

THE GOAN



TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 2024 13 pages | PRICE ₹ 10 PANAJI | MARGAO GOA | VOLUME X, NO. 97 RNI: GOAENG/2015/65729 EVERYDAY Mohun Bagan beats NorthEast United FC 3-2 in thriller Pg 13

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Goa's solar glow fades as 400 await central subsidy

APPLICANTS WAIT AS STATE FUNDS ALSO DEPEND ON CENTRE'S RELEASE

THE GOAN | NETWORK

PANAJI Nearly 400-odd consumers in Goa, who have installed rooftop solar plants on their houses at their own cost and are eligible for a subsidy, are waiting for Central assistance under PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, for more than six months now, despite sanction. Pending central subsidy, the State government is in no position to release its share, thus leaving consumers frustrated.

In February, this year, the National Rooftop Solar portal, was migrated to the PM Surya Ghar portal- making it a single platform to apply for Central and State subsidy. However, the non-release of payment by the Centre has resulted in the State holding back its subsidy. "The issue is not just in Goa but across many other States. Since the migration of the por-

SUN YET TO SHINE ON SOLAR DREAMS

- Consumers have to apply only on one portal to avail subsidy from both Centre & State
- Once Centre releases its subsidy, the same automatically gets updated to State, who then releases its share
- Not a single subsidy payment for projects installed after mid-Feb has



been disbursed
Despite fall in panel prices, customers not willing to opt for solar power

Under the scheme, 1 kW: the subsidy is Rs 30,000, **2 kW:** the subsidy is Rs 60,000 and **3 kW or higher:** the subsidy is Rs 78,000 or higher.

FLASHBACK: In February, National Rooftop Solar portal was migrated to PM Surya Ghar portal making it a single platform to apply for Central and State subsidy

frustrated. Hence, it is learnt from some vendors, that despite the fall in panel prices, customers are not willing to opt for solar power. One of the vendors said "not a single subsidy payment for projects installed after mid-February has been disbursed. The delay is now close to six to seven months. Consumers are questioning us and we are in no position to answer".

The revised scheme was launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 20 and is expected to benefit one crore households. Under the scheme, 1 kW: the subsidy is Rs 30,000, 2 kW: the subsidy is Rs 60,000 and 3 kW or higher: the subsidy is Rs 78,000 or higher. In Goa, over 820 consumers have installed solar rooftops with a total capacity of

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DoE cracks down on corporal punishment, orders zero tolerance

SCHOOLS WARNED OF CONSEQUENCES

THE GOAN | NETWORK

PANAJI The Directorate of Education (DoE) has raised serious concern about several instances of corporal punishment in schools, despite absolute ban as per Right to Education (RTE) Act. The educational institutions are now directed to adopt Zero Tolerance Policy towards corporal punishment failing which DoE has warned that the act would be dealt with seriously.

In view of the recent incident wherein a primary school boy was assaulted by two teachers, the DoE has issued series of guidelines to the schools to ensure that their teaching and non-teaching staff refrained from inflicting corporal punishment on students. Both the teachers, who are currently out on bail, are placed under suspension.

In a circular issued to heads of all government, government aided and unaided primary, secondary and higher secondary schools, Director Shailesh Zingade has point-

DEPT GUIDELINES TO SCHOOLS

- Establish transparent mechanism for students to report any grievances related to corporal punishment
- Complaints should be monitored diligently and immediate action must be taken
- Organize training sessions, workshops for teaching & non-teaching staff to emphasize positive/constructive disciplinary practices

ed out that the Section 17 of the RTE Act 2009 imposes an absolute ban on corporal punishment and also prohibits physical punishment and mental harassment to child and prescribes disciplinary action to be taken against the guilty person.

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THE GOAN Xtra-SPECIAL
 See pg 3

Notwithstanding his polio limp, this teacher motivates others to play Para table tennis

IN SHORT >>>

Monsoon enters retreating phase, Goa on red alert

PANAJI: The monsoon has officially withdrawn from parts of western Rajasthan and Kutch while Goa is currently experiencing the onset of the retreating monsoon. After experiencing days of clear weather, Goa was put on Orange alert on Monday. IMD further upgraded the alert to Red for Tuesday, forecasting heavy to extremely heavy rainfall. >>> See P5

274 killed in Israeli attack on Lebanon

BEIRUT: Israeli air strikes killed 274 people, including 21 children, in Lebanon on Monday, the Lebanese health minister said, in the deadliest cross-border escalation since war erupted in Gaza on October 7. Israel said it hit about 1,100 Hezbollah sites.

Gold, silver stolen from Mapusa jeweller

MAPUSA: Burglars broke into a jewellery shop in the heart of Mapusa municipal market early Monday morning, stealing a significant amount of gold and silver items. The incident comes despite the recent inauguration of a police booth in the market, which had raised hopes for improved security. >>> See P3

Sanquelim murder accused nabbed

BICHOLIM: The prime accused in the murder of a 12-year-old boy behind a cow shed at Vithalapur in Sankhalim was nabbed by Bicholim Police from the Kalyan railway station near Bombay on Monday. >>> See P3

RAVINDRA BHAVAN REVAMP

Tiatrists, fans in Margao face month-long hiatus

SOUND SYSTEM, PROJECTOR, SCREEN TO BE OVERHAULED AT THE PAI TIATRIST AUDITORIUM

THE GOAN | NETWORK

MARGAO Lights, Camera, Action! Ahead of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), Ravindra Bhavan, Marago is bracing up for an overhaul of the sound system, projector and the screen at the Pai Tiatr Auditorium.

But, for tiatrists and tiatr lovers, the renovation of the Ravindra Bhavan means there won't be shows for a month at the premiere cultural centre, popularly known as the Mecca of Tiatr.

Initially, staging of all tiatrs at the Pai Tiatr Auditorium was supposed to come to a halt from October 1. However, the delay in the floating and the completion of the tender process to execute the work of installing the new sound system, projector and the screen has come as a breather for the



tiatrists, who have been given slots to stage their shows up to October 14.

One thing, however, is certain that Ravindra Bhavan will not be available for tiatrists and tiatr lovers for a minimum period of one month, first to facilitate execution of the work on the sound system, projector and the screen and until the curtains to come down on the 10-day IFFI festival.

Given the situation, some of the tiatr directors have started rescheduling their shows at the Pai Tiatr Auditorium. A couple of directors have even

uploaded videos on the social media stating that shows will not be staged at the Ravindra Bhavan for a month.

If Ravindra Bhavan Chairman Rajendra Talak is to be believed, tiatrs will resume at the Pai Tiatr Auditorium after the IFFI. Talak said he has taken the tiatr directors in confidence before taking the decision. "The sound system, projector and the screen at the Pai Tiatr hall will get a big face lift ahead of the IFFI festival. The project will be taken up and completed before IFFI.

Continued on P5

Bhaangarbhuin editor wins 'Ligorio Furtado Journo Award'

THE GOAN | NETWORK

PANAJI



Mahesh Divekar, Editor of the Konkani daily Bhaangarbhuin, has won the prestigious Konkani Bhasha Mandal's 'Ligorio Furtado Trust Journalism Award 2024'.

The award will be presented on the 62nd anniversary of the Konkani Bhasha Mandal.

Divekar started his journalism career as a sub-editor with Tarun Bharat in 1992. He joined Gomantak in 1993 and left the daily in 2003 to join Goa's first Konkani daily, Sunaparant, as chief sub-editor. Divekar was the acting Editor of Sunaparant till 2015, before joining Goan Varta as Features Editor.

He has been Editor of Bhaangarbhuin since 2021.

47 students, 5 teachers stuck at Sattari waterfall rescued

GROUP WAS ON A TREK WHEN WATER LEVEL ROSE SHARPLY DUE TO HEAVY RAINS

THE GOAN | NETWORK

PANAJI Forty-seven students and five teachers of the SFX Higher Secondary School at Siolim were rescued by Fire & Emergency Services (FES) personnel on Monday after they were stranded at the Charavane waterfall in Sattari as water level rose sharply due to heavy rains in the area.

According to sources, the teachers and students had gone on a trek to the Charavane waterfall on Monday morning, even though weather alerts had predicted heavy rains in the State on Monday.

At about 11:30 am, it started to rain heavily and water levels in the river rose sharply. The trekkers were stranded near the waterfall.

One of the schoolboys informed that it was impossible to cross the river due to a sudden increase in the water level, prompting them to alert the fire services and the Forest



Fire & Emergency Services personnel and a forest team rescuing students who were stranded at Charavane waterfall on Monday.

Department.

The Valpoi fire station was notified and a team of FES personnel led by Fire Officer Santosh Gawas along with a police team, a forest team and a group of locals from Charavane village rushed to the site.

With the help of ropes, the 47 students and five teachers were rescued from the waterfall.

Sources said some children were lifted and carried across the river.

Speaking to the media, Valpoi Fire Station Officer Santosh Gawas confirmed that no one was injured in the incident.

"The rescue operation took about two hours and all

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Over 4,200 trees chopped in five months for big projects

THE GOAN | NETWORK

PANAJI While there has been much hue and cry from the public over tree cutting, the State government has permitted felling of over 4,200 trees for various State and Central owned projects like road widening, between January to May this year.

The Goa Tree Authority (GTA) headed by the Chief Secretary, during its two meetings held in February and May, accorded approval for felling of 4,263 trees and the same has been approved by

Permission was granted to cut 4,263 trees for different central and State projects, but each project proponent was asked to re-plant three times the trees that were cut

the government.

In the February meeting, permissions were granted to cut 3,118 trees while directing each project proponent to re-plant three times the trees cut. During the latest meeting in May, 1,145 trees were allowed to be axed on condition that 3,440 trees would be planted.

The permissions were granted to authorities like the Public Works Department, Railways Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) and another project proponent.

When the authority met in May, they permitted PWD's National Highway work division to fell 616 trees, as against the earlier permission of 275 trees, for construction of 6-lane elevated corridor, maintenance, management and operation of NH 17.

PWD's NH section also got permission to cut 376 trees, as

Continued on P5

Storing, watching child porn material a crime: SC

PTI

NEW DELHI In a path-breaking judgment, the Supreme Court on Monday held mere possession of any child pornographic material will constitute offences under the POCSO and the IT laws even if they are not disseminated further.

Observing that "sexual exploitation of children is a pervasive and deeply rooted issue that has plagued societies worldwide and has been a matter of serious concern in India", the top court termed as "egregious" the verdict of the Madras High Court on the issue and set it aside.

On January 11, the high

KEY SUPREME COURT OBSERVATIONS

- Parliament should seriously consider bringing an amendment to POCSO Act
- The term "child pornography" shall not be used in any judicial order or judgment
- Instead "child sexual exploitative and abuse material" (CSEAM) should be endorsed



court had quashed the criminal proceedings against a 28-year-old man charged with downloading pornographic content involving children on his mobile phone, saying mere

possession and downloading of such pornographic materials did not constitute offences under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and the Informa-

- Raising awareness through public campaigns can help reduce its prevalence
- "Schools can play a crucial role in early identification and intervention
- Child sexual exploitative material deeply degrading to dignity of children

tion Technology (IT) Act.

"We have reached the conclusion that the High Court committed an egregious error in passing the impugned judgment. We are left with no

other option but to set aside the impugned judgment... and restore the criminal proceedings... to the court of Sessions Judge, Mahila Neethi Mandram (Fast Track Court), Tiruvallur District," the top court said.

While passing a slew of directions and suggestions on the sensitive issue, a bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justice J B Pardiwala asked Parliament to seriously consider bringing an amendment to the POCSO Act for substituting the term "child pornography" with "child sexual exploitative and abuse material" with a view to reflect more accurately the reality of such offences.

Highway expansion gains momentum: Flyovers planned for stretch from Navelim to Cuncolim

PROJECT UNVEILED THREE YEARS BACK IN PROPOSAL STAGE; THREE FLYOVERS PLANNED FOR 6.5-KM STRETCH

THE GOAN NETWORK

MARGAO

As many three flyovers – a flyover at Belem-Navelim, another flyover at Dandeavaddo-Chinchinim and a flyover at Panzorconne-Cuncolim – have now been proposed along the 6.5km Navelim-Cuncolim road stretch on the NH66 highway.

In fact, almost three years after Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari unveiled plans for the expansion of NH66 from Navelim to Cuncolim stretch into a four-lane highway with pedestrian footpaths, the project now seems to be taking concrete shape with officials of the PWD, National Highways proposing three flyovers along the 6.5 km long stretch.

Senior PWD officials, however, hastened to add that the flyovers mooted by the department at Navelim, Chinchinim and Cuncolim are all at the proposal stage, adding that they will be implemented only after the sanction from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

Three years ago on November 2, 2021, Gadkari announced that the Centre would take up work on four-laning of the Navelim-Cuncolim stretch of the NH66. The Union Minister's announcement was followed by a similar announcement made by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant in his 2003

budget speech on the expansion of the Navelim-Cuncolim highway stretch.

The project, however, failed to take off over a host of factors, officials in the know pointed out, even though the land for the highway expansion was already in possession of the PWD, National Highways.

The NH66 stretch from Cuncolim to Navelim is proposed to be developed into a four-lane highway with pedestrian footpaths. The government is believed to have acquired around 24 hectares of land along the Cuncolim-Navelim stretch of the highway.

Officials in the know now say that the PWD has now prepared a plan for the expansion project, proposing three flyovers along the stretch. The first flyover is being proposed at Belem-Navelim, where the western bypass joins the existing NH66. The flyover at Belem was not proposed in the original western bypass, with officials now saying that an elevated structure at the Belem-Navelim junction is being proposed with the traffic junction becoming an accident-prone zone.

In fact, one would come across the work of soil testing near Jackniband bridge, indicating that the authorities are moving ahead with the flyover. A rough plan designed by the PWD shows that the flyover may start at Dramapur, metres away from the res-



The Belem-Navelim Traffic junction has become an accident-prone zone in the absence of a flyover. Attempts to regulate the traffic via traffic signals have failed to achieve desired result.

CENTRE'S NOD AWAITED

■ Three flyovers have been proposed for the 6.5 km stretch of the Navelim-Cuncolim road along NH66, marking progress in the long-awaited highway expansion project. Announced nearly three years ago by Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, the project aims to transform this segment

into a four-lane highway with pedestrian footpaths

■ The flyovers will be located at Belem-Navelim, Dandeavaddo-Chinchinim, and Panzorconne-Cuncolim, although they are still in the proposal stage pending union government approval

idence of former MLA Manu Fernandes and will join the Western Bypass at Coldem.

Dandeavaddo-Chinchinim flyover

PWD officials in the know informed that the government

has not considered the pleas made by the residents of Dandeavaddo for the construction of a road bypass instead of building a flyover at Dandeavaddo. Residents had approached all and sundry over the last many years with the

plea to build a bypass at Dandeavaddo instead of a flyover. PWD officials have pointed out that the department has proposed a flyover at Dandeavaddo, which is expected to start somewhere near the Digaubandh at Chinchinim

Public hearing scheduled for Cuncolim bypass land acquisition objections

MARGAO: Hearing of objections lodged by the people of Cuncolim and Balli for the land acquisition of 3,82,786 square metres of land for the proposed Cuncolim bypass will take place on October 1 and 3.

Several people have filed their objections to the land acquisition notification by the Ministry for Road Transport and Highways seeking to acquire land admeasuring 3,82,786 sqm, on the stretch from Usniki Bandh, Cuncolim to Bendordem area in Balli.

Those who had filed objections went to the PWD office in Panaji for a hearing, but they were told that the hearing would take place in October, informed social activist Ronny Dias. He said the PWD has made two groups of people, who



The Uskiniband stretch where the Cuncolim bypass will start before it joins the NH66 at Bendordem in Balli.

had objected to the land acquisition and have called them on two different dates for the hearing.

Sources in the know informed that the citizens aggrieved by the alignment of the land acquisition proposal have planned a meeting in

Cuncolim. After five years, the Centre had finally settled for the Uskini bandh-Bendordem alignment for the Cuncolim road bypass instead of pursuing the alignment proposed by the Cuncolim Municipal Council over a decade ago.

before joining the existing highway metres away from the residential area.

"The petition made by the residents of Dandeavaddo-Chinchinim for a road bypass has not found favour with the government. Hence, the PWD, NH has stuck to the plan to build a flyover at Dandeavaddo,"

informed an official.

Panzorconne flyover

According to sources, a flyover is proposed at the entrance to Cuncolim at Panzorconne before the elevated structure joins the existing highway near the NUSI hospital. Sources in the know informed that the flyover at Panzorconne

has been proposed taking into account the road that leads towards the Cuncolim Industrial Estate.

Incidentally, residents of Panzorconne had opposed the highway expansion along the existing highway, claiming the four-laning would affect their residential structures dotting the stretch.

Shutting plants not a solution: Industries' body Cuncolim Industries Assn calls for water usage assessment by GSPCB

THE GOAN NETWORK

MARGAO

President of the Cuncolim Industries Association (CIA) Abhay Keni on Monday said the Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB) should establish how much is the water requirements of the fish meal and fish processing industries, besides the distilleries and the capacity of the effluent treatment plants installed by the units.

Keni emphasised that the

solution to water contamination issues lies not in shutting down these industries but in ensuring they do not discharge effluents into the environment.

CUNCOLIM POLLUTION

"It is unfortunate that cattle have been affected by the discharge of effluents. The fish water has high BOD and COD, besides fat, oil and grease (FOG), which is highly dan-

The association urged GSPCB to evaluate the water requirements of the fish meal and fish processing industries, as well as distilleries, along with the capacity of their effluent treatment plants

gerous for the cattle," he told the media on Monday.

In response to reports suggesting that he had lodged complaints with the GSPCB

regarding the suspension of operations at certain industrial units due to water contamination, Keni clarified his position. He explained that he had merely requested GSPCB Member Secretary Dr Shamil Monteiro to investigate the sources of the blackish water emanating from the industrial estate.

"My purpose of calling up the GSPCB Member Secretary was not to complain but to identify the source of the blackish water," he added.

Vaz takes charge as Margao council CO

THE GOAN NETWORK

MARGAO

Margao Municipal Council has finally got a full-fledged Chief Officer to head the municipal administration.

Newly posted grade I officer Melvyn Vaz has assumed office as the new Chief Officer of the municipal council. He succeeds Ajit Panchwadkar who was holding additional charge of the council after the sudden transfer of then Chief Officer Gaurish Sankhwalkar.

Vaz made his presence felt in the municipal building to take charge of the office. Vaz is not new to the Margao Municipal Council having presided over the municipal administration for a year in 2006.

The newly appointed CO has a task at hand to recover outstanding tax arrears pegged at over Rs 30 crore. He also faces a challenge in streamlining the administration.



Newly posted Chief Officer Melvyn Vaz in the Margao Municipal building after assuming charge of the office. Santosh Mirajkar

MMC staff maintain vigil to stop waste dumping

THE GOAN NETWORK

MARGAO

Margao Municipal officials and staff fanned out to various areas late Monday evening to rein in miscreants dumping waste in the city.

Senior officials, including municipal engineer Dipak Desai and his team, besides the sanitary inspector and the market inspectors all descended on the ground to intercept the garbage coming into the city from the villages. Around five teams were constituted by the municipal engineer as they went about maintaining vigil at the black spots across the city.

What made the civic officials maintain vigil at the black spots was the fact that garbage has been dumped at around 58 spots across the city, with waste coming into the commercial capital from the outskirts.

Municipal engineer Desai



Margao Municipal officials maintain a vigil at the dark spots late Monday to intercept garbage dumping. Santosh Mirajkar

said the teams have intercepted individuals trying to dispose of the garbage. "We will come to know the exact number of persons caught red-handed while disposing of the waste tomorrow after the teams submit the list of fines issued to the violators," he said.

Reginaldo assures support for Romi Konkani cause, but seeks consensus

Global Konknni Forum launches campaign, presents draft bills to MLA

THE GOAN NETWORK

MARGAO

The Global Konknni Forum (GKF) has on Monday kick-started its campaign "Meet Your MLA – Kodel Zai vo Romi Lipi Zai" by calling on Curtorim MLA Reginaldo Lourenco to seek his view on the issue and to present him the draft bills to bring an amendment to the Official Language Act.

Reginaldo told the delegation that he had in the past espoused the cause of Konkani in Roman script, both within the Assembly and outside, assuring the forum members that he would support the issue if there was a consensus.

After the meeting with the Curtorim MLA, forum president Kennedy Afonso told the media that the independent legislator had assured them he was with the people fighting for equal status for Konkani in Roman script. Kennedy, however, said Reginaldo has sought time to respond on the second draft bill regarding phase-wise introduction of Konkani in Roman script in the schools.

Reginaldo told the media that he reminded the forum delegation how he had to face a backlash over the POGO bill, adding that he did not want to make the mistake again.



The delegation of Global Konknni Forum hands over draft bills to Curtorim MLA Reginaldo Lourenco. Santosh Mirajkar

Campaign a threat to MLAs or call for action, asks Reginaldo

MARGAO: Is the Global Konknni Forum's latest campaign "Meet Your MLA – Kodel Zai vo Romi Lipi Zai" a threat to the MLAs to either support the movement in support of Konkani in Roman script or face backlash from the people?

