## Nation's sports fraternity waits with bated breath as CAS to deliver Vinesh's verdict today

If the ruling in Phogat's favour, she will be awarded a joint-silver in the women's 50kg freestyle category

PTI, PARIS: India's sports fraternity waited with bated breath as the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), having heard arguments of all parties, got ready to deliver its verdict on wrestler Vinesh Phogat's appeal against her disqualification at the Paris Olympics, on Tuesday.

Vinesh, who stormed into the final of the women's 50kg freestyle event with three convincing wins, including against wrestling royalty Yui Susaki of Japan last Tuesday, was debarred from the gold medal bout against eventual winner Sarah Hildebrandt of the United States as she was found 100gm above the prescribed limit in the customary morning weigh-in.

Shocked by the dramatic turn of events, the crestfallen grappler last Wednesday appealed against the decision at the CAS and demanded that she be given a joint silver with Cuban wrestler Yusneylis Guzman Lopez, who had lost to Vinesh but was later promoted to the final following the Indian's disqualification.

A day after her heartbreaking disqualification, Vinesh announced her retirement from the sport, saying she doesn't have the strength to

continue, as sporting icons from across the world threw their weight behind the 29-year-old wrestler who was appearing in her third Olympic Games.

Months before she boarded the plane to Paris, Vinesh was spearheading a protest along with fellow wrestlers Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik against former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who was accused of sexual harassment and intimidation by the renowned trio and few other grapplers.

This list of sports personalities backing Vinesh included famous Japanese Olympic champion Rei Higuchi, who suffered a similar fate in the Tokyo edition three years ago before claiming a gold in Paris and legendary American freestyle wrestler Jordan Burroughs, who went to the extent of asking the IOC to give Vinesh a silver medal.

Cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar, who also was of the opinion that Vinesh should have been awarded a silver at least, champion shooter Abhinav Bindra, double Olympic medalist superstar javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra and celebrated



International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Thomas Bach, while being sympathetic to Vinesh's situation, wondered where would one draw the line after allowing small concessions in certain situations but United World Wrestling (UWW) chief Nenad Lalovic remained doubtful that there would be any change in the results as they were only following the rules

hockey player PR Sreejesh also offered their support to Vinesh and reminded the country of her contributions in the sport.

On the eve of the verdict, 2008 Beijing Olympics bronze medalist boxer Vijender Singh also extended his support to Vinesh.

"Bhan @Phogat\_Vinesh aap ke sath pehle bhi the abhi hai or aage bhi rahenge (Sister, I was with you earlier, with you now, and will be with you in future too)," Vijender tweeted.

Meanwhile, International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Thomas Bach, while being sympathetic to Vinesh's situation, wondered where would one draw the line after allowing small concessions in certain situations but United World Wrestling (UWW) chief Nenad Lalovic remained doubtful that there would be any change in the results as they were only following the rules.

"I must say, I have a certain understanding for the wrestler; it's clearly a human touch," Bach had said on Friday.

"Now, it's (appeal) in CAS. We will, at the end, follow the CAS decision. But, again, the international (wrestling) federation, they have to apply their interpretation, their rules. This is their responsibility."

Lalovic added, "I am so sorry for what happened, but no matter the size of your country, athletes are athletes. This weigh-in was public, everyone saw what happened. How can we allow

someone to compete when we all saw what happened.

"We don't have any other choice but to follow our rules," Lalovic had said.

The Games concluded on Sunday with a ceremony at Stade de France, which was the venue for track and field events. The CAS ad-hoc division, set up especially for dispute resolution during the Games, had accepted Vinesh's appeal against her ouster on Friday.

Vinesh's legal team has French lawyers Joelle Monlouis, Estelle Ivanova, Habbine Estelle Kim and Charles Amson who helped her and the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) during the filing of the application. They have been provided to her by the Paris Bar and are handling the case pro bono.