This question was raised by Curtorim independent MLA Reginaldo Lourenco when the Forum delegation called on him on Monday to submit the draft bills to bring an amendment to the Official Language Act. "I asked the delegation whether the title of the campaign, 'Kodel Zai vo Romi Lipi Zai' is a threat to the MLAs to support the campaign. Forum president Kennedy replied that I may consider it as a threat, leaving me shocked."

Kennedy later said, "We told the MLA it is not a threat. But, we told Reginaldo that he may interpret the way he likes it." Forum Secretary Salvador Fernandes said, "Maybe the MLAs don't like the title of our campaign. But, when elections come, we will use it and take the movement forward. Finally, we want recognition for Konkani in Roman script."

"I have taken up the issue of Konkani in Roman script in every Assembly session. Big leaders have come and gone. It is the people who had made them the leaders. If these leaders have failed, why we should be blamed?" he questioned.

He added: "We had raised the issue in the Assembly. Former MLA Radharao Gracia had raised the issue. We had raised the issue when we were part of Save Goa Front. The forum should not say that only Velim MLA Cruz Silva has supported the issue. We are not against Roman script. I am there to support if there is a consensus."

Afonso said the delegation handed over the draft bills to the MLA, one to bring an amendment to the Official Language Act specifying that Konkani means both in Devnagari and Roman scripts and the other to introduce Konkani in Roman script in the schools.

"Reginaldo said he would study the issue and get back to the Forum. We told him that the forum would approach all the MLAs and bring them together to table the bill in the Assembly. We told him that we did not come to gherao him, but with a plea to bring the bill in the Assembly," he added.

Raid exposes illegal slaughterhouse at Khareband, family booked by cops

41 containers filled with animal fat recovered in premises

THE GOAN NETWORK

MARGAO

The controversy surrounding the use of animal fat, which has made headlines in Andhra Pradesh due to its alleged use in ladoos at the Tirupati Temple, has now surfaced in Margao.

A raid conducted by members of Hindu outfit Bajrang Dal on Monday at a residential place at Khareband unearthed around 41 containers filled with animal fat. The raid also brought to the fore questions of the alleged slaughter of animals at the place.

The Bajrang Dal activists with the help of officials of the Animal Husbandry and Margao police rescued two animals. Bajrang Dal leader Viraj Desai informed that when they entered the premises, they came across 41 20-



A police personnel at the house where the animal slaughter was taking place. (Right) The containers with animal fat found in the premises. Santosh Mirajkar

kg containers with animal fat. "We also found weapons used for the slaughter of animals," he said.

Desai demanded that the government authorities conduct a detailed probe into the business of extracting animal fat from the premises and the sale of the fat.

Meanwhile, upon a complaint lodged by Bhagwan Redkar, the Margao police registered an offence against

the accused person Aslam Bepari and his family members, all residents of Sirvodem, near Quba Masjid, Khareband, Margao. The police stated that the accused were found in illegal possession of two bulls and allegedly involved in the illegal business of slaughtering of cows/bulls, which are scheduled animals, thereby committing mischief by slaughtering of cows for preparation of cow fat for sale

in an illegal slaughterhouse in the residential house, thereby causing cruelty to the animals.

Besides offences registered under the BNS, the police have invoked provisions of The Goa Animal Preservation Act and Sections 3, 5 and 8 of The Goa Daman and Diu Prevention of Cow Slaughter Act. and section 11 (1) of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

Burglars target Mapusa market jewellery shop in daring heist

SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF GOLD, SILVER STOLEN; ROBBERY EXPOSES GAPS IN MARKET SECURITY

THE GOAN NETWORK

MAPUSA

Burglars broke into a jewellery shop in the heart of Mapusa municipal market early Monday morning, stealing a significant amount of gold and silver items.

The incident comes despite the recent inauguration of a police booth in the market, which had raised hopes for improved security. Nasnodkar Jewellers, a popular shop located in a prime area was the target of the heist.

The burglars entered the shop through the roof by cutting open a heavily secured gate on the first floor, according to the shop's owner, C Nasnodkar. "We discovered the burglary when we entered the shop at 10 am. Everything on display, including silverware, that couldn't fit into the safe, was taken," Nasnodkar said.

He added that the shop had been locked securely the previous night at 8 pm.

The owner declined to provide an estimate of the value of the stolen ornaments, but sources in the trade indicated that the loss could be at least Rs



Nasnodkar Jewellers in Mapusa market was the target of burglars in the early hours of Monday morning.

Jewellery shop heists continue to shock Mapusa businesses

MAPUSA: The burglary at Nasnodkar Jewellers in Mapusa market is just the latest in a series of bold heists targeting jewellery shops in the town. This is not the first time that jewellery shops in Mapusa have fallen victim to such crimes. In 2021, a similar incident occurred at Shree Jewellers, located in the Braganza building opposite the Mapusa Kadamba bus stand. In that case, thieves drilled a hole through the back wall of the shop to gain entry, making off with silver ornaments. One of the most shocking incidents took place in 2012, when the owner of Kamaxi Jewellers in Mapusa was brutally murdered during a robbery. The broad daylight attack sent panic through the town. The robbers stole nearly 3 kg of gold in what became one of the most notorious crimes in Mapusa's recent history.

Surge in burglaries, robberies raises concerns over security measures

MAPUSA: A series of burglaries and robberies within the jurisdiction of the Mapusa Police Station has left residents questioning the effectiveness of local security measures.

On Sunday, a gold chain was snatched from a woman in Verla-Canca by youth on a motorcycle, marking yet another instance of brazen criminal activity in the area.

Just three days prior, a couple was targeted by individuals impersonating police officers at Bastora junction, who relieved them of their gold ornaments in a cleverly orchestrated ruse.

Just ten days ago, a vendor in Ucassaim reported that her mangalsutra was stolen in a daylight snatching. In light of these incidents, locals are urging authorities to enhance security measures.

1 crore, and possibly higher. The burglars left behind tools such as cutters and hammers, which have been seized by the police.

Surveillance footage from the shop's cameras has also been taken by authorities.

"My only request to the police is to catch the culprits quickly and recover our jewellery," Nasnodkar appealed.

Police sources revealed that at least three suspects in-

Accused, accomplice held in Sanquelim boy's murder

Bicholim cops nab Maha native at Kalyan

THE GOAN NETWORK

BICHOLIM

The prime accused in the murder of a 12-year-old boy behind a cow shed at Vithalapur in Sanquelim was nabbed by Bicholim Police from the Kalyan railway station near Mumbai on Monday. An accomplice was arrested later on Monday evening.

The accused, Chandu Patil (30) of Maharashtra, had fled the State by train after having allegedly murdered the boy in the wee hours of Sunday.

Bicholim Police had formed two teams, one led by PSI Sunil Patil and the other led by PSI Viraj Dhauskar, for the investigation.

After learning that Patil had left by a train from the Tivim railway station, the police team led by PSI Patil apprehended Patil from the Kalyan railway station.

The accused was brought back to the State and he was later arrested in connection with the murder.

The accused was produced before a JMFC and he was remanded to custody for seven days.

Sources said that during

TWO-TEAM POLICE OPERATION

■ The accused, Chandu Patil (30) of Maharashtra, had fled the State by train after having allegedly murdered the boy in the wee hours of Sunday.

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police interrogation, Patil is reported to have revealed that another employee, Bhim Lalman of UP, had helped him to take the boy to the cowshed.

Acting on this information, police late Monday evening arrested Lalman in this connection.

Further investigation is in progress by PI Dinesh Gaddekar under the supervision of Bicholim SDPO Sagar Ekoskar and guidance of North Goa SP Akshat Khaushal.

Patil had been employed at a dairy farm in Vithalapur but his services had been terminated as his performance had not been satisfactory.

Another worker from Uttar

Pradesh was hired in place of Patil and this had upset Patil.

Patil is reported to have gone to the dairy farm and had entered into an argument over the hiring of the new worker.

Chandu returned to the premises at about 1 am on Sunday and while workers were asleep, he is reported to have taken the 12-year-old brother of the worker to a cowshed and allegedly struck his head with a stone.

The murder came to light when someone visited the cowshed and noticed the boy in a pool of blood. The boy was moved to a hospital but was declared dead on arrival.

ARAMBOL ILLEGAL STRUCTURES

HC seeks detailed report on debris after demolition

Wants restoration plan, costs of razing included

THE GOAN NETWORK

PANAJI

The Bombay High Court at Goa has directed the Village Panchayat of Arambol, the Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) and Goa Biodiversity Board to submit a detailed report on the debris from demolished structures at Arambol beach.

During the hearing of a suo motu Public Interest Litigation (PIL) on Monday, the Division Bench of Justice M S Karnik and Justice Valmiki Menezes also directed that the report should include a restoration plan and the costs incurred during the demolition process.

The authorities had identified 15 illegal structures for demolition for violating Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ)

rules after a petition challenging the illegal construction of a former Arambol Sarpanch.

During the ongoing hearing, other illegal structures in the vicinity were also discussed. Subsequently, the Bench ordered demolition of the illegal structures, which was carried out.

On Monday, the Bench sought for a report on the post-demolition drive. "On pursuing the additional affidavit filed... along with the photographs, we see that a lot of debris is found scattered in and around the entire area. We, therefore, direct the Secretary, Village Panchayat of Arambol, an expert Member of the GCZMA and a Member of the Goa Diversity Board to visit the site jointly and prepare a detailed report as to

how the debris could be removed as also to determine the costs for restoration of the said beach to its original condition, including the costs for demolition of the said structures so that such costs could be recovered from (the concerned) Respondents," it stated.

At recent hearing, the GCZMA reported that 216 illegal structures had been identified, and show-cause notices were issued. The court asked the GCZMA to clarify how many of these structures had been demolished.

The Bench has scheduled the next hearing for October 8 as it will also review the report and consider if the respondents failed to comply with the court's order regarding the demolition of 10 structures.

Fake video row: Ministers extend support to Sawant

THE GOAN NETWORK

PANAJI

A day after Chief Minister Pramod Sawant termed the viral video, circulated against him as defamatory, his cabinet colleagues have slammed "politically motivated" people for trying to tarnish CM's image.

Addressing a joint press conference, WRD Minister Subhash Shirodkar and Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte condemned the viral video, which according to them is without any evidence.

Shirodkar said that the Chief Minister has always worked in the best interests of Goa and urged everyone to unite for the state's betterment.

Meanwhile, Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte also spoke out against the video, stating it to be "highly condemnable."

He highlighted that while the government is working on solutions towards the betterment of the State, the same cannot be achieved overnight.

Tivim MLA backs private varsity amid opposition from locals

Says he was unaware of who was behind project

THE GOAN NETWORK

MAPUSA

Fisheries Minister and local MLA Nilkanth Halarnkar has expressed full support for the proposed private university in Tivim, despite "not knowing" details about the project.

The Pune-based MIT World Peace University has been granted in-principle approval by the Goa Investment Promotion Board (IPB) to set up a sprawling campus on 2 lakh square metres of land belonging to the Tivim comunidade.

Halarnkar, addressing the media on Monday, said that while he was unaware of who was behind the project, he wholeheartedly supported the initiative.

"I give 100 per cent support to the institute. I am in the educational field. This institute

including engineering, medical science, management studies, arts, journalism, and public policy, according to the proposal submitted to the IPB.

The proposal to set up the private university has sparked a debate in the village, with residents raising concerns over the legality of the deal.

Halarnkar dismissed allegations of illegality, stating, "The land belongs to the Tivim comunidade. If the comunidade has given permission and everything is done legally, then what is the problem?"

He emphasised that the land was appropriately zoned for educational use, negating any concerns over the project's legality.

According to the Fisheries Minister, the land in question was marked as an educational zone in the 2021 Regional Plan.

Cong alleges 'land scam' in Tivim, demands transparency on project

MAPUSA: The Congress on Monday raised serious concerns over the allotment of 2 lakh square metres of land in Tivim for the proposed establishment of a private university, calling it another potential "land ghotala" (scam) in the making. The party has urged the public to voice strong objections to the land allocation, questioning the transparency and benefits of the project.

Amarnath Panjikar, Chairman of the Congress Media Cell, expressed shock at the lack of awareness claimed by Fisheries Minister and local MLA Nilkant Halarnkar regarding the project.

"It is shocking that the local MLA says he is unaware of the project. We demand that Chief Minister release a White Paper outlining the benefits to Goans from private educational institutions in the State before any land is handed over in Tivim," he said.

will help our children," said Halarnkar, adding that he would push for reservations

for Goans in the university. The university plans to offer a wide range of courses, in-

Notwithstanding his polio limp, this teacher motivates others to play Para table tennis

BHARATI PAWASKAR THE GOAN PANAJI

Gopal Naik was born as a healthy baby. He faintly recalls his mother sharing the incident of his fever and injection given by a medical practitioner leading to his disability. Gopal was too small to recollect these memories. He only remembers that he was carried by his father on his shoulders when he began to go to Government Primary School at Chicalim. The teachers often asked his father not to carry Gopal on shoulder and allow him to walk on his own.

"I limped. The teachers in Regina Mundi High School, Chicalim were supportive, so were my friends," says Gopal who participated in sports with other students, and never realised that he had polio which was a disability and which was his weakness until late.

Gopal passed his 12th Standard from MES College, Vasco. He wanted to join NCC but his instructor rejected him saying that since his limbs would be a problem for marching. Later Gopal joined Government Polytechnic where hostel stay, tuitions were free through a Central government sponsored scheme for stu-



Gopal Naik



as a teacher in Government Technical School. "My wife has done masters in structural engineering and ours was an arranged marriage," shares Gopal, who is active in sports, despite his disability.

Gopal plays table tennis. He went to National games representing the State twice. He also played wheelchair basketball at National Level. Gopal was the only Para Table Tennis player from Goa when he went to play for the first time outside Goa to the Para National Tournament organised under TTFI. Many PwDs from Goa were motivated to play Para Table Tennis after seeing Gopal playing. It will not be wrong to conclude that present active participation in Para Sports within Goa is perhaps the initiative of Gopal who feels that sports activities bring persons out of their negativity and depression and helps maintain mental wellbeing.

"But PwDs are not much aware of Para games. Para sports have no different rules than general sports except classification according to

disability. PwDs feel motivated when they see others like them playing. Many of my PwD friends play well, with the help of various aids. I will continue participating in Para National events," affirms Gopal.

those available should be maintained in operational condition. Margao railway station is the main junction in Goa but is not accessible to the PwDs. I want to bring this to the notice of the government that train travel should be made safer for the PwDs and have filed a complaint before the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities India," affirmed Gopal.

Travelling independently is yet another challenge faced by the PwDs, as the public transport system is inaccessible. "Owing to these challenges I learned to drive a four-wheeler and coincidentally my driving teacher is himself a person with a disability, since driving schools do not admit the individuals with disabilities due to lack of automatic vehicles for training. Availing a driving license with correct terminology such as 'invalid carriage' to my four-wheelchair license and general 'two wheeler without gear' (since I drive two-wheeler scooter without modification) was yet another legal battle fought through a legal practitioner. The approach toward the person with disability in society depends upon the mind set and mind of the people. Let's hope for a more understanding society," concludes Gopal.

FOREST DWELLERS RIGHTS' SETTLEMENT

NGO challenges extension in time sought by govt

Seeks contempt for breach of Court's order

THE GOAN NETWORK

PANAJI

NGO Goa Foundation has challenged the State government's submission in the Bombay High Court at Goa seeking one year's extension to settle rights of forest dwellers living in the Mhadei wildlife sanctuary.

In its contempt petition, the NGO cited government records that from October 23, 2023 to July 30, 2024 only seven cases were disposed by the Revenue Officer-cum-Collector (ROC) (Mhadei).

"Despite the slew of directives issued by the State government to its officers and the solemn assurances given to this Court, the State government has miserably failed to comply with the direction of this Court. The snail's pace of progress of the State in complying with the said judgment is reflective of a conscious and deliberate violation of the direction of this Court. While a wide variety of justifications for the lack of progress have been procedures by the State...such as the conduct of elections and an implied

SNAIL'S PACE OF PROGRESS

■ In its contempt petition, the NGO cited government records that from October 23, 2023 to July 30, 2024 only seven cases were disposed by the Revenue Officer-cum-Collector (ROC) (Mhadei).

■ As per reports, only two ROCs are appointed to settle around over 800 claims arising in the three protected areas. The petitioner stated that these ROCs are also deputed elsewhere from time to time.

■ The petitioner stated that the Respondents have wilfully and intentionally breached the order of this Court, and hence it sought a contempt

shortage of ROCs, such excuses simply do not pass muster in so far as the question of compliance with the judgment is concerned," the petitioner stated.

As per reports, only two ROCs are appointed to settle around over 800 claims arising in the three protected areas. The petitioner stated that these ROCs are also deputed elsewhere from time to time. "Though a claim is made that high level meetings are being held from time to time to ensure compliance with the Court's directions, it is shocking that the outcomes of these meetings are almost zero," it alleged.

The petitioner stated that the Respondents have wilfully and intentionally breached the order of this Court, and hence it sought a contempt.

On July 24, 2023, the High Court directed the government to notify a tiger reserve in the Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary and other contiguous areas within three months and to determine and settle the rights and claims of Scheduled Tribes and other forest dwellers within a year, following a Public Interest Litigation filed by the Goa Foundation.



THE GOAN EVERYDAY

I often quote myself. It adds spice to my conversation.
George Bernard Shaw

Why Pope's invite for Exposition was just a hype

It has come to light that Pope Francis will not be visiting India any time soon, which means he will not be attending the forthcoming Exposition of the relics of St Francis Xavier scheduled between November and January this year. The question on everyone's mind would be what's gone wrong after the high hopes extended by the political dispensation.

Unfortunately, the Pope won't make it to India, not because of his busy schedule, but because there has been no official invite extended through the Ministry of External Affairs or the Prime Minister's Office. Unfortunately, Goans were left guessing since the Centre did not respond to Chief Minister Pramod Sawant's official correspondence in June requesting the PMO to invite the Pope and that Goa would like to host him during the Exposition.

That the Pope would not visit India was evident from the fact that the country does not figure in his Asia itinerary released by the Vatican. Neither has the Pope mentioned India being next on his list after he concluded his recent 12-day hectic tour nor was there any other indication.

The 87-year-old pontiff had a marathon four-nation tour visiting Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, East Timor and Singapore.

Goa saw hope because, on June 15, a photo of Prime Minister Narendra Modi embracing the Pope went viral. Sawant tweeted that the PM met the Pope on the sidelines of the G7 summit in Italy and extended an invitation to visit India. "The PM admired his commitment to serve the people and extended an invitation, and we hope the visit includes Goa," Sawant tweeted. Hopes have been raised by the current dispensation even at this late hour, despite knowing well for a fact that officially that's not possible.

Since the Pope is the head of a state, the national church body (CBCI) would usually request the Centre to invite him, or the Centre could do it on its own. In either case, an official invitation from the Centre would then have to be sent to the Vatican. The Centre would also intimate and coordinate with the national church body about this invitation given to the Pope, and accordingly, modalities would be worked out only if the Vatican confirms the visit. In normal course, Papal visits are planned at least one year in advance, in some cases even two, because there are protocols to be followed.

The State government's engagement or role in the Exposition must be welcomed, but inviting the Pope has been overhyped possibly to keep the minorities in good humour. Sawant's letter may show the spirit of inviting the Pope, but it serves no purpose at this late hour.

Yes, Goans were looking forward to Pope Francis' presence because it is 40 years since a Pope visited Goa, after the 1986 visit by Pope John Paul II. And there could not have been a better timing than the Exposition. The unfortunate part is that the political will and the heartbeat of Goans were not in sync on this one.

OPEN SPACE >>

Agitations, rallies should be a wake up call

This is in reference to the report in TGE dt Sept 23, 2024, 'Goans unite to protect their land.' It was heartening to see so many people participating in a peaceful candle light rally to fight against the project proposed in Sancoale. How effective and successful have current rallies been? Citing recent examples of such rallies, rally against illegal construction of bungalow in the heritage zone at Old Goa, agitation against Mopa airport, double tracking, hill cutting, deforestation and so on. But what is seen is double tracking goes on in full swing and 90 per cent work is completed, Mopa greenfield airport began its operation, hill cutting is rampant, deforestation goes on unabated. In 70s, Goa used to witness students' agitations. One such agitation was reducing the bus fare for students. All students came out on the streets and the government reduced the bus fare to 50 per cent. There were only a handful of student leaders then, but they were powerful, effective and successful. Goa needs such type of leaders and rallies today to wake up the government so that the hills, green fields, water bodies and lands are protected.



RUPI PEREIRA, Navelim

When activism gets mainstreamed in Goa

Activists have acted better than investigative journalists. They've done well in digging up scandal, or at least pointing to dubious policy making



FREDRICK NORONHA

>The writer has been a journalist and commentates as a Devil's Advocate on Goan life

In Goa, every second person has become an activist. Or this is how it seems today. Is that a bad thing? Or should one see it as a positive development? If this is indeed the case, why is it happening now? What's the cause, and who's to blame? Why are our grievance redressal systems not working as these should?

Indeed, Goa has had an early tryst with activism. As the late Matanhy Saldanha would often say, the people of Goa were fighting green causes (Zuari pollution, ramponkar or traditional fishermen's rights) way back from the 1970s. That is, even before the word "environmentalism" became a catchphrase, or even fashionable, at the global level.

There was also a time when activism in Goa was dismissed as the past-time of the middle-class Catholic. Or a handful of them. Because not many understood the issue, or was willing to come out on the streets, this seemed almost true.

In the 1980s, tourism critics were questioning the impact of the sector on Goa, through groups like the JGF and the CCAT, Citizens Concerned About Tourism. (The Jagrut Goenkaranchi Fauz's name in Konkani translated to Vigilant Goans Army, though this was a peaceful lot of protesters.) At that time, the then chief minister, Pratapsingh Rane, once famously dismissed their protest as an activity of "seven or eight people" on the old Patto bridge.

Today, such concerns have got mainstreamed. Debarshi Dasgupta, writing in The Straits Times, carried a quarter-page article titled 'Enough! Goa's residents are fed up with the tourist hordes' (Sep 17, 2024). But do such issues here get noticed only because mass tourism is being critiqued and protested in places like Spain?

People feel the pinch when projects they don't like, or suspect the benefits of, come up in their backyard. We could dismiss this as the NIMBY (not in my backyard) syndrome. But it's natural for people to protest something they see as cutting into their interest. You can't blame them for that. While politicians should also be concerned about, but are mostly not.



It's natural for people to protest something they see as cutting into their interest. You can't blame them for that. While politicians should also be concerned about, but are mostly not



In the past, the protests against the Konkani Railway (KRC) was seen as a narrow self-defined attempt to protest the dominance of the minority population in parts of Goa. Maybe fearing a dilution of their numbers, as some portrayed it then. Politicians at the time, including some from the MGP, went out of their way to support the KRC.

Today, mega development projects like Mopa are being questioned too. These are part of the "New India's" attempts to expand airports at a massive scale (75 new airports built in the last ten years, doubling the total).

Environmentalism is definitely not a minority Catholic-pushed agenda in Goa anymore, as it once seemed it was. Today you have a Xencor Polgi, a Swapnesh Sherlekar, an Abhijit Prabhudesai, a Rajendra Kerkar, a Rajan Ghate, among others.

Ironically enough, speaking in Goa itself, the BJP politician Nitin Gadkari was quoted in a headline saying: "I am the biggest environmentalist, but..." On the other hand, commenting in the context of the tiger reserve issue, the Goa minister Subhash Phal Desai was quoted (Aug 2023) saying: "No one should teach us about the environment."

Mega projects raise everyone's suspicion. A university coming up in Tivim is greeted with skepticism, and there are other private universities in the pipeline too. This in a Goa where its youth still hunger for access to higher education that they can afford (in terms of time-spent, flexible part-time education, access options available and seats offered).

In some cases, the activists have acted better than investigative journalists. They've done well in digging up scandal, or at least pointing to dubious policy making. In a way, they've embarrassed politicians and others in power. For a change, policy planners have been forced to come up with answers.

Unlike in the past, the Opposition, which also feels hard pressed by the

ruling BJP stealing from its ranks, has been a bit more active in taking up issues that the citizens are protesting about. In some cases, they have also raised concerns raised by the citizens in the Assembly.

Sometimes, this confuses the issue. The AAP was quick to seize the Romi Konkani issue (some in the Opposition Congress did so too). Due to this, the ruling party was quick to see it as an AAP-promoted campaign, which it is obviously not. The citizens have realised they will have to campaign for their own issues, it throws up a leadership of its own; some politicians are sometimes willing to lend their support.

Anthony D'Silva, the outspoken activist for Assolna-Ambelim who has used video as a loudspeaker for his campaigns, sarcastically welcomed Chief Minister Pramod Sawant to the "Activist Club of Goa". D'Silva was responding to a video that was shared on last Sunday or so, when the chief minister gave a video response to another video critical of the governance in Goa.

The CM dismissed the video he was responding to as a "fake video". But D'Silva asked what was the need for the CM to respond to the video criticism through his own (the CM's) video response. As D'Silva put it: "I can understand if activists do it, because sometimes we don't get access to the media.... He (the CM) is one of the members of our activist group today," said D'Silva cheekily.

In the past few days itself, Anura Dissanayake became Sri Lanka's first Communist President. Someone, dismissing this trend via the usual one-liners of the WhatsApp University, saw it as the growing influence of China. Whatever comes of this, the fact is that Dissanayake has been steadfast against cronyism, nepotism, concentration of power, and corruption. Shouldn't the failure of ruling politicians there need to be seen as much responsible as it is here?

THE INBOX >>

CM needs to investigate minister-Bhutani nexus

With the Goa Government now under pressure to scrap the destructive Bhutani Sancoale project, one key BJP MLA/minister is very conspicuous by his silence on the matter is Panchayat Minister. The Sancoale panchayat then was controlled by his panel and the NOC was given by the then/earlier Deputy Sarpanch Girish Pillai, a very close associate of the minister. I do not think Girish would have taken this big step (issuing NOC to Bhutani within one day despite being given a letter with objections by concerned Sancoalkars) without an urgent instruction from the minister. It is very important that Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant investigate this nexus with Bhutani and come clean on his panchayat minister. Of course the minister himself can still speak on the same, if he wants to clarify anything; but if not then his continued silence will only confirm his Bhutani destructive/corrupt nexus.

ARWIN MESQUITA, Colva

Potholes a danger to life and limb, but who cares?

The heavy monsoon showers from June through September every year, coupled with the topography of the coastal belt, wreak havoc on the roads, riddling them with potholes and entire sections of the roads, caving in or getting severely eroded. The loose gravel on the roads and the omnipresent potholes force vehicles to swerve left and right to avoid them, with imminent danger of accidents from oncoming and following traffic. Potholes have become a major menace to life and limb, especially for two wheelers. People who have made the roads have got away scot-free after collecting their money. The govt has utterly failed to focus on road repair works in the state, resulting in roads that have turned into a nightmare for motorists. The Public

Church must back protests against mega projects

Hundreds of locals participated in a peaceful candlelight march against the Bhutani project in Sancoale on Sunday, as they along with activists and political leaders demanded the scrapping of the project. It was assuring to note that the movement was supported by citizens from North Goa as well. Goans are on the streets to protest against mega housing projects promoted by builders from outside Goa which will destroy our forests, hills and fields. Storm is brewing in Pomburpa over mega projects in No Development Zone. Ecoxim villagers are protesting against the controversial housing development projects. The Reis Magos hill has been devastated by the proposed DLF project. It is learnt that a private university is coming up on a 2-lakh square metre land in Tivim. What comes as a surprise is that there has been no official statement from the church in Goa in support of the present agitation against the rampant destruction of the green cover in the state. The church teaches about protecting our environment and preserving nature. We need to protect our forests and hills in order to prevent a Wayanad like disaster and preserve our land for future generations.

ADELMO FERNANDES, Vasco

Works department (PWD) has become the butt of memes and jokes. The government should have taken action against contractors by invoking the terms and conditions of the contracts for poor quality of laying and repairing of roads. Public should start pothole-free movement by filling potholes with mud and cow dung. Voters has been cursing the government for snatching their basic rights in every field.

KG VILOP, Chorao

Centre has not shown any interest in inviting Pope

In 2021 our Prime Minister has visited Vatican Pope Francis and has announced he had invited Pope Francis to visit India. Our Chief Minister Pramod Sawant had sent request to PMO 2 months ago to invite Pope Francis to Goa during the exposition of St Francis Xavier which is 45 days event but the true fact is that the central Government seems to have not shown



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

Harsh measures needed to curb fatal accidents

The Director General of Police (DGP) has stated that the Goa police has plans to reduce fatal accidents by 5% by the end of this year and 10% by the next year end. Considering the annually occurring 270-odd fatal accidents, the 5% drop works out to a miserly 14 less fatal accidents. The tourist season would soon commence and the cops have to gird their loins and tackle the menace of drunk and rash driving; especially in December when there are festivals, New Year eve parties and celebrations. The cops must arrest and imprison the offenders for 2-3 days, charge double and compounded penalties for each violation, spot suspension / cancellation of licence, if rent-a-car or bikes are involved then imprison and penalise the owners too, brook no argument or crumble under political or other kind of pressures. Would some of these measures be implemented without any hesitation? Luckily in Goa, the public do not take law into their hands and rough up the offenders or damage the vehicles that caused the accidents else matters would come to a head. But considering increasing incidents of road rage, that day may not be far off.

SRIDHAR D'YER, Caranzalem

Gaondongrim sarpanch threatens hunger strike

UPSET OVER NON-DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIAL OBTAINED UNDER PMKSY TO ANGANWADIS IN VILLAGE ■ PANCHAS LIKELY TO PARTICIPATE IN CHAIN-HUNGER STRIKE TILL MATERIAL IS DISTRIBUTED

THE GOAN NETWORK

CANACONA
Gaondongrim Sarpanch Dhillon alias Yeshtwant Dessai has threatened an indefinite hunger strike, after accusing the agriculture department of failing to distribute materials obtained under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) to 11 anganwadis in the village. His decision on an indefinite hunger strike is likely to be finalised at the upcoming panchayat body meeting, and all panch members are likely to participate in a chain-hunger strike till the materials obtained under water conservation initiative of PMKSY are distributed to the anganwadis in Gaondongrim.

Speaking to reporters, Dessai said residents had been upset as materials allotted to the village anganwadis had not been distributed till date.

"People had earlier decided to boycott the Lok Sabha polls through a Gram Sabha reso-

“The chief minister had agreed to provide these materials to village anganwadis but it has been months since the Lok Sabha elections, and there is no sign of the allotted materials being distributed.”

—Dhillon Dessai, Gaondongrim Sarpanch

lution, but later relented after Chief Minister Pramod Sawant just before the polls had assured to resolve the problem soon after elections are held," said Dessai. "The chief minister had agreed to provide these materials to village anganwadis to whom it was originally allotted. But it has been months since the Lok Sabha elections, and there is no sign of the allotted materials be-

ing distributed to the village anganwadis listed in the committee meeting. We have no choice, but feel hunger strike is the only solution to get the people's issue resolved."

"Accordingly, we have decided to sit on a hunger strike, and this will be done once this decision will be recorded in the panchayat's monthly meeting held by the month end."

"Our panch members will sit on a chain hunger strike, and I will, as the village sarpanch, sit on an indefinite hunger strike till the allotted materials are distributed to the anganwadis of our village," Dessai added.

THE MATERIALS

Under the Central government's PMKSY initiative for the Water Conservation Initiative of 'Pani Dusha, Pani Jirva' scheme, the first phase expenditure of about Rs 15 lakh was released. Tables, steel cupboards, water-filters and plastic chairs were purchased

from the funds, to be distributed to all anganwadis in Gaondongrim panchayat area on recommendations of the PMKSY Gaondongrim village committee consisting of Sarpanch as chairman and agriculture officers as executive members.

The Sarpanch had then informed that materials which had been obtained were stocked at the Zonal Agriculture Office (ZAO) in Canacona, and no one took steps to distribute the materials to the anganwadis for over two years.

While Dessai blamed the Canacona ZAO for the delay in distributing the materials, he further alleged while some materials had been stocked in the ZAO office, the remaining materials were kept at someone's private place and continued to gather dust. The matter further escalated after the sarpanch accused the ZAO of distributing the materials to some other beneficiaries who were not listed by the Gaondongrim village PMKSY committee.



Members of Save Old Goa Action Committee addressing reporters after submitting petition to the CM's office for Master Plan for Old Goa. Manuel Vaz

SOGAC petitions CM for Old Goa Master Plan

THE GOAN NETWORK

OLD GOA

The Save Old Goa Action Committee (SOGAC) has now petitioned Chief Minister Pramod Sawant who is also the chairman of the Exposition Committee to prepare a Master Plan for Old Goa before the Exposition begins.

The petitioned signed by over 4,500 people was in-warded by SOGAC at the CM's office at the Secretariat on Monday.

Later speaking to reporters, SOGAC member Jacklyn Fernandes said it is important to have a Master Plan in place for Old Goa as many unwanted projects are cropping all over.

"There are projects like farmhouses, chocolate exhibition centre, heritage interpre-

tation centre, garbage treatment plant, helipad, illegal bungalow and other constructions along with others which threaten the heritage site," said Fernandes.

"Only a Master Plan can prevent unwanted and illegal projects from coming up in Old Goa. We demand that the Master Plan should be in place before the exposition," Fernandes added.

Another member Vincent D'Silva said that the illegalities in Old Goa can be stopped only if a Master Plan is put in place. "And this demand is being made since many years but it appears that there is no intention to fulfill the demand," D'Silva stated.

SOGAC president Fatima Pereira, members Peter Viegas, Evaristo Rodrigues and others were present.

IN SHORT >>

Five booked for assault in Nuvem

MARGAO: The Maina Curtorim police have arrested five persons from different places in Salcete in connection with the assault on a shop owner at Nuvem on September 19. The five persons were arrested by the police upon the complaint of Edmond Gregoria Coloco, a resident of Belloy-Nuvem after five persons tried to effect entry into his shop by opening the shutter. After hearing the sound, the complainant rushed towards the shop only to be brutally assaulted by the five accused persons with a hard object on his head by wrongfully restraining him and further threatening him with dire consequences to kill. They fled from the spot.

State-level Ghumat Aarti Competition at Ponda

PANAJI: The Rajiv Gandhi Kala Mandir, Ponda, is set to host the much-anticipated State-Level Ghumat Aarti Competition this year, aimed at preserving and promoting the rich cultural heritage of Goa. The Ghumat, a traditional percussion instrument, plays a key role in Ghumat Aarti, a unique form of devotional singing that is especially popular during Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations.

In an initiative to promote this traditional art form, the Kala Mandir has been organising the All-Goa Ghumat Aarti Competition, drawing participation from groups across the state. This competition seeks to not only encourage the younger generation to embrace this tradition but also to ensure its continuation for years to come.

To maintain the authenticity of this age-old tradition, new rules have been introduced in this year's competition. These rules are specifically designed to ensure that the original essence and cultural integrity of the Ghumat Aarti are preserved.

Over the past four years, the competition has seen positive results due to fair and transparent judging. This has built a strong sense of trust among participants, with groups from all over Goa winning trophies in various categories.

With the introduction of Panchayat and Municipality categories, the hope of winning has risen among many participating groups. This has gradually boosted participation, as more groups are motivated to compete and showcase their talents.

One of the major reasons for the competition's revival and increased public engagement is the absence of political interference and the consistent delivery of fair results. This has helped restore the competition's original significance, bringing it back to the level of popularity it enjoyed in its early years.

The current committee's dedicated efforts in organising the competition have played a pivotal role in its success. Their work in preserving and promoting this important aspect of Goan culture is commendable, as they have effectively restored the original glory and respect associated with the Ghumat Aarti tradition.

Collem, Molem to benefit as WTP nears completion

THE GOAN NETWORK

PONDA

Residents of Collem and Molem in Dharbandora taluka will soon get treated water from the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) which is being constructed near the Malikeshwar temple in Collem at a cost of Rs 25 crore.

Work on the WTP with a capacity of 3 MLD has reached its final stage and efforts are underway to inaugurate the project in December.



A water tank is being constructed as part of the new Water Treatment Plant project for Collem and Molem villages.

Work on the WTP with a capacity of 3 MLD has reached its final stage and efforts are underway to inaugurate the project in December

The work to lay new water pipelines to supply water from the 3 MLD project as well as the construction of water tanks required for storing water are also nearing completion.

Residents of Collem and Molem have been facing acute water shortage particularly in March, April and May.

Collem village has about 1,600-1,700 water con-

nections while Mollem village has about 1,000 water connections.

Residents of both villages are expected to get sufficient water supply when the new WTP begins operations.

Dharbandora PWD Assistant Engineer Devidas Borkar said efforts are being made to complete the project as early as possible and launch it in the month of December.

"The 3 MLD project will provide water supply to over 2,500 tap connections in Collem and Mollem villages," he said.

Monsoon enters retreating phase, IMD puts Goa on red alert today

THE GOAN NETWORK

PANAJI

The monsoon has officially withdrawn from parts of western Rajasthan and Kutch while Goa is currently experiencing the onset of the retreating monsoon.

After experiencing days of clear weather, Goa was put on Orange alert on Monday during which parts of the State experienced heavy rainfall.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Goa has further upgraded the alert to Red for Tuesday, forecasting heavy to extremely heavy rainfall, accompanied by strong winds across Goa.

"The monsoon is in the initial phase of retreating. The rainfall we are currently witnessing is normal for this stage," an IMD official told The Goan, clarifying that the monsoon in Goa has not yet officially withdrawn.

The IMD assesses specific synoptic conditions before declaring monsoon withdrawal, particularly after September 1. These criteria include the cessation of rainfall activity for five consecutive days, developing anticyclones in the lower troposphere, and a marked reduction in atmospheric moisture.

Political intervention halts MPA's demolition plans in Tariwada

THE GOAN NETWORK

VASCO

The Mormugao Port Authority's (MPA) attempts to demolish structures in the Tariwada area of Mormugao constituency were thwarted once again due to political intervention.

Even in the absence of local MLA Sankalp Amonkar, his wife Shraddha Amonkar, who is a municipal councillor, stepped in to protect the homes of residents, who claim to have lived in the area for over 30 years.

On receiving news of an MPA team's visit, Shraddha Amonkar rushed to the site and immediately contacted, Sankalp, who is in Maharashtra as part of BJP's campaign.

Sankalp is reported to have quickly taken up the matter



Mormugao Councillor Shraddha Amonkar while speaking to the affected residents of Tariwada on Monday morning.

with Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, which resulted in the MPA halting its demolition plans.

"We got a call that some officials had come with a police team to inform them about the demolition. The sad part is that the house owners were not sent any notice, nor intimidated about

these plans. These people have been living here for 30 years now, and it seems that MPA is targeting this small area. The house owners have been living in fear of this demolition for a long time ever since the MPA claimed the area to be part of its jurisdiction," said Shraddha Amonkar.

Locals complain about coastal constructions at Polem, Talpona

THE GOAN NETWORK

CANACONA

As hectic activities are underway in Canacona taluka ahead of the new tourism season, locals in Polem and Galgibaga have petitioned authorities to complain about

constructions along the coast.

Anand Naik of Polem addressed two separate letters to the Canacona deputy collector and the sarpanch of Loliem-Polem, complaining about construction activities and demanded site inspections through the mamlatdar of Canacona.

Similarly, residents of Galgibaga have alleged construction activities close to a government pre-primary and primary school in Talpona.

Sources informed that the construction activities have been reported to the Pinguinim panchayat by the local panch.

FROM PAGE 1 >>

Goa's solar glow fades as 400 await central subsidy

23,260 kW. The State subsidy is restricted to 50 per cent for the first 10 kWp and subsidy restricting to 10 per cent beyond 10 kWp upto 30 kWp of sanction load to the Residential consumers based on the benchmark cost provided by MNRE.

DoE cracks down on corporal punishment, orders zero tolerance

"It has come to the attention of the Directorate that despite existing regulations, several instances of corporal punishment in schools have been reported. This is a matter of grave concern as it directly affects the physical and psychological wellbeing of students and also hinders the learning and development," he said.

The educational institutions are directed to adopt Zero Tolerance Policy towards corporal punishment and any violation of the policy to be addressed.

"Schools must establish a transparent mechanism for students to report any grievances related to corporal punishment. These complaints should be monitored diligently and immediate action must be taken," Director said.

Schools are also directed to organize regular training sessions and workshops for teaching and non-teaching staff to emphasize positive and constructive disciplinary practices and counseling services for students to promote a supportive and nurturing educational environment.

Zingade said that the DoE will conduct periodic audits to ensure compliance, and if any institution found in violation, will face appropriate disciplinary action. "Deviation from the guidelines will be dealt seriously and strict measures will be taken against the violators as per law," he said.

DoE has pointed out that Section 75 of the Juvenile

Justice Act prescribes punishment for cruelty to child, whenever a child is assaulted, abused, etc, by any person employed by or managing an organization, which is entrusted with the care and protection of children, the punishment would be rigorous imprisonment up to three years and fine up to Rs five lakhs and the same may extend up to ten years if the child develops mental illness or has risk to life.

Tiatrists, fans in Margao face month-long hiatus

To facilitate smooth progress of work, it has been decided not to make available Pai Tiatrist auditorium for any activity, including tiatrs during the period," he said.

Talak, however, has hastened to add that he is working very closely with tiatr directors to ensure the auditorium is made available to them to stage shows. "We had initially conveyed to the tiatr directors that the hall will not be available from October 1 to carry out the works. Since the tender process is not yet complete, we got back to the directors and allotted the slots to stage the shows up to October 14", he said.