In addition, senior counsels Harish Salve and Vidushpat Singhania have also been roped in to help her in the case. Salve served as the Solicitor General of India from 1999 to 2003. He also represented India before the International Court of Justice in the Kulbhushan Jadhav case.

If CAS rules in Vinesh's favour, she will be awarded a joint-silver in the women's 50kg freestyle category.

## Athanaze heroics guide Windies to a draw

PTI, PORT OF SPAIN (Trinidad and Tobago): Alick Athanaze missed out on a maiden Test century but played the key role in ensuring the safety of a draw for the West Indies against South Africa on the final day of the rain-affected first Test of a two-match series at Queen's Park Oval on Sunday.

Set the unlikely victory target of 298 after the Proteas declared their second innings at 173 for three just before lunch, Athanaze's determined 92 and a fifth-wicket partnership of 65 with Jason Holder (31 not out) guided the hosts from the discomfort of 127



Alick Athanaze (right) of West Indies hits a four during the fifth and final day of the first Test match against South Africa at Queens Park Oval, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

## TEST

for four just after tea to 301 for five at the end of play. As in the first innings, Keshav Maharaj presented the greatest threat to the hosts, the left-arm orthodox spinner claiming four for 88 to finish with match figures of eight for 164.

Coming to the crease with the West Indies in trouble at 18 for two just after lunch due to early strikes by Maharaj and Kagiso Rabada, Athanaze displayed admirable restraint in an innings spanning over three hours during which he faced 116 balls and stroked nine fours.

However that discipline wavered with the end of play

in sight as the 25-year-old left-hander from Dominica, clearly keen to get to the landmark, top-edged a sweep off Maharaj to give Ryan Rickelton a comfortable catch at backward square-leg.

Earlier, Tristan Stubbs' aggressive 68 off 50 balls (six fours, two sixes) led the Proteas' pursuit of quick runs on a bright, sweltering morning. His maiden Test half-century was supported by openers Tony de Zorzi (45) and Aiden Markram (38) in scoring at almost a run-a-ball before captain Temba Bavuma declared when Stubbs was bowled by veteran seamer Kumar Roach.

West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite, who fell in the first over of the innings, slicing an ambitious lofted drive to cover off Maharaj, was not thinking about a draw when he walked out to bat with opening partner Mikyle Louis.

Given the significant interruptions by rain - more than two days' playing time was lost - there is already concern the second and final Test, scheduled for the Guyana National Stadium from Thursday, will also suffer a similar fate.

It again raises questions about the wisdom of scheduling international cricket -

especially Test matches - in the southern Caribbean at the heart of the rainy season.

Brief scores: South Africa 357 all out (Tema Bavuma 86, Tony de Zorzi 78, Wiaan Mulder 41 not out; Jomel Warrican 4-69, Jayden Seales 3-67, Kumar Roach 2-53) and 173-3 declared (Tristan Stubbs 68, Tony de Zorzi 45, Aiden Markram 38; Jomel Warrican 2-57) vs West Indies 233 (Keacy Carty 42, Jason Holder 36, Jomel Warrican 35 not out; Keshav Maharaj 4-76, Kagiso Rabada 3-56) and 201-5 (Alick Athanaze 92, Keacy Carty 31, Jason Holder 31 not out; Keshav Maharaj 4-88).

## Thorpe took own life after battling with depression, anxiety, reveals wife

PTI, LONDON: Former England cricketer Graham Thorpe took his own life after a struggle with depression and anxiety fuelled by his failing health in the last two years, his wife Amanda has revealed.

The 55-year-old passed away on August 5. Thorpe's demise was announced by the England and Wales Cricket Board and now his wife has revealed in an interview to former England captain Michael Atherton that he had a long mental and physical battle with himself before he took his own life.