Talak, however, hastened to add the Pai Tiatrist auditorium will not be available during IFFI since films will be screened, adding that the tiatrs will resume at the auditorium from December 1.

Meanwhile, there's good news in store for visitors to Ravindra Bhavan. The issue of illumination has been finally fixed. Talak said the non-functioning lights in the complex have been replaced.

Talak also said plans are afoot to revive the musical water fountain at the entrance.

47 students, 5 teachers stuck at Sattari waterfall rescued

students and teachers crossed the river by about 4

pm," said Gawas.

Locals were, however, critical of the school's decision to undertake the trek to the Charavane waterfall despite the adverse weather warnings on Monday, thereby posing a serious risk to the safety of students and teachers.

"Authorities had issued alerts regarding heavy rains and despite this, it is surprising that the school management took the risk and organised the trek to the waterfall. A tragedy could have taken place if the water level had to suddenly rise to a dangerous level, while the rescue operation was in progress. People should not undertake such a risk," remarked a local from Charvane.

Over 4,200 trees chopped in five months for big projects

against proposed 404, for construction of proposed 4-lane Assonora bypass road connecting Bicholim and Bardez talukas.

As per the minutes of the meeting of February, RVNL was allowed to cut 737 trees for doubling of railway line along the Majorda-Vasco route, as against its request for 915 trees. RVNL was also accorded approval for cutting 122 trees for execution of railway development and electrification work along the same route.

The PWD was allowed to fell 350 trees for widening of road from Sada junction to MPT and another 136 in Margao.

In the same meeting, another project proponent was permitted to axe trees at Keldem of which some are located in government and comunidade land and in private property.

All the user agencies were directed to undertake replantation of mixed forest species trees and coconut trees (wherever cut) under supervision of Forest Department and Goa State Biodiversity Board.

BoM to open 7 new branches in State

THE GOAN NETWORK

PANAJI

The Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has plans to open seven new branches in the State. This was stated by BoM Zonal Manager Anand Dingankar during a celebration at Miramar to mark the 90th anniversary of the bank.

"The BoM was established in Pune on September 16, 1935. The BoM initially began with 5 branches and today, we are serving customers through 2500 branches across the country. While 23 branches are functioning in Goa, 7 new branches will be set up in the State," said Dingankar.

Others present on the occasion included Deputy Zonal Manager Vivek Joshi and Chief Guest Vidyanand Pawar (Police Inspector of Cybercrime Police Station, Ribandar).

Speaking on the occasion, PI Pawar explained how cyber crimes take place and gave various examples on how frauds occur during bank transactions. He also presented tips on how to ensure safety during online bank transactions.

PM-JUGA to benefit 658 tribal households

THE GOAN NETWORK

PANAJI

PM- Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan (PM-JUGA) has been launched by the efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the overall holistic development of the tribals. This campaign will benefit 658 tribal households in North Goa (302 (Siridao, Tiswadi), 96(Sonus-Vonvoliem, Sattari), 260(Vantem, Sattari)) and will extend to 2821 ST population in the district. The campaign will integrate the tribals of the remote areas into the mainstream and empower them financially. Four goals have been set under this campaign - infrastructure development, financial empowerment, good education for all and dignified ageing including good health.

The objective of the PM-JUGA is to address the challenges in infrastructure, education, health and livelihoods of the tribal community. The campaign will include 25 programs and will be implemented by 17 ministries/departments.

India has Scheduled Tribe population of 10.45 crore as per 2011 census and there are more than 705 tribal communities. PM- JUGA has total outlay of Rs.79,156 crore with Central Share of Rs.56,333 crore. It will cover 63,000 villages benefiting more than 5 crore tribal people, covering 549 districts across 30 States/UTs.

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Mission's four goals of PM-JUGA are developing enabling infrastructure such as pucca house for households and improving village infrastructure, promotion of economic empowerment through skill development entrepreneurship promotion and enhanced livelihood (self-employment), universalisation of access to good education i.e. healthy lives and dignified ageing.

Innovative schemes under PM-JUGA includes tribal home stay i.e to tap tribal tourism and alternate livelihood, 1000 home stays will be promoted under Swadesh Darshan, sustainable livelihood forest right holders i.e special focus on 22 lakh FRA patta holders residing in forest areas for recognising and securing forest rights, improving infrastructure of government residential schools and hostels on lines of PM-Shri schools, advance facilities for diagnosis of sickle cell disease and tribal multipurpose marketing centre for marketing of tribal products.



BITS hosts round table on Viksit Bharat @2047



PANAJI: A panel discussion on “The Role of Academic Leaders to Address the Challenges of the Modern Education System for Viksit Bharat@2047” was held on 20th September. It was jointly organised by Soft Computing Research Society, BITS Pilani (Goa Campus), National Forensic Science University (Goa Campus), and Sri Vishwakarma Skill University (Haryana). The panel featured academic leaders from across India, including Prof. Dinesh Kumar (Gurugram University), Prof. Rajeev Sood (Baba Farid University), Dr. Ranpal Singh (Chaudhary Ranbir Singh University), Prof. Usha S. Nair (National Sports University), Prof. Amaresh Kumar (NIT Jamshedpur), and other notable figures from various institutions. The session was moderated by Dr. J. C. Bansal, General Secretary of the Soft Computing Research Society. The discussion focused on the current state of higher education, the importance of academia-industry collaboration, and reforms needed to achieve the “Viksit Bharat” vision by 2047.

IBAAS-IIM 2024 to be held at BITS Pilani

PANAJI: International Bauxite, Alumina & Aluminium Society (IBAAS) is organising 12th IBAAS Conference and Exhibition at BITS Pilani KK Birla Campus, Goa, during September 25-27, 2024. The theme of this year’s event, “Aluminium Industry – Vision 2030”, promises discussions and innovative solutions shaping the future of the aluminium sector globally. For more details and updates please visit the IBAAS website <http://www.ibaas.info/>.

Don Bosco College, holds interclass debate



PANAJI: The Literary Committee of Don Bosco College, Panjim in association with the Library Department organised an interclass debate competition. Seven teams participated in the same. Participants engaged in thought-provoking debates on topics like raising the minimum voting age, the environmental impact of electric vehicles, the reliability of cryptocurrency and the safety of women at night. The elimination round was followed by two semi-finals. After a closely-contested final, TY BBA T&T emerged as the winners, while TY BAMC were the runners-up. The students were thanked for their enthusiastic participation.

St Francis Xavier’s HSS celebrates ‘Hindi Diwas’



PANAJI: St. Francis Xavier’s Higher Secondary School, Siolim celebrated Hindi Diwas highlighting the importance of Hindi language. Two short plays were staged through which the values and respect for the elders was emphasised upon. These were followed by poem recitations and a cultural programme. A poster making competition was also organised on the occasion of Hindi Diwas prior to the event day. The prizes to the winners were given at the hands of the Chief Guest, Vrushali Subhash Mandrekar, Vice Dean (Academic) at Shenoi Goembab School of languages and literature, Goa University. In her address she pressed upon the significance of the language and appreciated the efforts put in by the students. Representing the management Rev. Fr. Santow John, MSFS was also present for the programme. The programme was conceptualised and executed by Nazama Shaikh, the Hindi teacher of Higher Secondary Section who was assisted by Teacher Shweta Coelho.

Enhancing research skills: State-level session on dissertation writing

THE GOAN NETWORK

PANAJI

The Department of Library and the IQAC at St. Joseph Vaz College, in collaboration with the Directorate of Higher Education, Government of Goa, organised a one-day State-level workshop on “Writing Project/Dissertation: Do’s and Don’ts” on 21st September. The event saw active participation of 50 students from various colleges across the state, with the objective of improving their academic writing skills, particularly in project and dissertation work. Students from Murgaon Education Society’s Vasant Joshi College of Arts and Commerce, Zuarinagar; St. Xavier’s College, Mapusa; Carmel College of Arts, Science, and Commerce for Women, Nuvem, Salcete; Narayan Zantye College of Commerce, Bicholim; Sant Sohrobanath Ambhiye Government College of Arts



and Commerce, Virnoda, Pernem; Fr. Agnel College of Arts and Commerce, Pilar; D.C.T.’s Dhempe College of Arts & Science, Miramar, Panaji; and St. Joseph Vaz College, Cortalim. Dr. Aureen Gomes, Assistant Professor of Microbiology, acted as the host for the full-day event. The dignitaries on the dais included Rev. Prof. Simao Diniz, College Administrator; Angela Serrao, Acting Principal; Dr. Murari Tapaswi, Resource Person; Dr. Keshav Dhuri, DHE Observer; Viona Correea, IQAC Coordinator; and Manali Acharya, Programme Coordinator.

The workshop commenced with an inaugural session featuring a prayer service, the lighting of the lamp, and a welcome address by Rev. Prof. Simao Diniz. In his speech, he emphasised the importance of research integrity and academic excellence in higher education, urging students to engage deeply in research while upholding ethical practices. The inaugural session concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by the acting principal. Dr. Murari Tapaswi, the resource speaker, conducted three informative sessions, addressing key elements of

research. These sessions covered topics such as effective literature search strategies, choosing research topics, planning and structuring projects, and maintaining ethical research standards. Additionally, Dr. Tapaswi introduced the participants to reference management tools and showcased effective methods for organising and structuring dissertations. The workshop concluded with a valedictory function, where the programme coordinator presented a report on the day’s sessions, followed by a closing address from the college administrator. Mementos were presented to the resource person in appreciation. Following this, the resource person distributed participation certificates. The valedictory function ended with a vote of thanks delivered by Ludiloy Pereira, a member of the library staff.

Student entrepreneurs feted at Dempo College



PANAJI: On the occasion of World Entrepreneurship Day, DCT’s Srinivassa Sinai Dempo College of Commerce and Economics Institution’s Innovation Club (IIC) in association with the BBA Entrepreneurship Club ‘Aspiranova’ organised a special event on the importance of entrepreneurship in today’s world and celebrated the entrepreneurial spirit within the student community by honouring emerging student entrepreneurs. The event commenced with a welcome address that highlighted the significance of recognising and nurturing entrepreneurship followed by a speech from the college Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Manoj Kama reiterating the institution’s commitment to fostering entrepreneurial talent. One of the key highlights of the event was the unveiling of a college-wide survey aimed at identifying emerging entrepreneurs among the students. The college felicitated these budding entrepreneurs: Ishaan Nilesh Pankar – Media Startup, Rushab Kalangutkar – Gifting Startup, Dishan Desa – Media Startup, Marielou Lobo – Media Startup, Rio Smith – AI and Technology Startup, Renelle Rodrigues – Events and Lighting Startup, Aditya Naik – Media Startup, Shreyash Karwarkar – Media Startup, Nathan De Souza – Agricultural Startup.

Rosary HSS celebrates Inter Religious Solidarity



PANAJI: Our Lady of the Rosary HSS, Dona Paula, in collaboration with the Solidarity Forum of the Society of Pilar, recently organised an Inter-Religious Solidarity programme titled ‘Guldasta.’ Aimed at fostering interfaith harmony and peace within the school, the event saw over 350 students participating. The programme began with the lighting of the traditional lamp and garlanding of the Indian Constitution by Dr. Fr. Elvis Fernandes, one of the speakers. Sr. Manisha Pamar, Principal, welcomed the gathering, emphasising the importance of religious harmony. Scholastic Robinson Pacheco, coordinator of the Solidarity Forum, explained the programme’s purpose, followed by Dr. Fr. Fernandes, who addressed the topic of respecting religious diversity. Architect Tallulah D’Silva led a mindful meditation session highlighting the essence of peace. Students Falaknaz Jakati, Reshma Pawar, and Chriselle Pereira shared personal testimonials on inter-religious solidarity. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Assistant General Secretary Lalita Oli and the national anthem.

Annual orator contest held at Carmel College



PANAJI: The annual Orator Contest, organised by Carmel College of Arts, Science, and Commerce for

Women, was held on the 19th of September and witnessed the participation of ten talented speakers, who were finalists of the event. The event provided a platform for students to demonstrate their public speaking skills, critical thinking, and eloquence on a range of thought-provoking and relevant topics like ‘G.O.A.-Great opportunity Arrives’, ‘Goa available to the highest bidder’, ‘Infantilisation of women’, ‘Artificial Intelligence: Work smarter, not harder’, among others. Every speaker delivered a compelling speech filled with insightful and witty observations. The competition was judged by Shubhaangi Thakur, Rahul Chandawarkar and Daniel De Souza. The runner-up position was secured by Danielle Sales from FYBA, while Kiara Tresca from SYBA was declared the winner of the competition.

Jnyan Vikas shines at national competitions



PANAJI: Jnyan Vikas School, Porvorim, celebrated the achievements of 14 students who excelled in the WIZ National Spelling Bee and Writing Wizard competitions for the 2023-2024 academic year. Kartik Negi from Class I secured 27th place in the Spelling Bee, followed by Viyansh Venkatesh Rao from Class II in 37th place. Zafirah M. Shaikh from Class V achieved 40th place, while Rheann Marie Menezes Gama from Class III, Taksh Jishtu from Class IV, and Trisha R. Naik from Class VII all secured 41st place. Nishka Vithoba Sawant from Class IV ranked 47th, and Adhyaatm A. Naik from Class II took 49th place. Srisha Satish Nachinolkar from Class IV ranked 51st, Dhanesh Madgaonkar from Class IV secured 53rd place, and Akshaj Harshad Kamat from Class IV earned 58th place. Avneesh Harish Kamat from Class II placed 68th. In the Writing Wizard competition, Gargi Prasad Barve from Class V stood out with an impressive 9th place, and Riaansh Naik from Class II secured 10th place. The students were guided by their teachers, Swetha and Mahadev.

JD School of Design rolls out IGBC Student Chapter

PANAJI: JD School of Design, Goa, announces the launch of the IGBC (Indian Green Building Council) Student Chapter. By joining IGBC, the college aims to provide students with practical experience and knowledge in sustainable design, equipping them to address environmental challenges in the industry. The IGBC Student Chapter will offer workshops, expert sessions, and hands-on projects, focusing on sustainable building practices, energy efficiency, and eco-friendly materials. The chapter’s launch will take place during the HIDE event in Goa on 27th September 2024, featuring a panel discussion with key industry figures, including Dr. Aniruddha Pawar (Green Buildings and Climate-Responsive Design), Ar. Amit Parashar (Environment & Design), and IGBC Goa co-chair Kulasekhar Kantipudi (Sustainable Real Estate Projects). Kulasekhar Kantipudi will also officially inaugurate the IGBC Student Chapter.

Fr Agnel College holds talk on suicide prevention



PANAJI: In observance of World Suicide Prevention Day, the Counselling and Outreach for Peer Empowerment (COPE) and Health Cell of Fr. Agnel College of Arts and Commerce, Pilar, in collaboration with the Institute of Nursing Education (INE), Bambolim, organised an awareness session on suicide prevention for the students of the college. The program featured a thought-provoking role play on suicide awareness performed by Third Year B.Sc. students from INE, followed by an insightful session led by Olinda Toscano, faculty at INE. The event was coordinated by Sangam Sawant, faculty of INE, and Irene George, counsellor at Fr. Agnel College. The Principal of Fr. Agnel College, Rev. Dr. Fredrick Rodrigues, and Dr. Shilpa Desai, the coordinator of the Health Cell, were present for the event, which aimed to raise awareness on the importance of mental health and suicide prevention among young people. The event was compered by Marisha Gonsalves, and the vote of thanks was delivered by student Sahil Awasthi.

‘Suicide prevention’ talk organised

PANAJI: The Counselling Cell and IQAC of St. Joseph Vaz College, Cortalim, organised a talk on “Suicide Prevention” on September 20th in observance of World Suicide Prevention Day. The session was open to students from both the college and St. Joseph Vaz Institute of Education, with Rev. Prof. Simao Diniz, PhD in Psychology, serving as the resource person. Rev. Prof. Diniz discussed rising suicide rates in India and Goa, especially among youth and the elderly. He addressed warning signs, behavioral changes, risk factors, and the importance of offering emotional support to those at risk. Drawing from his experience, he shared real-life cases of individuals he had helped cope with suicidal thoughts and dispelled common myths about suicide. The audience was urged to seek help when struggling and to show compassion toward those who confide in them. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Aroma Diniz, In-charge of the Counselling Cell.

St Theresa’s HSS visits VMSIHE



PANAJI: Students of St Theresa’s Higher Secondary School Candolim visited VMSIHE on 19th September, for an educational tour. The day began with a formal welcome by Shertaine Viegas which was followed by a session on bed making and towel art by Yoshika D’Silva Asst. Professor front office. The next session was taken up by Gauri Patil Asst. Professor F&B service on table etiquettes. A short presentation of the courses and an insight of the campus was given by Sudhir Desai Executive Corporate Communications. Lastly, the students witnessed a campus tour organised by Edna Noronha Sr. Manager Marketing and Shertaine Viegas. The tour was organised by the Principal Rita D’Silva and co-ordinated by teachers Roselle Braganza, Alisha Fernandes and Disha Pednekar.

Philatelic exhibition, talk held for schools in Margao



PANAJI: An interactive philatelic exhibition, talk and quiz session on the theme ‘Scientists and Scientific Institutions of the Indian subcontinent’ was held with the participation of various schools and the students of class 5, 6 and 7 from Margao at Gomat Vidya Niketan. On this occasion, Dr M R Ramesh Kumar, president of the Goa Philately and Numismatics Society and retired chief scientist from National Institute of Oceanography gave away more than 120 Meghdoot Postcards to the students to write a letter to him from their nearest post office on stamps they liked or on the hobby of stamp collection. The event was organised by Marathi Vidnyan Parishad Goa Vibhag and Dr Ramesh Kumar was given a memento by its president Salil Kare in the presence of Prof Reshma Raut Desai, Goa University, Atul Naik and other dignitaries. “A single frame Philatelic exhibition on the theme ‘Chess – A Philatelic Tribute’ is displayed at Institute of Menezes Braganza Panaji as a part of the ongoing 37th All India Postal Chess Tournament 2024 being held from 23-27, September,” stated Dr Ramesh Kumar.

Thriving in the Rain: Plant care in monsoon month

Denise Baptiste



Protect from excess rain

- Shift fragile plants or indoor plants to sheltered areas where they're protected from heavy rainfall.
- Use a temporary plastic sheet or garden cover to shield plants from constant downpours, while still allowing light to pass through.

Caring for plants during the monsoon or rainy season requires special attention to ensure they stay healthy and thrive. Excessive moisture, fungal growth, and poor drainage are common issues. Here are the best ways to care for your plants during this season:

Ensure proper drainage

- Ensure that the pots have adequate drainage holes. Waterlogged soil can lead to root rot and other fungal infections.
- Place pots on stands or bricks to allow better drainage and air circulation.
- Aerate the soil by loosening it gently to allow water to drain properly and prevent it from becoming compacted.
- Control pests and fungi**
- Increased moisture invites pests like snails, slugs, and aphids. Use neem oil or other organic pest repellents.
- Fungal infections like mildew are common; ensure good air circulation and use fungicides if needed.
- Fallen leaves can harbor mold and pests. Keep the area around plants clean.

Pruning and trimming

- Pruning overgrown plants can improve air circulation, reducing the risk of fungal infections.
- Regularly cut off any dead/rotting parts to avoid spreading disease to the rest of the plant.

Use mulch

- Apply organic mulch around the base of the plants. This helps retain the right amount of moisture & prevents soil erosion due to heavy rain.

Fertilization

- Plants may need less fertilizer during the monsoon, but make sure to provide balanced nutrients as the soil can lose essential minerals with rainwater runoff.
- Organic compost helps replenish nutrients and also improves soil texture, which aids in drainage.

Support for climbing plants

- Provide adequate support for climbing plants or tall plants that may fall over due to heavy rains or wind.

Monitor watering

- Rainwater often provides enough moisture. Check the soil before watering to avoid overwatering.
- If rainwater is scarce, you can collect and store rainwater to use during dry spells.

Sunlight and light exposure

- If plants are in too much shade due to cloudy skies, move them to locations where they can get more light, even indirect sunlight.
- Ensure surrounding plants are not blocking the essential light your plants need during the cloudy monsoon days.

Blackhead remover tool is what we use to remove blackheads and clear our skin. However, you need to be careful while using this tool. Using it the wrong way not only will cause you discomfort but is most likely to leave some scars on your face. Keeping that in mind, today we are sharing with you the do's and don'ts of using the blackhead remover tool.

Monika Khajuria

How to use blackhead remover tool- the dos

Also known as blackhead extractor, a blackhead remover is a tool that is designed to pull out the grime trapped in your hair follicles thereby unclogging them and removing the blackheads. With a looped structure at both ends, it is a sturdy tool that is mostly made of steel and is easily available. Here is how to use this tool to remove your blackheads.

- Cleanse your face with warm water. Warm water helps to open the skin pores and thus it will help in easing the blackhead extraction.
- Next, take the tool and place it over the blackhead in such a way that you are almost trapping the blackhead between the loop at the ends of the tool.
- Put gentle pressure on the side and move the tool across the blackhead and you will see the blackhead coming out.
- Use a tissue to wipe the grime.
- Continue using the tool in the same manner until you have dealt with all of your blackheads.
- Once done, cleanse your face so as to prevent your pores from becoming infected.
- Lastly, use soap and warm water to clean the blackhead remover tool.

The don'ts of using the blackhead remover tool

Now that you know how to use the blackhead extractor, let us take a look at the things to be careful about while using this tool.

Do not assume you have blackheads

Before you use the tool to extract blackheads, make sure it is blackheads that you are dealing with. Sometimes it can be sebaceous filaments that you are dealing with. Sebaceous filaments are particles that form on your skin when you have excess sebum production. These are lighter in colour as compared to blackheads, often yellow or light grey. Messing with these is not good for your skin.



Do not use the tool without exfoliating your face

Before using the blackhead extractor it is important to thoroughly cleanse and exfoliate your face. Exfoliation opens up your skin pores and removes the surface dirt on your skin to make the extraction process easy and simpler.

Blackhead remover: Dos and Don'ts

Do not overlook the importance of a good steam

Here is a skincare step we do not pay much attention to. Giving some steam to your face opens up the skin pores and makes it easy to unclog them. You will find the best results with the blackhead remover tool after you have good steam.

Do not push the tool hard

Using a blackhead extractor should be a fairly easy feat. After you have prepared your skin with exfoliation and probable steam, it does not need much pressure for the blackheads to come out. All you need is a gentle push. If you are finding it difficult to extract the blackheads, leave them alone and try some other time. Pushing hard is mostly going to leave some nasty scars on your face.

Do not use a dirty blackhead extractor

It is important that you use a clean tool always to extract your blackheads. A dirty blackhead remover tool has a high chance of infecting your skin pores and inviting many skin issues. So, after and before each use, make sure that you cleanse your blackhead extractor with warm water and soap, and store it in a clean place.



Fertility preservation for women with cancer

Dr Sulbha Arora
Clinical Director, Nova IVF Fertility, Mumbai



Choosing parenthood is an intimate choice, which can often be challenging for those who are battling cancer or have survived it. However, thanks to the advanced fertility preservation methods, now it is possible for cancer survivors to help couples embrace parenthood after the cancer treatment. Fortunately, those who have battled cancer will now be able to become pregnant while maintaining their well-being and overall quality of life.

Decoding the connection between cancer treatment and infertility:

Chemotherapy and radiation therapies are known to target and kill the malignant cells but may wreak havoc on reproductive systems. According to various studies, women may experience premature ovarian failure or diminished egg quality, while men might encounter low sperm production and motility due to life-saving cancer treatments. Therefore, cancer patients must speak to a fertility consultant to fulfill the dream of parenthood. Moreover, follow the instructions given by an expert for successful pregnancy outcomes.

Vital tips for cancer patients to be able to conceive: Various studies highlight preservation techniques that offer hope to cancer survivors wishing to conceive post-treatment. Options like oocyte (egg) freezing and sperm banking are beneficial for couples who wish to achieve pregnancy. Couples must get themselves educated about various fertility treatment options for successful conception. Ensure consulting the doctor regarding

procedures such as ovarian tissue cryopreservation and testicular tissue freezing that present cutting-edge alternatives when it comes to keeping your fertility intact. Cancer patients should not at all lose hope as it is possible to get pregnant even after undergoing cancer treatment. Cancer patients should take charge of their reproductive health to be able to achieve successful pregnancy instead of neglecting this aspect and suffering in silence.

Takeaway: Don't worry and be assured that you will get that much-needed support from the oncologists and fertility specialists during the pregnancy journey. If you are a cancer patient undergoing any fertility treatment, you will be closely monitored daily to safeguard your own health, and to ensure appropriate growth and development of the fetus. So don't hesitate, and choose fertility treatment options recommended by the experts for a successful pregnancy. Lastly, avoid believing any misconceptions as cancer patients can successfully parent healthy kids!

Praveen Kumar

Chia seeds have rightfully earned their place among the top superfoods. Packed with essential nutrients and medicinal properties, these tiny seeds offer numerous health benefits that make them a valuable addition to anyone's diet. Ancient warriors and athletes relied on chia seeds to boost their energy and endurance before undertaking strenuous physical tasks. They are rich in fiber, protein, omega-3 and omega-6 fatty



acids, as well as vital minerals like copper, calcium, zinc, magnesium, and potassium. While many people view chia seeds primarily as a weight loss food, their real value lies in the extensive range of nutrients they provide. Beyond helping with weight management, these seeds promote better skin, improve digestive health, support heart function, strengthen bones and muscles, and even enhance oral health. Here are some lesser-known facts about chia seeds that further demonstrate their nutritional powerhouse status.

Antioxidants

While blueberries are often praised for being high in antioxidants, chia seeds actually contain more antioxidants per serving than blueberries, making them an excellent choice for fighting oxidative stress and inflammation in the body.

Magnesium

Two tablespoons of chia seeds provide nearly 32% of the daily recommended intake of magnesium. Magnesium is essential for muscle function, nerve health, and regulating blood sugar levels, making chia seeds a great addition to any diet.

Potassium

Bananas are well-known for their potassium content, which helps maintain proper muscle and nerve function. However, 2 tablespoons of chia seeds contain around 64% more potassium than a banana, offering superior support for heart health and muscle recovery.

Why chia seeds are a superfood?

Iron

Though spinach is widely considered a top source of iron, just 2 tablespoons of chia seeds contain up to three times more iron than spinach. Iron is crucial for carrying oxygen throughout the body and preventing anemia.

Fatty acids

Omega-3 fatty acids are vital for brain function and cardiovascular health. Interestingly, just 2 tablespoons of chia seeds provide more omega-3 fatty acids than a serving of salmon, making them a plant-based alternative for this essential fat.

Calcium

We often associate milk with calcium, but chia seeds are an even richer source. Two tablespoons of chia seeds deliver almost five times more calcium than milk, which is essential for maintaining strong bones & teeth.

Protein

Chia seeds are a plant-based source of protein, containing about 4 grams in just 2 tablespoons. Including them in your diet not only helps build and repair tissues but also provides all nine essential amino acids, making them a complete protein source.

Hydration and digestive support

Chia seeds can absorb up to 12 times their weight in water, forming a gel-like substance when soaked. This hydrophilic property helps keep you hydrated and promotes healthy digestion by ensuring smooth bowel movements and preventing constipation.

Blood sugar regulation

Thanks to their high fiber content, chia seeds can slow the absorption of sugar into the bloodstream, which helps regulate blood sugar levels and reduces the risk of type 2 diabetes. Adding them to your meals may help you feel fuller for longer, preventing spikes in hunger.

Bone density

In addition to calcium, chia seeds are rich in phosphorus and magnesium, essential for maintaining healthy bone density. Regular consumption may help prevent osteoporosis and strengthen bones as you age.

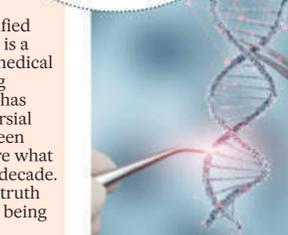
Gene editing: Everything you need to know

Devika Bandyopadhyaya

What is gene editing

Also known as genome editing, gene editing involves insertion, deletion or replacement of DNAs at specific sites in the genome of an organism. It is mostly done using engineered nucleases (molecular scissors). With gene editing, scientists can correct harmful mutations, disable target genes and alter the activity of specific genes.

DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) is the carrier of genetic information and is present in living organisms as the main constituent of chromosomes. It basically defines the distinctive characteristics of someone or something. This characteristic is technically identified to be unchangeable. Gene editing is a new development in the field of medical science that involves the rewriting and alteration of DNA. The study has faced quite a number of controversial situations wherein people have been assuming that 'designer babies' are what would be the in thing in the next decade. Read on to know more about the truth behind gene editing and how it is being used to rewrite the code of life.



Let's have a deeper insight about genes

Genes are responsible for making and maintaining the proteins and enzymes that form the base of building tissues and organs. Genes are strands of genetic code, which is denoted by letters G, C, T and A. There's a nucleus in every cell in the human body and there are about 20,000 genes that are bundled into 23 pairs of chromosomes. These chromosomes are all coiled up in the nucleus. It is only about 1.5 percent of our genome (genetic code) that is made of genes. 10 percent of the genetic code regulates the genes and how it turns on in the right cell or at the right time.

The letters of the genetic code refer to the molecules and can be deciphered as:

- G - guanine
- T - thymine
- C - cytosine
- A - adenine

Inside the DNA, the molecules are paired up:

- G with C
- T with A

These are the base pairs of the DNA double helix. Every human inherits 60 new mutations from the parents, most of them coming from the father.

Treating genetic disorders through gene editing

Gene editing gained a lot of attention when its potential to prevent and treat human diseases was announced by researchers. It is known that there are several genetic disorders that tend to pass on from one generation to the next. These genetic disorders are most of the time quite serious, weakening and life-threatening as well. Going by statistics, one in every 25 children is born with a genetic disorder/disease. The most commonly occurring genetic diseases are muscular dystrophy, cystic fibrosis and sickle cell anaemia. The corrupt DNA of the patient's cells are rewritten through gene editing in order to treat the disorder. However, the concern stays with the fact that it can do much more than just repairing the faulty genes.

Gene editing has already proven to be a success in the case of modifying people's immune cells in order to fight cancer. It has also shown great results in modifying cells such that there is a development of resistance towards HIV infection. Researchers are acting quick on finding ways to fix defective genes in human embryos so that babies born do not possess inherited serious illnesses. However, this research has opened the gates for quite a lot of controversy, especially because the genetic changes affect the sperm or the egg cells and in such cases of genetic edits, a bad or incorrect move could result in a side effect being passed on to future generations.

Use of gene editing in other fields

The agricultural industry has greatly benefited from gene editing. It has made agricultural practices cheaper, faster, and more precise. Gene editing has led to innovations like seedless tomatoes, gluten-free wheat, and mushrooms that resist browning with age. Pharmaceutical companies have also tapped into gene editing. Firms developing next-generation antibiotics have created harmless viruses designed to target specific strains of infection-causing bacteria. Gene editing has even been applied to pig organs, making them safer for human transplants. It has also enabled scientists to better understand the function of various genes.

How does gene editing work

There are various methods for gene editing, but the one with the most potential is Crispr-Cas9 (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats and CRISPR-associated). Crispr acts as a guide molecule that finds a specific part of an organism's genetic code, like a mutated gene, which is then cut by the Cas9 enzyme. If the cell tries to repair the cut, it often disables the gene. To fix faulty genes, scientists replace the mutated DNA with a healthy strand, injecting it along with Crispr-Cas9. Other enzymes, like Cpf1, also show promise for DNA editing.

Is modern gene editing perfect?

No, despite its precision, modern gene editing isn't flawless. Trial and error often result in uneven outcomes, with some cells being easier to reach than others. Even when the guide molecule targets the correct cells, edits may vary—one cell might have both copies of a mutated gene fixed, while another only has one. Such inconsistencies pose problems, especially when a single mutated gene causes a disorder. Off-target edits can also occur, potentially disrupting healthy genes or critical DNA regions, which can be dangerous.

Gene editing and the future of designer babies

Several studies suggest that gene editing may soon go beyond fixing faulty genes in children and adults, potentially addressing harmful mutations in embryos. Some scientists have already conducted experimental studies supporting gene editing in embryos to treat and prevent serious diseases. However, there is no room for error when editing embryos, as these changes would be passed on to future generations. This possibility has raised concerns about the creation of designer babies. Some speculate that in the future, designer babies could be made not just for medical reasons, but for social preferences, such as height or intelligence. However, this concept remains distant, requiring extensive clinical trials and approvals before it becomes reality. Despite the controversies, the efforts of researchers in gene editing will not be wasted. It is gradually gaining popularity and will soon be used in modern medicine to treat various genetic disorders. With its numerous benefits, gene editing could greatly help humanity if applied correctly and responsibly.

mp Briefs

Govt steps up buffer stock sale of onions

The government has intensified its efforts to check onion prices by stepping up the sale of buffer stock in wholesale markets, following a spike in retail prices after the recent removal of export duty. Consumer Affairs Secretary Nidhi Khare on Monday said the Centre has begun off-loading onions from its buffer stock in wholesale markets of Delhi and other key cities, with plans to expand subsidised retail sales nationwide.

Casagrand files papers for ₹1,100-cr IPO

Real estate developer Casagrand Premier Builder has filed preliminary papers with capital markets regulator Sebi to raise Rs 1,100 crore through an initial public offering (IPO). The IPO is a combination of a fresh issue of equity shares worth Rs 1,000 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of stocks valued Rs 100 crore by promoters.

KRN Heat's ₹342-cr IPO to open on Sep 25

KRN Heat Exchanger and Refrigeration Ltd on Friday announced a price band of Rs 209 to Rs 220 per share for its Rs 342-crore IPO with the proceeds aimed at driving the company's expansion plans. The Rajasthan-based company's initial share-sale will open for public subscription on September 25 and conclude on September 27.

Saj Hotels IPO to open on Sep 27

Saj Hotels Limited on Monday announced its plan to go public with an Initial Public Offering (IPO) on September 27, 2024, aiming to raise up to Rs 2,762.50 Lakhs with shares to be listed on the NSE Emerge platform. The issue is up to 42, 50,000 Lakh Shares equity shares at a face value of Rs 10 each.

BigBloc to install addl 250 KW solar plant

BigBloc Construction Ltd has recently placed order for further installation of rooftop solar plant of 250 Kilo Watts (KW) further to its already installed a rooftop solar power project of 450 KW at its Umargaon (Vapi) unit. This will amount to total installed capacity of more than 700 KW at Umargaon unit on completion of the project.

BULLS CHARGE | Continued optimism over the US Fed rate cut Sensex closes at all-time high, Nifty above 25,900 for 1st time

PTI NEW DELHI

Benchmark BSE Sensex jumped 384 points to close at a new all-time high on Monday, driven by gains in energy, select banking and auto shares amid continued optimism over the US Fed rate cut and positive Asian markets.

Rallying for the third day running, the 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 384.30 points, or 0.45 per cent, to settle at a new all-time high of 84,928.61. During the day, it soared 436.22 points, or 0.51 per cent, to hit a fresh lifetime intra-day peak of 84,980.53.

The NSE Nifty rose 148.10 points, or 0.57 per cent, to close at a record peak of 25,939.05. During the day, it zoomed 165.05 points, or 0.63 per cent, to reach a new intraday all-time high of 25,956.

"The euphoria from the FED rate cut continued to lift the domestic market. The



Three days of mkt rally adds ₹8.30 lakh cr to investors' wealth

Investors' wealth climbed Rs 8.30 lakh crore in three days of record-breaking market rally amid continued optimism over the US Fed rate cut.

In three days, the benchmark has jumped 1,980.38 points or 2.38 per cent. The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms surged Rs 8,30,975.85 crore to Rs 4,76,03,923.17 crore (USD 5.70 trillion) in three days. "Investors extended their buying support for the third straight session as benchmark indices hit fresh highs amid gains in telecom, banking, realty and oil & gas shares," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research) at Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

benign input costs and an expectation of a change in stance by the RBI amid cuts by global banks will provide tailwinds to valuation. Though there is moderation in India PMI data, investors are anticipating that the wave of liquidity from FII may provide stability in the sentiment," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services said.

From the 30 Sensex firms, Mahindra & Mahindra was the biggest gainer, rising by 3.29 per cent. State Bank of India rose by 2.55 per cent,

Bharti Airtel by 2.25 per cent and Kotak Bank by 1.71 per cent.

Gains by HDFC Bank, Reliance Industries and Hindustan Unilever helped the index hit an all-time high. UltraTech Cement, Adani Ports, and Tata Steel were also among the gainers.

ICICI Bank, on the other hand, dropped the most by 1.25 per cent, capping Sensex gains. IndusInd Bank, Asian Paints, Tech Mahindra, Infosys, HCL Technologies, TCS, and L&T were among the laggards.

Sep flash composite PMI expansion slowest in 2024

Informist NEW DELHI

India's private sector activity in September grew at the slowest pace in 2024, with both the services sector and the manufacturing sectors witnessing a slowdown in expansion. The HSBC Flash India Composite Purchasing Managers' Output Index, compiled by S&P Global, declined to a nine-month low of 59.3 in September from the final print of 60.7 in August.

"Both the manufacturing and service sectors exhibited similar trends during the month. Nevertheless, the pace of growth remained well above the long-term average," Pranjul Bhandari, chief India economist at HSBC, said in the release.

The flash manufacturing PMI index fell to an eight-month low of 56.7 in September from last month's final print of 57.5, while the services PMI eased to a 10-month low of 58.9 from 60.9 in August. A Purchasing Managers' Index reading above 50 denotes expansion in activity, while a print below 50 indicates contraction.

Total business activity continued to expand on the back of a sharp rise in new orders. The pace of growth of the new orders, however, was the lowest this year, S&P Global said.

Job creation continued to



HSBC Flash India Composite Purchasing Managers' Output Index declined to a 9-month low of 59.3

rise at a robust pace in September amid improved business confidence, with employment in the service sector increasing at the fastest pace since August 2022. Service sector firms hired more workers, including on a permanent basis, because of a rise in new orders, S&P Global said. Meanwhile, the pace of job growth in manufacturing eased in September.

"As well as taking on extra staff, Indian manufacturers also expanded their purchasing activity during September," S&P Global said. "This helped to support a further marked increase in stocks of inputs as suppliers continued to deliver goods in a timely manner."

Stocks of finished goods, on the other hand, fell to a four-month low because of a slowdown in growth of output, S&P Global said.

EPFO logs nearly 20L net new members in July

PTI NEW DELHI

Retirement fund body EPFO recorded a net addition of 19.94 lakh members in July this year, the labour ministry said on Monday.

Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said at a press conference that 10.52 lakh new or first-time workers subscribed to social security schemes run by Employees' Provident Fund Organisation.

The minister said almost 20 lakh net new members addition (19.94 lakh) was recorded in July this year. He also informed that 8.77 lakh members added in July are in the age group of 18-25 years. Nearly 6.25 lakh members aged between 18-25 years are first-time workers or new joiners, as per the latest data.

India's biggest oil, gas bid round gets 4 bidders

Reliance-bp-ONGC bid together

PTI NEW DELHI

India's biggest oil and gas bid round attracted four bidders, including state-owned ONGC and OIL and private sector Vedanta Ltd, with most blocks getting just two bids, according to Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH).

The OALP-IX bid round, where 28 blocks or areas spread over 1.36 lakh square kilometre were offered for finding and producing oil and gas, for the first time saw Reliance Industries Ltd-bp plc combine bidding together with ONGC for one block in Gujarat offshore.

Reliance and its supermajor partner bp plc had bid in just two of the past eight oil and gas bid rounds since 2017. Reliance-bp had bid and won the two blocks they had bid for in the previous rounds and this is the first time they have teamed up with ONGC to bid for a shallow water block in



Mining billionaire Anil Agarwal-owned Vedanta Ltd bid for all the 28 blocks on offer while Sun Petrochemicals Ltd bid for seven areas

the Gujarat-Saurashtra basin.

In the previous eighth round of Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP-VIII), state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) had

not bid for the ultra deepsea Krishna Godavari basin block that Reliance-bp combine had sought. The DGH on Monday released the names of the bidders for the 28 blocks offered under the OALP-IX round, bids for which closed on September 21.

ONGC bid for 14 blocks alone and with partners such as state-owned Oil India Ltd (OIL) and Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) for four other blocks. After considering its bid with Reliance-bp, ONGC in all bids for 19 out of the 28 blocks on offer.

SEBI STUDY

93% traders in F&O continued to incur losses during FY22-24

PTI NEW DELHI

More than 91 per cent, or 73 lakh, individual traders lost money in the Futures & Option (F&O) segment in FY24 with average net loss of Rs 1.2 lakh per person, a study conducted by markets regulator Sebi revealed on Monday.

Further, 93 per cent of over 1 crore individual F&O traders incurred average losses of about Rs 2 lakh per trader (inclusive of transaction costs) during the three years from FY22 to FY24. The aggregate losses of such traders exceeded Rs 1.8 lakh crore during the period.

In FY24 alone, individuals incurred about Rs 75,000 crore in net losses, it added.



Waaree Energies, MobiKwik get Sebi's nod for IPOs

Solar panel maker Waaree Energies and digital payments firm One MobiKwik Systems have received Sebi's go-ahead to raise funds through initial public offerings, an update with the markets regulator showed on Monday.

Waaree Energies and MobiKwik filed their preliminary IPO papers in December 2023 and January 2024, respectively. The two companies obtained Sebi's observations on September 19.

Goyal seeks investment from Australian pension funds

PTI NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Monday sought investments from Australian pension funds in various sectors. The minister is in Australia to participate in the Joint Ministerial Commission of the two countries. He also held a meeting with Tania Constable, CEO of the Minerals Council of Australia, regarding ways to strengthen collaboration in the critical minerals sector between India and Australia.