"Despite having a wife and two daughters whom he loved and who loved him, he did not get better," Thorpe's wife was quoted as saying by "The Times". "He was so unwell in recent times and he really did believe that we would be better off without him and we are devastated that he acted on that and took his own life." A ceremony was held before the start of a match between the Farnham Cricket Club and the Chipstead Cricket Club last Saturday in memory of Thorpe, which was attended by his wife and their daughters Kitty (22) and Emma (19).

"For the past couple of years, Graham had been suffering from major depression and anxiety. This led him to make a serious attempt on his life in May 2022, which resulted in a prolonged stay in an intensive care unit," she said.

His wife revealed that despite his work assignments, Thorpe continued to suffer.

"Despite glimpses of hope and of the old Graham, he continued to suffer from depression and anxiety, which at times got very severe. We supported him as a family and he tried many, many treatments but unfortunately none of them really seemed to work," she said.

The report added that the family is now considering starting a foundation in his name. Thorpe's daughter Kitty said he was "not the same person" after a point and that he "could



## Grand Chess: Draw for Praggnanandhaa

PTI, ST LOUIS (USA): R Praggnanandhaa has been handed a decent draw at the St. Louis Rapid and Blitz tournament with the Indian Grandmaster set to begin his campaign with black pieces against Levon Aronian of United States here.

With white games against the French duo of Maxime Vachier-Lagrave and Alireza Firouzja, Grand chess tour leader Fabiano Caruana of United States and Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan, the Indian has a good opportunity to improve from his current third rank on the tour. After doing well in the early part of the year, Praggnanandhaa

was not at his best in the Biel Masters and dropped some important rating points to go out of top ten world rankings. Known as someone who recovers quickly, the Indian who turned 19 last week, he will hope to make amends and do well in the last two events here.

With USD 1,75,000 at stake as the total prize pool Caruana starts as the big favourite for the title given his current form. The American had won the four-player tiebreaker in the Superbet Classic at Bucharest, Romania and then followed up with a five-rounds-to-spare victory at the Superunited rapid

and blitz in Zagreb, Croatia. American Hikaru Nakamura is one player who can spoil anyone's party. Not part of the nine-confirmed invited players' pool for the tour, Nakamura plays here as one of the three wild-card participants along with compatriot Lenier Dominguez and Aronian. Russian Ian Nepomniachtchi might be struggling as someone who has been twice world championship challenger but he has it in him to regain the magical touch on any given day. Nepomniachtchi's performance will however depend on how many games he wins overall.

Asked about Stokes, Brook told Sky Sports: "It doesn't look great unfortunately but I think he'll be getting a scan tomorrow (Monday) and see how he is."

Stokes led England to a 3-0 series sweep against West Indies last month. England opens its Test series against Sri Lanka on August 21, at Old Trafford, with the third and final Test

at the Oval from September 6. Stokes was alongside his teammates on the bench Sunday to watch the climax as the Superchargers won by seven wickets. He was on crutches as he shook hands with the opposition.

Ben Stokes appeared to clutch his left hamstring as he was completing a quick single from the non-striker's end

not see a way out". "He had loved life and he loved us but he just couldn't see a way out. It was heartbreaking to see how withdrawn he had become," she said.

"It was strange to see this person trapped in the body of Dad. That's why we've been so happy that the many reflections have been about his life before this illness took over."

"I am glad that's how everyone does remember him, rightly so, as the complete character he was," Kitty added.

## England captain Stokes helped off field with possible hamstring injury

AP, MANCHESTER: England captain Ben Stokes had to be helped off the field after suffering an injury while playing for Northern Superchargers in The Hundred domestic cricket competition, raising concerns he could miss the upcoming Test series against Sri Lanka.

The 33-year-old Stokes pulled up while running between the wickets as the

Superchargers chased a victory target of 153 against Manchester Originals at Old Trafford. Stokes appeared to clutch his left hamstring as he was completing a quick single from the non-striker's end.

Stokes, who had bowled 15 overs in the match, retired hurt on two runs with England teammate Harry Brook coming out to replace him.

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