"Minister met senior representatives from the Australian pension funds. Minister encouraged greater investments into the emerging sectors in the Indian market," the commerce ministry said in a statement.



This is India's moment

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a group picture with tech CEOs after a roundtable meeting, in New York on Sunday. - ANI

Telcos have undertaken capex of ₹4.26L cr in last 2 fiscal: Scindia

PTI NEW DELHI

Telecom operators have undertaken capital expenditure of over Rs 4.56 lakh crore in the last two financial years from moving on to 4G and then to 5G, Union Telecom Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said on Monday.

While speaking on achiev-



ements in the first 100 days of the third term of the NDA government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Scindia said BSNL will com-

plete the installation of 1 lakh towers for 4G service by mid-2025. He also said that the ministry will not interfere in the state-run telecom firm decision on timeline for the roll out of 4G services and their business strategy.

The minister said that the voice call rates have dropped by 94 per cent in the last 10 years from 51 paise per minute

to 3.5 paise, 1 GB of internet data has reduced by 97 per cent to 8.75 paise from Rs 297 per GB.

"Moving from 3G to 4G and 4G to 5G, telcos have undertaken a capex of over Rs 4.26 lakh crore just only over the last two fiscal. If you put in more investments there has to be a return," Scindia said when asked about tariff

increase impact on affordability of mobile services.

The minister said connectivity under the last 10 years of the NDA government has increased while tariffs have come down drastically.

He said that the 11 per cent increase has had an impact of few paise on voice and data tariff compared to the services rates 10 years ago.

GTRI report

Samsung labour strike poses serious risk to mfg ecosystem

PTI NEW DELHI

The labour strike at Korean electronics giant Samsung's Sripurumbudur plant in Tamil Nadu is escalating and it poses a serious risk to the manufacturing ecosystem in the region, think tank GTRI said on Monday. It said the Centre and Tamil Nadu governments need to intervene immediately in the matter.

"If the strike at Samsung's Sripurumbudur plant is not resolved soon, India risks losing significant ground in its quest to become a global manufacturing powerhouse,"



the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said in a statement.

It added that the strike is quickly becoming a major crisis, and it will threaten the state's position as a leading

electronics manufacturing hub.

"The unrest is escalating and poses a serious risk to the manufacturing ecosystem in the region, which includes major players like Foxconn,

The Centre and Tamil Nadu governments need to intervene immediately in the matter

Sanmina, and Flex," GTRI Founder Ajay Srivastava said.

He said the unrest is casting doubt on India's ability to maintain stable manufacturing operations, a key factor for investors and multinational corporations. "India should establish industrial intelligence units to determine whether disruptions are influenced by foreign entities," he suggested.

Tamil Nadu contributes 34 per cent to India's electronics exports.

"Delays in resolving the strike could lead to job losses, stalled development, and a significant decline in investor confidence. Both the state and central governments need to act quickly to prevent the spread of unrest to other key manufacturers in the region," Srivastava said.

He also said the current strike at Samsung evokes memories of Nokia's downfall in Sripurumbudur. A decade ago, Nokia was one of India's most successful mobile phone manufacturers, he said.

Home loan origination volumes drop 9% in June qtr: Transunion Cibil report

PTI NEW DELHI

Home loan originations dropped 9 per cent in the June quarter, according to a report released on Monday.

From a value perspective, quantum of home loan originations was at par with the year-ago period, the report by credit information company Transunion Cibil said.

The outstanding balances on home loans grew only 14 per cent during the quarter, making it the slowest growth across all categories which constitute retail lending, the report said.



Interestingly, the decline in origination volumes and the sluggish growth in outstanding balances came at a time when the incidence of non-payment of loans reduced during the quarter, the report said, pointing out that the advances overdue for over 90 days stood at 0.9 per cent in June 2024, showing a 0.32 per cent improvement.

"India's retail credit growth

moderated in the quarter ending June 2024 as financial institutions tightened the supply of credit, particularly on consumption-led products like credit cards, consumer durable loans and personal loans," the report said.

The unsecured lending category comprising credit cards and personal loans, showed declines on various fronts.

The volume growth in originations declined 30 per cent in credit cards as against an 8 per cent increase in the year-ago period, while in the case of personal loans, the volumes were up 3 per cent and originations by value were at par.

mp Briefs

NEW DELHI
FM to attend AIIB annual meet in Uzbek
 Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will attend the 9th Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) scheduled in Samarkand, and hold bilateral meetings with her counterparts from Uzbekistan, Qatar, China, and AIIB President. She will embark on an official visit to Uzbekistan from September 24 to 28, the finance ministry said.

NEW DELHI
NBCC arm bags ₹1,261 cr contract
 NBCC's arm HSCC has bagged a Rs 1,261 crore contract to establish AIIMS hospital in Bihar. In a regulatory filing, NBCC informed that HSCC (India) Ltd, its wholly-owned subsidiary, has recently been awarded establishment work of AIIMS, Darbhanga from the union health ministry.

NEW DELHI
DOMS acquires stake in Uniclan
 DOMS Industries Ltd on Monday said it has acquired a 51.77 per cent equity stake in Uniclan Healthcare Pvt Ltd, a producer of baby diapers, wipes, and hygiene products for a total consideration of Rs 54.88 crore. As a part of the transaction, the company has acquired 71,16,080 equity shares for a total consideration of Rs 54.88 crore, DOMS Industries (DOMS) said.

NEW DELHI
Hyundai begins exports of Exter to SA
 Hyundai Motor India on Monday said it has commenced exports of its entry level SUV Exter. The model will now be available to customers in South Africa, making it the eighth model to be exported to the country from India, the automaker said in a statement.

NEW DELHI
Inox Wind inks pact with ICICI Bank-led consortium
 Wind energy solutions provider Inox Wind on Monday said it has signed an agreement with a consortium led by ICICI Bank to tie up Rs 2,200 crore finance facility. This limit is likely to be enhanced further to Rs 2,400 crore as per the working capital assessment done by the lead bank (ICICI Bank), Inox Wind Limited (IWL) said in a statement.

NEW DELHI
Salesforce unveils Agentforce
 Salesforce on Monday unveiled Agentforce, a groundbreaking suite of autonomous AI agents that augment employees and handle tasks in service, sales, marketing, and commerce, driving unprecedented efficiency and customer satisfaction.

NEW DELHI
Max Fashion unveils new campaign
 Dubai-based Landmark Group's fashion brand Max Fashion prepares to step into a new chapter for the brand with renowned actor and style icon Kalki Koechlin for the 'New New You' campaign. This campaign boasts a refined collection that captures the sentiment of reinvention.

'Govt held roadshows in India, abroad for stake sale in Hind Zinc'

PTI NEW DELHI
 The government has conducted several roadshows in the last 15 days in financial capitals like Mumbai, London, Boston and New York to assess the market and meet investors for sale of its stake in Vedanta Group firm Hindustan Zinc Ltd.
 The government, which owns 29.5 per cent in the company, is the largest minority shareholder in Hindustan Zinc.
 "The roadshow is about the disinvestment process. So, the



government is committed to disinvestment of some of its stake in Hindustan Zinc Ltd and in that to assess the market and meet investors and all that several roadshows have happened in the last fifteen days.
 "They have happened in Bombay, Singapore, Hongkong, London, Boston, New York. So in all the majors

financial capitals, the roadshows have happened," Mines Secretary VL Kantha Rao said on the sidelines of a training-cum-workshop on the UNESCO Global Geoparks and Geoparks in India.
 The government had earlier said that it is committed to offloading its stake in Hindustan Zinc through an offer for sale (OFS) and will take the decision on this after testing the market.
 When asked about the percentage of stakes to be sold and the timeline, the secretary said, "Let the roadshows be completed and then there is a proper mechanism and procedure on taking that decision. There is a committee and...so that committee will take that decision." The Supreme Court in 2021 allowed the government to disinvest its residual stake in Hindustan Zinc in the open market.
 Meanwhile, Hindustan Zinc Ltd (HZL) has held fresh discussions with the government on a proposal to divide the company into two verticals, instead of three proposed earlier, CEO Arun Misra had said on Wednesday.

Samvardhana Motherson raises ₹6,438 cr via QIP

PTI NEW DELHI
 Auto components maker Samvardhana Motherson International on Monday said it has raised Rs 6,438 crore via issue of securities.
 The QIP issue garnered strong interest from both domestic and foreign institutional investors, leading to substantial demand over the issue size, it said in a regulatory filing.
 Over 95 per cent of allocations were made to marquee long-only investors such as mutual funds, insurance and pension funds, foreign institutional investor, it added.



The proceeds from the issuance will be mainly directed towards debt repayment, thereby further strengthening company's balance sheet and enhancing its position to capitalise on various growth opportunities, it said.
 Some of the proceeds will be used towards general corporate purposes, the company said.

NTPC Green Energy's ₹10K cr IPO likely in Nov first week

PTI NEW DELHI
 NTPC Green Energy, a subsidiary of state-owned power giant NTPC, is likely to bring its initial public offering (IPO) to raise Rs 10,000 crore in first week of November, a source said.
 Last week, NTPC Green Energy had filed preliminary papers with capital markets regulator Sebi to raise Rs 10,000 crore through IPO.
 The highly placed source said the IPO is expected to be launched in first week of November this year.
 The company has planned



to repay or prepay part or all of its subsidiary NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd's (NREL) outstanding loans, while a portion will be utilised for general corporate purposes.
 The filing comes at a time when the country's IPO market is thriving, with around 60 main board companies having launched their initial share sale this year so far.
 NTPC Green Energy is a 'Maharatna' central public sector enterprise with renewable energy portfolio, including solar and wind power assets spread across more than six states.

Reliance Power board approves ₹1,525 crore preferential issue

PTI NEW DELHI
 The board of Reliance Power Ltd on Monday approved raising Rs 1,525 crore through a preferential issue where promoters will pour Rs 600 crore into the company to advance its business.
 This comes days after Reliance Infrastructure, another Anil Ambani-led group firm, approved raising Rs 6,000 crore.
 "The Board of Directors of Reliance Power Limited at its meeting held today has approved raising of Rs 1,524.60 crore by preferential issue of up to 46.20 crore equity shares and/or warrants convertible into equivalent number of equity shares of the company at a price of Rs 33 per share/warrant," the firm said in a statement.
 Reliance Infra, the promoter of the company, will enhance its equity stake by over Rs 600 crore. The other investors in the issue are Authum Investment and Infrastructure Ltd and Sanatan Financial Advisory Services. The preferential issue will enhance the company's network from about Rs 11,155 crore to over Rs 12,680 crore.

Proxy advisory firm InGovern raises concern over delay in Religare AGM

PTI NEW DELHI
 Proxy advisory firm InGovern has raised concern over Religare Enterprises postponing its 40th annual general meeting "without any valid reason" and has sought a Sebi probe into the circumstances surrounding the delay.
 The regulator may examine the decision-making processes that led to the delay, as well as the company's actions regarding share allotments and Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOPs), the advisory firm said in a report.
 This scrutiny aims to uncover any potential corporate governance issues or regulatory violations, it said.



Religare Enterprises Ltd (REL) has deferred its annual general meeting (AGM) by three months to December 2024 from September 2024.
 The delay is particularly significant because REL executive chairperson Rashmi Saluja was due for re-appointment as she will retire by rotation at the originally scheduled AGM in September, the report said.
 "This decision has left shareholders frustrated, as the company has not provided a valid reason for the

Aye Fin secures ₹250 cr in fresh funding round

PTI NEW DELHI
 Aye Finance, a fintech firm which mainly provides unsecured small-ticket loans to micro enterprises, has announced entering into definitive agreements for Rs 250 crore in Series G funding, led by Singapore's ABC Impact, an impact investor backed by Temasek and Temasek Trust.
 The transaction marks the first investment made by ABC Impact's Fund II, Aye said in a release. "This round also saw participation from British International Investment, the UK's development finance institution and impact investor who led Aye's Series F round of Rs 310 crore in December 2023," it said.

SpiceJet raises ₹3,000 cr via QIP

PTI MUMBAI
 Domestic carrier SpiceJet on Monday said it has raised Rs 3,000 crore through a Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP).
 The QIP, which opened on September 16 and closed on September 18, received an overwhelming response from qualified investors and got significantly oversubscribed, demonstrating strong confidence in the company's growth prospects, SpiceJet said in a statement.

It also said the QIP attracted a diverse pool of top-tier institutional investors and mutual funds, including Goldman Sachs (Singapore), Morgan Stanley Asia, BNP Paribas Financial Markets ODI, Nomura Singapore Ltd ODI, Tata Mutual Fund, Discovery Global Opportunity Ltd, among others.
 In addition to Rs 3,000 crore funding, SpiceJet said it will also receive an additional Rs 736 crore from the previous funding round, further boosting its financial stability and growth plans.

Datta Power arm signs pact with REC for ₹1,500 cr financing

PTI NEW DELHI
 Datta Power Infra on Monday said its arm Adyant Enersol has signed an agreement with state-owned REC for Rs 1,500 crore financing for 500 MW renewable energy projects.
 The MoU was signed at the recently concluded at the 4th Global RE-INVEST Summit in Gujarat, Datta Power Infra Private Limited (DPIPL), said in a statement. "The MoU has been signed for Rs 1,500 crore financing from REC for the development of 500 MW of renewable energy projects of the company," it said.

NCLT issues notice to SpiceJet on Techjockey Infotech's insolvency plea

PTI NEW DELHI
 The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on Monday issued notice to debt-ridden air carrier SpiceJet over the plea filed by one of its operational creditors.
 A two-member NCLT bench, comprising Mahendra Khandelwal and Sanjeev Tanjan, has directed Spicejet to file a reply and list the matter for the next hearing on November 14.
 SpiceJet is already facing several insolvency petitions from creditors, including Willis

Fin services in focus: Building a \$30 trn India

The financial services sector is the backbone of any economy and is deeply intertwined with key economic indicators. As India strides towards its goal of Viksit Bharat, the financial services sector is at the forefront of this transformation. As per a recent report by Boston Consulting Group (BCG), India's target of becoming a \$30 trillion economy by 2047 will largely be driven by the financial services industry.



growth, enhancing asset quality, improving productivity, and advancing digital capabilities. With the next phase of growth being tech-driven, it is crucial for both the current and future workforce to be proficient in emerging technologies like GenAI.

What's Happening?
 BCG, in partnership with FICCI and IBA, recently released a report stating that a \$30 trillion economy by 2047 can only be realised if the financial services industry grows by 20 times. The report, titled 'Banking for a Viksit Bharat', highlights the critical role banks play in India's economic growth. It suggests that banks should take the lead, supported by the expansion of other financial assets. The total capital base of banks should rise to \$4 trillion, with one-third of that being fresh capital.
 The report presents a positive outlook for India's banking sector, characterised by low levels of NPAs and high profitability. However, banks and other financial institutions need to prepare for a structural shift over the next two decades. Key areas of focus will include deposit

Transactions are going digital
 The BCG report highlights that the current state of the financial services sector provides an ideal foundation for India's Viksit Bharat mission. With profitability, NPAs, and capital adequacy ratios at their best levels in a decade, now is the time to unleash a reform agenda that reimagines and builds new capabilities.

What's Next?
 It is vital for industry leaders, the government, and other stakeholders to collaborate and develop a resilient business model that can withstand volatility and address future challenges. Any delays could jeopardise the goal of making India a \$30 trillion economy by the 100th year of its independence.

Teji Mandi (TM Investment Technologies Pvt Ltd) is a SEBI registered Research Analyst (RA). Information in this article should not be construed as investment advice. Please visit www.tejimandi.com to know more.

Aster DM to invest ₹220 cr to set up new hosp in Hyd

PTI NEW DELHI
 Aster DM Healthcare on Monday said it will invest about Rs 220 crore to set up a new healthcare facility in Hyderabad.
 The 300-bed facility will cater to the unique healthcare needs of children and women of all ages, the healthcare provider said in a statement.
 The hospital will offer specialised services in obstetrics, comprehensive gynaecological care and complete neonatal & paediatric care, it added.
 Aster will be making an investment of around Rs 220 crore on the facility with the first phase of the project expected to be fully functional

The 300-bed facility will cater to the unique healthcare needs of children and women of all ages

by mid FY26, it said.
 "The new hospital is in line with the group's mission and commitment to delivering quality and affordable healthcare to the large population of not only Hyderabad but all of South India," Aster DM Healthcare Founder and Chairman Azad Moopen said.
 Aster DM Healthcare already has a presence in Hyderabad with Aster Prime Hospital, a 158-bed multi-specialty hospital.

Foxconn, Stellantis JV set up R&D for automotive chips tech in India

PTI NEW DELHI
 Foxconn-backed automotive technology company SiliconAuto has set up its research and development centre in Bengaluru which will focus on semiconductor product design and system-on-chip development for the automotive sector. SiliconAuto is a joint venture between the Netherlands-based Stellantis NV and Hon Hai Technology Group (Foxconn).
 "This new centre embodies SiliconAuto's commitment to innovation and excellence in the automotive industry. Our



India team is set to drive forward our vision of a smarter and safer future for transportation. Bangalore, with its rich talent pool and thriving tech ecosystem, is the perfect location for our new design centre," SiliconAuto CEO, Gene Liu said in a statement.

pany's innovative capabilities in the development of cutting-edge automotive technologies and solutions for the automotive industry, including Stellantis.
 Foxconn is in process of setting up its electric vehicle manufacturing plant as well as has plans to set up a battery manufacturing unit for electric vehicles.
 In a statement, SiliconAuto said that the India design centre will focus on the development of next-generation semiconductor solutions for electric vehicles (EVs), autonomous driving and connected car technologies.

Bank of Maharashtra celebrates 90th Foundation Day

Bank of Maharashtra (BoM), one of the premier public sector Banks in the country celebrated its 90th Foundation Day on September 16, 2024. BoM, Mumbai South Zone and Mumbai North Zone jointly organised the landmark celebrations to commemorate the 90th Foundation Day in Mumbai on September 21. The event

was graced by eminent industrialists and distinguished dignitaries from different walks of life. Speaking on the occasion, Manoj Kare, General Manager and Zonal Manager, BoM, Mumbai South Zone outlined the history and growth of the Bank crediting the customers for their loyalty and trust in the institution.

GAIL organises CBG workshop for stakeholders under aegis of MoPNG

Under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG), GAIL (India) Limited successfully organised a workshop in Varanasi on Monday. The event attracted a diverse group of stakeholders, including entrepreneurs, oil and gas public sector undertakings (PSUs), City Gas Distribution (CGD) entities, technology providers, financial institutions and

various Ministries and Department representatives. The CBG workshop was graced by Asheesh Joshi, Joint Secretary (GP), MoPNG, where he emphasized on various schemes of the Government of India. During the workshop, S N Yadav, Executive Director (CBG), GAIL, Sashi Bhushan Pandey, GM (O&M - NG P/L) and Sushil Kumar, GM (CGD) were also present along with their team members.

Laapataa Ladies India's official entry for Oscars 2025

Laapataa Ladies starred Nitanshi Goel, Pratibha Ranta, Sparsh Shrivastava, Chhaya Kadam and Ravi Kishan.

CJ Desk

Laapataa Ladies, directed by Kiran Rao, has been selected as India's official entry for the Oscars 2025, in the Best Foreign Film Category at the 97th Academy Awards. It was chosen as India's official Oscar entry from 29 films. The list also included Ranbir Kapoor's *Animal* and the National Award-winning film, *Aattam*.

"Indian women are a strange mixture of submission and dominance. Well-defined, powerful characters in one world a LAAPATAA LADIES (Hindi) captures this diversity perfectly, though in a semi-idyllic world and in a tongue-in-cheek way. It shows you that women can happily desire to be home makers as well as rebel and be entrepreneurially inclined. A story that can simultaneously be seen as one that needs change, and one that can bring about change.

Laapataa Ladies (Hindi) is a film that can engage, entertain and make sense not just to women in India but universally as well." The Film Federation of India said in an official statement.

The comedy-drama starred Nitanshi Goel, Pratibha Ranta, Sparsh Shrivastava, Chhaya Kadam and Ravi Kishan, among others. Laapataa Ladies was released in March this year. The film is produced by Kiran, and Aamir Khan.

Recently, *Laapataa Ladies* was screened at the Supreme Court for all the Supreme Court judges, their spouses, and members of the registry, which was graced by Aamir Khan and Kiran Rao.

Kiran's statement

In an official statement, Kiran said, "I am deeply honoured and delighted that our film 'La-



apataa Ladies' has been chosen as India's official entry to the Academy Awards. This recognition is a testament to the tireless work of my entire team, whose dedication and passion brought this story to life. Cinema has always been a powerful medium to connect hearts, transcend boundaries, and ignite meaningful conversations. I hope that this film will resonate with audiences across the world, just as it has in India."

"I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the selection committee and to everyone who believed in this film. It is indeed a great privilege to be selected from among such amazing Indian films this year - who are equally worthy contenders for this honour," read the statement.

In 2023, the movie was also screened at the 48th Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF).

About the movie

Director Kiran Rao picked a reel-life canvas 'Nirmal Pradesh' to reflect the real-life plight and struggles of the rural women in India, added colours of comedy and satire, which were further enhanced by the brilliant acting, and painted a perfect big screen delight.

The movie revolves around the lives of young rural women. It shows the drastic contrast in the mindset of the two protagonists—where one wouldn't even call her husband by name out of love and respect, while the other fought for her dreams. To convince the audience of the rural backdrop, the movie was shot in the Bamuliya and Dharmakheda villages of Sehore, some 40 km away from Madhya Pradesh capital Bhopal. The shooting lasted for around 40 days.



Chiranjeevi receives Guinness World Record

CJ Desk

Megastar Chiranjeevi has now become the holder of Guinness World Records for being the Most Prolific Film Star/Actor/Dancer in the Indian film industry. He received this honour for performing 24000 dances in 537 songs in his 156 films in a span of 45 years.

The award was presented to him by Aamir Khan. He also hugged the megastar of Indian cinema as a symbol of love and respect. Aamir praised Chiranjeevi while giving him the Guinness World Record.

In his speech for Chiranjeevi at the Guinness World Record event, Aamir said, "It is a pleasure and honour for

Chiranjeevi has mastered various genres, from action-packed dramas to musical romances

me to come here. I am happy to see the fans of Chiranjeevi Garu and thank you all for including me among you as I am also a big fan of him."

Speaking about his dance moves, Aamir added, "If you watch any of his songs, you will see that his heart gets immersed in dance. He enjoys it a lot. We never take our eyes off him because he is a very good actor."

Chiranjeevi also expressed his gratitude to the audience

while people applauded his speech. Chiranjeevi began his film career in the Indian film industry in 1978. He is one of the most celebrated actors and politicians known for his extensive work in Telugu films. The legendary actor rose to stardom with blockbuster hits like *Khaidi No. 150*, *Sye Raa Narasimha Reddy*, *Acharya*, *Godfather* and more.

Chiranjeevi has mastered various genres, from action-packed dramas to musical romances. His impressive dance skills and charismatic screen presence have earned him a massive fan base.

Beyond acting, he ventured into politics, serving as a Member of Parliament. With a career spanning over four decades, Chiranjeevi remains a pivotal force in Indian film and culture.

Rhea Singha crowned new Miss Universe India 2024

The grand finale of this year's Miss Universe was hosted on Sunday, September 22, in Jaipur, Rajasthan. The 19-year-old will now represent India at the global Miss Universe 2024 pageant.



PM Modi and Rockstar DSP share a hug on stage

National Award-winning composer Devi Sri Prasad aka Rockstar DSP performed at the 'Modi And US' event, held in New York. He performed his composition *Har Ghar Tiranga* to welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the stage. In a video, Modi and DSP are seen exchanging greetings and a warm hug. Talking about his experience of performing in front of PM Modi, DSP said in a video, "Super happy to be part of this huge event of welcoming honourable Prime minister Narendra Modi to New York."

He continued, "The day I got the opportunity to compose *Har Ghar Tiranga*, it is something that I can't express in words. I put my heart and soul in composing the song. And today, getting the opportunity to sing the song to welcome him was an iconic and most cherished moment. The way he greeted me with a warm and lovable hug is something I'd never forget in my entire life. Thank you so much Modi ji. You are such a huge inspiration for all of us."

Sangram makes history with swift MMA victory, beats Pak

Prathamesh Jadhav

Sangram Singh secured a significant victory in his debut MMA fight at the Gama International Fighting Championship in Tbilisi, Georgia. Singh, an actor, wrestler and motivational speaker defeated Pakistani international fighter Ali Raza Nisar in just 1 minute and 30 seconds via submission. This makes him the first Indian male wrestler to win an MMA fight.

Reflecting on his MMA victory, Sangram stated, "Winning is not just about beating your opponent; it's about surpassing your own limitations. Age is just a number when you have determination and the will to succeed." At 40 years old, Sangram was up against an opponent 17 years younger in the 93 kg category.



Overcrowding leads to Devara event cancellation

Directed by Koratala Siva, *Devara: Part 1* is slated to release worldwide in cinemas on Sep 27

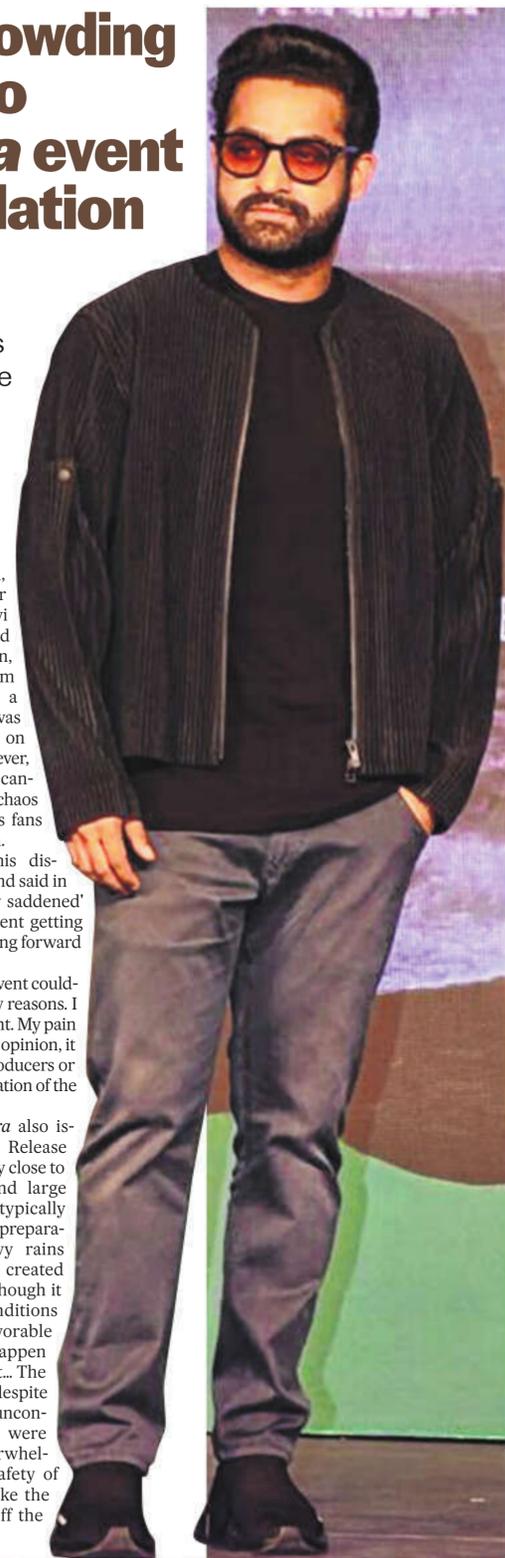
CJ Desk

Devara: Part 1, starring Jr NTR, Janhvi Kapoor, and Saif Ali Khan, is just a few days away from its release. Ahead of it, a grand pre-release event was organised in Hyderabad on September 22, 2024. However, the event was abruptly cancelled last minute due to chaos at the venue as Jr NTR's fans overcrowded the location.

Jr NTR expressed his disappointment in a video and said in Telugu that he is 'deeply saddened' about the pre-release event getting cancelled, as he was looking forward to it.

Jr NTR said, "But, the event couldn't happen due to security reasons. I share your disappointment. My pain is more than yours. In my opinion, it is wrong to blame the producers or organizers for the cancellation of the event."

The makers of *Devara* also issued a statement. "Pre Release Event was scheduled very close to Ganesh Namarjanam and large scale events like this typically require at least a week of preparation. Additionally heavy rains over the past few days created many challenges. Even though it didn't rain today conditions wouldn't have been favorable for an outdoor event to happen even if we had planned it... The massive turnout of fans despite our best efforts became uncontrollable as barricades were broken due to the overwhelming crowd. For the safety of everyone we had to make the tough decision to call off the event," they said.



Parvin Dabas' car accident update

Parvin Dabas was admitted to the ICU after severe injuries because of his car accident at Holy Family Hospital in Bandra, Mumbai on Saturday night. His wife, actress Preeti Jhangiani, has shared with a publication that the incident was a 'case of bad luck' and revealed that Parvin has dizziness, double vision, drowsiness and nausea, which are the signs of a concussion. She also stated that he is unable to speak much. She added, "Thankfully, his medical reports—the MRI and CT scan were clear. He will stay in the hospital for another week and will be out of the ICU soon. We will do another CT scan in three days."



GFA GOA PROFESSIONAL LEAGUE >>

Sporting Clube edge Churchill Bros in dramatic showdown

CAPITALISE ON 10-MAN RED MACHINES FOR THRILLING COMEBACK WIN

THE GOAN NETWORK

MAPUSA
Sporting Clube de Goa edged Churchill Brothers FC with a 2-1 victory in their Goa Professional League clash at Duler Stadium, Mapusa, on Monday.

Churchill Brothers' Jobern Cardozo struck just before halftime, giving his side the lead. However, Sporting Clube de Goa leveled the score in the second half through Kunal Kundaikar. Churchill's Trijoy Dias was shown a second yellow card for a reckless sliding challenge, leaving his team down to 10 men. Sporting Clube capitalized on the numerical advantage, with Kundaikar's powerful strike,



deflected slightly by Vikram Venkatachalam, sealing the win.

Despite Sporting's early pressure, the Red Machines turned the game in their favor when Jobern Cardozo opened the scoring in the 10th minute. A well-timed through ball from Lunminlen Haokip split

the SC Goa defense, finding Cardozo, who controlled it before smashing home from inside the box.

The equaliser finally came in the 58th minute when Kunal Kundaikar's cross from the left flank—intended for Selwyn—had enough power to fly straight into the back of

MATCH HIGHLIGHTS

Jobern Cardozo opened the scoring for Churchill Brothers in the 10th minute Sporting Clube applied early pressure but couldn't find the net before halftime.

Kunal Kundaikar equalized for Sporting Clube in the 58th minute with a powerful cross that went straight into the net. Churchill's Trijoy Dias received a second yellow card, leaving his team with 10 men.

Kundaikar sealed the win with a long-range shot that deflected off Vikram Venkatachalam in the dying minutes

Churchill to ten men.

In the dying minutes, Kunal Kundaikar unleashed a powerful shot from distance, with Vikram Venkatachalam getting a slight touch on the edge of the box, wrong-footing the Churchill goalkeeper and securing a 2-1 win for Sporting Clube.

GFA 3rd Div: Varca SC, UC Benaulim share spoils

THE GOAN NETWORK

PANAJI
Varca Sports Club and United Club of Benaulim battled to a 1-1 stalemate in their GFA Third Division clash at St. John Baptist ground, Dando, Benaulim, on Monday. Benaulim took the lead just before the break, with Bruno Dias smashing home to put his team ahead.

Varca, however, found their equalizer late in the second half, thanks to Narayan Mestri's 85th-minute strike. Despite Benaulim's relentless push in the final moments, Varca's Clyde Pereira

stood firm at the back, ensuring the points were shared.

Elsewhere, Vaddem Sports Club and Patrong Sports Club played out a 2-2 thriller at Tilak Maidan, Vasco. Arman Yadav and Aster Thenamthara netted for Patrong, while Amit Lataye and Ekalaya Kamble responded for Vaddem.

In a dominant display, Assonora United hammered Sirsaim SWC 5-0 at Quitula ground. Niraj D'mello stole the show with a hat-trick, while Pruthviraj Gosavi and Gaurav Naik added to the rout, securing a comprehensive win for Assonora.

Badminton trials for Inter University Championship

THE GOAN NETWORK

PANAJI
Goa University will conduct selection trials to form its Badminton Men's and Women's teams on September 28 from 9:30 am onwards. Students interested in attending the trials may report sharp at 9:30 a.m. at SAG's Campal Indoor Stadium, Panjim along with a college identity card, Aadhar Card, Birth Certificate and playing kit.

The West Zone Inter University Championship is scheduled for Sage University Indore and Shri Jagdishprasad Jhabarmal Tibrewala University, Chudela respectively.

Margao duo achieve new heights in Ladakh peak expedition

THE GOAN NETWORK

PANAJI
Gautam Verlekar and Rahul Prabhudesai recently led Goa's first twin peak expedition success on Mt Kang Yatse 1 and 2 in Ladakh, Himalayas.

Prabhudesai became the only Goan to summit two 6,200-plus meter peaks on August 23 and 27 in less than 100 hours (five days).

The Goa Alpine Club promoted the expedition along with ground support and members of Boots & Crampons who set up base at 5,100 meters at Nymaling.

After five days of acclimatising treks from Leh to Nymaling, the team rested for two days for an equipment check. The team then pushed for the summit of Kang Yatse 2 on August 22 night to touch the peak at 7.43am on August 23 after a grueling nine-plus hour semi-technical climb, followed by a three-hour descent.



After 48 hours of recovery, the team proceeded on August 25 to set up camp high on a ledge at 5700-plus meters and spent the night in windy cold conditions.

On August 26, Verlekar developed high altitude pulmonary symptoms (HAPE) and decided to turn back to safety, while Prabhudesai along with the support staff and other team members continued the upward journey.

After a few hours of rest on August 26 evening, the team mounted a calculated early

morning assault on Kang Yatse 1. On 27th morning, Prabhudesai and the team summited at 9.01am.

It has been a pathbreaking year for Goan mountaineers with Pankaj Narvekar becoming the first Goan to scale Mt. Everest, followed by Karishma Verlekar who undertook a solo guided climb for Mt. Mera.

Verlekar is a chartered accountant and an active managing member of Goa State Industries Association (GSIA). He credits Verlekar Sporting culture from a young age and his family for being a strong proponent of sports that has acted as a performance driver in his life.

On the other hand, Prabhudesai, a young entrepreneur, is one of Goa's top mountaineers who has multiple 6,000/7,000 meter climbs to his name and leads a new generation of outdoor achievers in the state. He was the first Goan to reach the South Summit of Mt. Everest.

Carmel HSS, Peoples HS, Dempo HSS emerge tennikoit champs



THE GOAN NETWORK

MARGAO
Peoples High School, Panaji emerged champions at State Level Tennikoit Tournament U-17 Girls category of Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs, at Peddem Sports Complex.

In the final, they defeated Ravindra Kelekar Dnyanmandir, Margao by 2-0 games. Vipula, Sashenka, Gargi

and Kalpana represented the champions.

The third place was bagged by Vidhya Vihar HS Cortalim after defeating RD Khalap HS Mandrem by 2-0 games.

Meanwhile in the U-19 boys category, Dempo Higher Secondary School, Cujira emerged champions. They defeated Balram Higher Secondary School, Ardhfond Canacona, by 2-1 games.

Arfaaz, Utkarsh, Gautam, Shaurya and Santosh represented Dempo HSS.

Third place was bagged by Shree Shantadurga HSS Pirna by defeating Govt Multipurpose Higher Secondary School, Borda Margao 2-0.

The medal, trophies and certificates were distributed by Sidarth Shirodkar, Treasurer of Bardez Physical Education Teachers Association

and also a PE Teacher from Dr Ambedkar English Medium School, Mapusa.

Salil Khanolkar, Shubham K and S Jeet were appointed as Technical Officials to conduct this state championship.

In the U-19 girls category, Carmel Higher Secondary School Nuvem emerged champions. In the final, they defeated Dempo Higher secondary school Cujira by 2-0 games.

Amisha, Nikasha, Alicia, Sonu and Sargam represented Carmel HSS.

The medals, trophies and certificates were distributed by Deepak Venkatappa PE Teacher from Vidya Vihar High School Cortalim. Balram HSS Ardhfond Canacona bagged the third place defeating Sapteshwar Institute of Higher Studies Mandrem Pernem by 2-0 games.

Disappointing start for Goans Hockey at Sub-junior c'ship

Suffer loss against Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu Hockey in first match of four-team group

THE GOAN NETWORK

MARGAO
Goans Hockey lost 9-0 to Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu Hockey in their first league match of the Hockey India Sub Junior Men National Championship, in Chandigarh, on Monday.

The Goan boys coached by Aviraj Madgaonkar were no match for their opponents and conceded a goal as early as the sixth minute. Thereafter, the goal scoring continued uninterrupted.

The Union Territory boys dominated the game throughout the 60-minute encounter earning 12 penalty corners in

THE SQUAD

✦Boro Nilesh Nipin (GK), Ghadge Nehal Gajendra (GK), Gaonkar Ansh Ankush, Gaonkar Yatharth Anil, Hivarkar Jay Deepak, Ali Dilshad, Singh Francis, Varle Rohit, Baa Udit (C), Jambotkar Sahil Pramod, Ekka Ismail, Yadav Rakesh, Gaonkar Sarvesh Shamba, Hegde Siddharth Dattatray, Gourav C Shetty, Kanoji Sahil, Newme Edimchube

the process and converting three of them into goals.

On the other hand, Goans Hockey got four penalty corners but had nothing to show in terms of goals from the four they got. Off the four penalty corners they got, two they

forced in the first quarter and the next two in the last quarter.

Mithlesh Singh, who notched a hat-trick in the match scored in the sixth minute through a penalty corner and thereafter successfully converted two more penalty corners in the 25 and 27th minute to make it 4-0.

In between Mithlesh goals, Jitin scored a goal in the 14th minute and added a second one to his name in the 53rd minute. Yadav Pawan (29th minute) and Ravindra Pratap Yadav (56th minute) scored one goal each. Sagar also scored two goals in the 36th and 49th minutes.

DSYA U17 NEHRU HOCKEY FOR GIRLS

St Anthony HS and Holy Cross HS eye supremacy, winner flies to Delhi

THE GOAN NETWORK

MARGAO
St Anthony High School Monte Guirim coasted to an emphatic 7-0 win over Shri Bhumika Higher Secondary School to book a place in the final of the Nehru U17 Hockey tournament of Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs, at Peddem ground on Monday.

St Anthony netted 4 goals through Riddhi Hadfadkar, while Krislyn Menezes, Riddhi Shejwadkar, Deantha Pacheco scored a goal each.

The Guirim school will now take on Holy Cross HS Bastora in the final on Monday. The Bastora school walked their way into the final after their opponents Damodar English High School Gudi Paroda

failed to turn up for the match.

Earlier in the quarter-finals, the clash between two Sattari Taluka institutions, a lot was at stake for the girls of both the teams, it was Higher Secondary girls which won.

The school girls, trained by Father George Nandiyala of the Pilar Fathers, gave their much older counterparts a run for the money, but in the ultimate analysis the super body power and the age difference finally counted in the ultimate analysis.

For the records most of the Honda HS girls who took the field were eighth and sixth standard students compared to their opponents who are now studying in the Higher Secondary section.

Parye opened the scoring

in the 16th minute with Mayusha Gawas getting her name on the scorers list with a field goal. Thereafter Tanui Gawas scored a brace in the 33rd and 50th minute to complete the score line.

Monte De Guirim on the other hand trounced Holy Cross HS Siolim 25-0.

In the other quarter-final, Damodar English HS defeated Immaculate Heart of Mary High School, Goa Velha 2-1 in the tie breaker.

At the end of full time play the team were locked goalless.

Diksha and Shravani scored for the Gudi school while Velly found the target for the Goa Velha school.

Holy Cross HS trounced St Jude High School Betalbatim 4-0.

IN SHORT >>

Calangute Veterans storm into semi-finals

MARGAO: Calangute Veterans secured a spot in the semi-finals of the S. Mini Mart Seraulim Veterans Football Cup, defeating Chinchinim Veterans 1-0 in a tightly contested match held at the Church Ground, organized by United Sports Club of Seraulim. The decisive goal came in the 17th minute, courtesy of star striker Alwyn Fernandes, whose shot from just inside the box found the far corner of the net, leaving Chinchinim's agile goalkeeper, Martin Dias, with no chance to respond. At halftime, Calangute Veterans led 1-0. The second half saw Chinchinim Veterans pushing hard for an equalizer, but they were met with a resolute Calangute defense and excellent goalkeeping from Gabriel Fernandes.

Both goalkeepers, Martin Dias of Chinchinim Veterans and Gabriel Fernandes of Calangute Veterans, delivered outstanding performances, making brilliant saves throughout the match.

Betalbatim Sporting Club advance to quarters

MARGAO: Betalbatim Sporting Club secured their place in the quarter-finals of the 32nd Curtorim Panchayat Cup, organized by Curtorim Gymkhana, after edging out Ambelim Sports Club 6-5 in a nail-biting tie-breaker.

The match started slowly, with both teams struggling to find their rhythm. Ambelim's Nial came close to scoring with a left-footed shot that struck the woodwork and went out of play, leaving the first half scoreless at 0-0. In the second half, Betalbatim began to apply pressure, but striker Gladston missed a clear chance. They had another opportunity to take the lead, but Keith's effort went wide of the target. The match went to penalties, where Betalbatim demonstrated their shooting prowess. Gladston, Oliver, Dickson, Keith, Elroy, and Didymus all found the net, while Ambelim managed to score through Nial, Valroy, Lester, Ozen, and Rozwin. Gromiko Fernandes, former general secretary and internal auditor of Curtorim Gymkhana, awarded the Man of the Match title to Gladston Braganza for his standout performance.

PY Nuvem awarded walkover

MARGAO: Parish Youth Nuvem was awarded a walkover as Goa Velha Sports Club failed to report on the ground in the Betalbatim Villagers cup football tournament being played at Betalbatim Panchayat ground.

Uguem Rising down Fr Agnelo YSC

MARGAO: Uguem Rising get the better of Fr Agnelo YSC Paroda 3-1 to move ahead in the OL Fatima cup inter-village football tournament played at Dicaraper football ground on Monday. Melron Fernandes netted a brace while Selwyn Fernandes scored the other goal for Uguem Rising. Macson D'Costa reduced the margin for Fr Agnelo YSC. Melron Fernandes of Fr Agnelo YSC was awarded Man of the match by Dominic Costa.

St Anthony HS Monte Guirim trounce SFX Duler

MARGAO: St Anthony High School Monte Guirim trounced SFX Duler 11-0 to move further into the next round of the U14 Inter School Football Tournament of Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs, at Duler Stadium, on Monday. St Anthony pumped goals at will. Kenneth D Souza, Jayden Rodrigues and Aansh Kumar scored two goals each, while Kiyush Naik, Shreyash Hundre, Kavesh Kandolkar, Kanish Kandolkar and Laxman Rathod netted a goal each.

TODAY'S ACTION

- ✦Goa Pro League: Goa Police SC vs Panjim Footballers, Duler Club, 4 pm
- ✦GFA U-15 Khelo India Women's League (South Goa): Sporting Club De Rumdamol vs Union Of Chinchinim Villagers, Sinquetim Ground, Navelim, 4:30 pm; (North Goa): Dunes SC Mandrem vs El Shaddai SC, Poriat ground, Calangute, Bardez, 4:30 pm
- ✦GFA Third Division League (Bardez Zone) Group B: Kelbai SC vs FC Sanquelim, Quitula ground, Bardez, 4 pm

Inter-collegiate football: St Xavier's, GEC prevail on opening day

THE GOAN NETWORK

PANAJI
St. Xavier's College, Mapusa, secured a narrow 1-0 victory over SV's Sridora Caculo College of Commerce & Management Studies, Mapusa in the Goa University Inter-Collegiate Football Championship at Goa University ground on Monday.

The first half ended scoreless, with both teams showing strong offensive and defensive strategies. However, in the 49th minute of the second half, Shaviz Khan capitalized on a goalkeeper error to net the match's only goal.

In the second match, Goa College of Engineering, Farmagudi, delivered a commanding performance against Dnyanprassarak Mandal's College and Research Centre, Assagao, winning 4-1. The first half was particularly thrilling, featuring three goals: Shanon Vaz opened the scoring in the 5th minute, followed by goals from Selwyn Fernando in the 8th minute and Ketan Khandeparkar in the 19th minute. DM's College found the net



Goalscorers for Goa Engineering College Shanon Vaz, Aryan Carvalho, Ketan Khandeparkar and Selwyn Fernandes.

with a goal from Anuj Goud in the 32nd minute, giving them a glimmer of hope. However, Goa College of Engineering added a final goal in the 50th minute, scored by Aryan Carvalho, solidifying their victory.

The first match at Rosary Ground saw Vidya Prabodhini College of Commerce, Education, Computer and Management, Porvorim, edge out S.S.A's Government College of Arts & Commerce, Pernem, with a score of 1-0. The decisive goal came in the 17th minute, and despite both teams' efforts, the second half ended without any additional scoring.

In the second match, Dhempe College of Arts & Science, Miramar, triumphed over St. Joseph Vaz College, Cortalim-Murmagao, with a convincing 3-0 victory. All three goals were scored in the first half, with Shashank Kenre finding the net twice in the 5th and 31st minutes, and Aditya Balekar contributing a goal in the 9th minute. The second half saw no further scoring, sealing Dhempe College's win.

Rosary College and Don Bosco College to clash in women's final

THE GOAN NETWORK

PANAJI
Rosary College of Commerce & Arts, Navelim, secured their spot in the finals by decisively defeating Dnyanprassarak Mandal's College and Research Centre, Assagao, with a score of 9-0 to book their place in the final of the Goa University inter-collegiate women's football championship, at Goa University ground.

The first half showcased Rosary College's aggressive strategy, resulting in five goals.

Notable performances included two goals from Swellen Fernandes, scored in the 18th and 35 minutes, and a remarkable hat trick from Vinoshka Fernandes in the 21st, 24th, and 39th minutes.

The second half saw Rosary College continue their

offensive onslaught, adding four more goals. The scoring spree began with Aniela Barretto finding the net in the 52nd minute, followed by another from Swellen in the 60th minute. Vinoshka completed her stellar performance with two additional goals in the 65th and 70th minutes.

In the other semi-final match held at Rosary College Ground, Don Bosco College, Panjim, also advanced to the finals with a solid 3-0 victory over St. Xavier's College, Mapusa. The scoring was initiated in the 11th minute by stand-out player Karen Estrochio, who scored again in the 39th minute, leading to a 2-0 halftime score. Despite St. Xavier's strong defense in the second half, Sushmita Jadhav found the back of the net in the 79th minute, sealing the match at 3-0.

MOHUN BAGAN CLINCH COMEBACK WIN OVER NEUFC

SECURE FIRST WIN WITH LATE GOAL IN THRILLING ENCOUNTER

AGENCIES

KOLKATA Mohun Bagan beat NorthEast United 3-2 at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata to register their first win of the Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 season tonight, which marks the fifth comeback victory for a team this season, at the end of gameweek 2. Mohun Bagan Super Giant have now scored in 12 consecutive ISL games whereas the Highlanders have failed to keep a clean sheet for the first time in their last three matches.

NorthEast United wasted no time bothering the Mohun Bagan Super Giant defence with their exceptional pace and intensity. The match's first chance fell to Alaeddine Ajarai, who struck the post through a telling cross from Jithin MS from the left. The Mariners' backline had no an-

swer in front of Jithin's pace and trickery as he lost his marker with relative ease.

However, the Highlanders were soon rewarded when Ajarai corrected his mistake by finding Mohammed Ali Bemammer with a well-weighted cross.

INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE

The Moroccan duo combined as the latter hammered a thumping shot past Vishal Kaith to hand the visitors an early lead in the fourth minute.

Despite being under immense pressure, the hosts retaliated with a well-worked

FINAL SCORE

Mohun Bagan Super Giant 3 (Dippendu Biswas 10' Subhassish Bose 61' Jason Cummings 87') - 2 NorthEast United FC (Mohammed Ali Bemammer 4', Alaeddine Ajarai 24')

freekick as youngster Dippendu Biswas rose highest from a Dimitrios Petratos delivery to head home the equaliser in the 10th minute. It was a momentous occasion for the 21-year-old defender as he scored his first goal for the senior team.

The Juan Benali-coached team kept their patience for the next 10-minute spell when the hosts enjoyed possession. They capitalised on a counter-attack which saw Ajarai combine with Jithin on the left. The 26-year-old ran fiercely before releasing Ajarai on the right in the penalty box. The Moroccan calmly slotted it home, helping NorthEast United regain the lead in the 24th minute.

The Mariners raised the

tempo after conceding and came close twice from close range but failed to find the opening. Both teams continued to exchange offensive moves but the visitors went into the half-time break with a 1 goal lead.

The start of the second half was extremely cagey between the two teams. Most of the proceedings happened in midfield, but the hosts kept pushing and finally scored the equaliser in the 61st minute when Subhassish Bose slotted home a stray ball after Gurmeet Singh failed to gather a corner from Greg Stewart.

Jose Molina's men kept pushing for the winning goal and were finally rewarded when two substitutes, Sahal Abdul Samad and Jason Cummings combined, with the latter slotting it home from the former's cross in the 87th minute.

Leverkusen top Wolfsburg; Dortmund crushed by Stuttgart

PTI

LEVERKUSEN

Victor Boniface's added-time goal propelled Bayer Leverkusen to a thrilling 4-3 comeback win over Wolfsburg in the Bundesliga. Despite a close call when Granit Xhaka hit the post, Boniface found space in a crowded penalty area to score, marking Leverkusen's second late winner in four games this season.

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

Leverkusen had to rally twice, with Wolfsburg initially taking the lead through a fifth-minute own goal by Nordi Mukiele. Leverkusen responded with goals from Florian Wirtz and Jonathan Tah, but Wolfsburg regained the advantage by halftime with strikes from Sebastian Bornauw and Mattias Svanberg. Piero Hincapie equalized early in the second half.

Leverkusen has now scored 13 goals in four Bundesliga matches, showcasing their attacking prowess, though they sit three points behind Bayern Munich, who have a perfect record.

In other matches, Borussia Dortmund suffered a disappointing 5-1 defeat at Stuttgart, ending their five-game unbeaten streak under new coach Nuri Sahin.

Meanwhile, St. Pauli secured their first point since promotion with a 0-0 draw against Leipzig, nearly snatching a late win.

Sri Lanka leapfrog NZ on WTC table

FINAL SCORE

Sri Lanka 305 (Kamindu 114, O'Rourke 5-55, Phillips 2-52) and 309 (Karunaratne 83, Ajaz 6-90, O'Rourke 3-49) beat New Zealand 340 (Latham 70, Jayasuriya 4-136, Ramesh 3-101) and 211 (Ravindra 92, Jayasuriya 5-68, Ramesh 3-83) by 63 runs

AGENCIES

GALLE

Sri Lanka didn't need long on the final morning in Galle to wrap things up, taking just 15 minutes to grab the final two New Zealand wickets and secure a 63-run win in the first Test. The result means Sri Lanka go 1-0 up in the two-match series, while also leapfrogging New Zealand up to third place in the World Test Championship (WTC) points table.

Prabath Jayasuriya was at the forefront of Sri Lanka's charge, finishing with figures of 5 for 68 - his eighth five-wicket haul, and his seventh in Galle. He ended with



match figures of 9 for 204, taking home the Player-of-the-Match award.

After having fought so hard the previous day, Rachin Ravindra lasted just eight deliveries into the first session of the final morning as Jayasuriya trapped him in front with an arm ball for 92 off 168 balls. Coming around the wicket, Jayasuriya tossed one up on leg as Ravindra was caught in the crease playing down the wrong line. He reviewed, but once it was confirmed to be pitching in line, there would

be no saving him.

And any lingering hopes of a famous rearguard were then swiftly quashed, as Will O'Rourke kept out just five deliveries before the sixth slipped past his forward defence and on to off stump to hand Jayasuriya his fifth wicket of the innings.

O'Rourke wouldn't quite be satisfied with how the game ended after an impressive showing in the game as he finished with eight wickets to his name - the second-most across the Test, and the same as Ajaz Patel.

SAFF U-17: India look to rotate against Maldives after securing semis spot

PTI

THIMPHU

Having already booked their spot in the semi-finals, India will eye the top spot in Group A when they take on Maldives in the SAFF U17 Championship here on Tuesday.

In their opening match last Friday, Ishfaq Ahmed's boys saw off Bangladesh 1-0 in a repeat of last year's final as Sumit Sharma Brahmacharimayum headed in the winning goal in the 92nd minute.

Sunday's 1-1 draw between Bangladesh and Maldives

meant that India qualified for the semi-final with a game to spare.

Ahmed suggested that might allow him to rotate the squad and give valuable game time to more players, while resting a few starters from the first game.

"Well, since we have already qualified, I want to make sure the other players get some game time as well. All our players are important. There are a few niggles as well. We want to win this match and top the group," he said.

The Indian squad was in

attendance for the match between Bangladesh and Maldives, which was dominated by the former as they took the lead early in the second half.

However, Maldives, with a rare attacking opportunity, equalised through their captain Mohamed Ilan Imran in the 79th minute and held on for the point.

"Maldives showed good character to come back in the game. Bangladesh had a lot of chances, but in these kinds of tournaments, if you want to beat every team, you have to play extremely well.

Great relationship off field helps: Pant on his stand with Gill

PTI

CHENNAI

The great bonhomie that they share off the field is reflected when they are battling it out on the 22 yards, India's star keeper Rishabh Pant revealed the secret of his successful partnership with Shubman Gill during team's second innings in the opening Test against Bangladesh.

After both Pant and Gill failed to make an impact in the first innings, they conjured a 167-run stand during the second innings, which turned out to be very important in the final context of the match.

"When you have a great relationship outside the field, it helps to bat with that guy. We were having fun, having chats, talking about the game, and staying relaxed. At the end of the day, we both knew what we wanted to do," Pant, who smashed a ton on Test comeback, said in a BCCI video posted on social media.

When you have a great relationship outside the field, it helps to bat with that guy. We were having fun, having chats, talking about the game, and staying relaxed. At the end of the day, we both knew what we wanted to do," —Rishabh Pant



"The understanding of the game for me is that cricket should improve wherever you play. So, I was trying to help the team that you can set a fielder here, and it was amazing. I enjoyed it." The century was special for the 26-year-old, who was making his return to the longest format after nearly two years when a horrific car accident kept him out of the sport for nearly 16 months.

He managed a knock of 109 off 128 deliveries that included 13 fours and four sixes, as his innings was a mixture of both attack and defence.

Speaking about his return, Pant admitted that he was nervous, but the fire inside him to make a mark made it happen.

"I was very nervous. I was very jittery, but there was some fire inside that I wanted to make it happen, and eventually, I did it, and I'm happy," he added.

Alcaraz clinches Laver Cup for Team Europe in 13-11 victory

PTI

BERLIN

Four-time Grand Slam champion Carlos Alcaraz overcame Taylor Fritz 6-2, 7-5 as Team Europe rallied to beat Team World 13-11 and win the Laver Cup.

Alcaraz broke the U.S. Open runner-up Fritz in the 11th game and then closed out victory on serve, sparking celebrations as the Europe team rejoiced with captain Bjorn Borg in Berlin.

Team World was favorite to win the Laver Cup for a third straight time after leading 8-4 on points heading into the last of the three days.

Europe began the comeback Sunday when Alcaraz and Casper Ruud won the doubles 6-2, 7-6 (6) against American pair Ben Shelton and Frances Tiafoe. But Shelton then downed Australian Open finalist Daniil Medvedev 6-7 (6), 7-5, 10-7 to move the World team into pole position.



Tiafoe, who reached the U.S. Open semifinals, could have sealed it for them but he lost to French Open finalist Alexander Zverev 6-7 (5), 7-5, 10-5, setting up the decider between Alcaraz and Fritz.

The Laver Cup is formatted like golf's Ryder Cup with the first team to 13 points winning the contest. Each of the

four matches on Sunday was worth three points.

Europe's only win in Saturday's four matches came from Alcaraz, who won the French Open and Wimbledon this year.

On Sunday, the 21-year-old Spaniard showed his big-match temperament once again.

Barca extend perfect start with sixth win

PTI

MADRID

Barcelona extended their perfect start to the Spanish league season but lost goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen with a serious knee injury.

LA LIGA

Barcelona routed host Villarreal 5-1 on Sunday night to pick up its sixth straight victory in the competition, but saw captain Ter Stegen leave the match on a stretcher just before halftime after his right knee buckled when he fell awkwardly after going up for a ball crossed into the area.

Robert Lewandowski scored a pair of first-half goals and Raphinha added two after the interval, with Pablo Torre also scoring for the Catalan club in the second half. Lewandowski now has six goals from the

first six matches and leads the league in scoring.

Ayoze Prez scored the only goal for the hosts in the 38th, with his team already trailing 2-0. Villarreal had entered the round in fourth place, four points behind Barcelona.

Barcelona has outscored its opponents 22-5 in its first six games. It has a four-point lead over Real Madrid, which beat Espanyol 4-1 on Saturday.

Atletico Madrid held Atletico Madrid missed a chance to keep pace with Barcelona after a 1-1 draw with Madrid rival Rayo Vallecano. Rayo took the lead through Isi Palazon in the 35th minute, and Conor Gallagher equalized for the visitors in the 49th.

Atletico was coming off three straight wins in all competitions.



Robert Lewandowski

'Father of Indian chess boom': The Anand effect shaping a golden generation

PTI

NEW DELHI

"If you had to roll the dice, these are pretty good teams to roll them with." Viswanathan Anand had a strong hunch that India would go on to be more than within "smelling" distance of gold at the Chess Olympiad this time.

And much to the delight of the revered Grandmaster, who played a key role in shaping some of the brightest youngsters in Indian chess right now, the country swept both the men's and women's gold at the 45th Olympiad in Budapest, Hungary.

World Championship challenger D Gukesh, R Praggnanandhaa, Arjun Erigaisi, Vidit Gujrathi, and P Harikrishna dominated competition to clinch the gold in the open section, finishing ahead of top seeds USA and Uzbekistan.

Then Harika Dronavalli, R Vaishali, Divya Deshmukh, Vantika Agrawal, and Tania



Sachdev claimed the top honours in the women's event ahead of Kazakhstan and USA to complete an Indian sweep.

It was a first for the country and it was fitting that Anand, its original superstar of the game, had a role.

Both the teams had fetched bronze medals in the previous Olympiad, which was held on home turf in Chennai. Anand knew they "were smelling the gold" at that time but let it slip in the closing stages.

However, the 54-year-old five-time world champion, in

an interview to PTI before the Olympiad, put his faith in both the teams' ability to go the distance in Budapest and it was icing on the cake that he was there to witness history being made by them in the Hungarian capital.

"...you know, if I had to roll the dice, these are good teams to roll them with," he had said.

Gukesh, Praggnanandhaa, Erigaisi and Vaishali have trained at the Westbridge Anand Chess Academy (WACA) that the bespectacled chess wizard set up four years ago in Chennai.

The 18-year-old Gukesh and the 19-year-old Praggnanandhaa have often stated that they would not be where they are without "Vishy sir".

So, it was hardly a surprise that the International Chess Federation (FIDE) addressed him as the "father of Indian chess boom". This was after the great Garry Kasparov paid tribute to his genius by saying that the "children of Vishy Anand are on the loose" after Gukesh won the Candidates in April to become the youngest world title challenger.

Anand prefers to share the credit with the parents and formative coaches of the players but does say that his idea of a chess academy, which was inspired by schools he had seen in the Soviet Union more than three decades ago, did play its part.

"The aim was very simply, to help. Indians were consistently getting to the top 200, but not quite in breaking into the top 100 in the same way.

Former footballer Mario Soares diagnosed with cancer, needs help

THE GOAN NETWORK

MARGAO

Former international footballer Mario Soares has been diagnosed with cancer and has requested the help of the football family in this critical stage of his life, both in terms of monetary help and prayers.

Soares, who hails the football-passionate village of Chinchinim, played for some of the major clubs like Dempo SC and Salgaocar and also represented the state and country, one for the players of the golden generation which shone on the football stage after taking steps of the football game in the Salcete village.

After hanging his football shoes, the 57-year-old worked as an assistant coach with Churchill Brothers and Salgaocar SC.

A month back, Mario was shocked to find that he has been diagnosed with cancer.

"Please consider donating to my cancer treatment fund

LOOKING FOR AID IN DIFFICULT TIME

Mario Soares played for some of the major clubs like Dempo SC and Salgaocar and also represented the state and country, one for the players of the golden generation which shone on the football stage

and sharing this message with others who may wish to support me. Together, we can overcome this challenge," the former footballer has said in his message 'Help Mario Soares Fight Cancer.'

In his message to his friends, colleagues and well-wishers, shared on various WhatsApp groups.

"I, Mario Soares, humbly come before you today, not just as a football coach and player, but as someone fighting a

deeply personal battle—a battle against cancer. Football has always been my life's passion. It has given me so much joy and purpose, and I've been fortunate enough to share that with many of you, both on and off the field. However, now I face a challenge that I cannot overcome alone," the message said.

"My cancer diagnosis has been overwhelming, and the treatment required is extensive and costly. As someone who has always believed in teamwork, I am turning to you, my football family, and the public, in this time of great need. The physical, emotional, and financial toll of this illness is beyond what I can manage by myself," it added.

"I appeal to you for your support, through donations, big or small, to help me get the treatment I desperately need. Your contribution will not only assist in covering the medical costs but will also give me hope and strength to

continue this fight. "To those who have cheered me on from the stands, trained alongside me, or trusted me as a coach—I thank you in advance for any help you can offer. In football, we know that the strength of a team can turn any game around, and I now need your strength more than ever.

Mario while concluding his message says he is under the guidance of Dr. Mahadeva Swamy B.C Consultant Hemato-Oncologist & Bone Marrow Transplant Physician Manipal Hospital Goa.

People willing to contribute towards the expenses of the cancer treatment are requested to transfer the amount to his bank account or make cheque payment in favor of Mario Soares. The appeal also has the phone number of the footballer's wife Myra Soares who can be contacted for more details about the treatment and costs of the same.