

Govt has no facilities to test for HMPV in Goa

Only one pvt hospital does the test for Rs 18,000. Where will the common man go if cases rise?

Team Herald

PANJIM: Even as India confirmed five cases of Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) on Monday, the Goa government's preparedness in detecting cases of the virus has come under scrutiny.

While the Directorate of Health Services (DHS) has stated that people need not panic as HMPV is a mild form of the common cold, according to a statement by Health Minister Vishwajit Rane, the Goa government presently has no testing facility for the virus.

"The Government of India has not yet issued guidelines related to Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) for the States. Whenever the directions are received from the Centre they will be followed meticulously," Rane said to the media.

On the other hand, Manipal Hospital, the only pri-

“The Government of India has not yet issued guidelines related to Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) for the States. Whenever the directions are received from the Centre, they will be followed meticulously

– Vishwajit Rane, Health Minister

“HMPV is a common flu virus. ... In Goa we test flu cases only when we see acute respiratory illness. Under the Directorate of Health Services, we have analysed data of cases during the last three months and we have not found an increase in cases

– Dr Utkarsh Betodkar, State epidemiologist

vate facility that announced that it tests for the virus, has stated that the test will cost Rs 18,000 – putting it beyond the reach of the common man and raising the question: on whose doors will Goans knock if cases rise?

State epidemiologist Dr Utkarsh Betodkar has said that there is no reason to panic as HMPV virus is typically mild. "HMPV is a common flu virus. There

are many viruses causing flu symptoms. In Goa flu cases increase in August, September and October and when the cold intensifies. HMPV shows symptoms of cough, sneezing, fever and a runny nose," Dr Betodkar said.

"In Goa we test flu cases only when we see acute respiratory illness," said Dr Betodkar

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DÉJÀ VU, ANYONE?



Pedestrians walk past a wall mural promoting face mask awareness in Bengaluru, on Monday. The city saw two HMPV cases the same day

EYE ON HMPV

Government actions:

- The ICMR and health departments are monitoring the situation through surveillance networks, with India reportedly well-equipped to manage any increase in respiratory illnesses.
- Authorities have advised general precautions but ruled out the need for Covid-like protocols.

Learning from China:

- The majority of the infections occurred in children under the age of 14, with numerous cases requiring hospitalisation due to their severity.
- Symptoms ranged from persistent coughs and fevers to more critical conditions such as bronchiolitis and pneumonia.
- Its resemblance to other respiratory illnesses complicates diagnosis and treatment.

High-risk groups:

- Infants and toddlers are especially vulnerable to serious respiratory conditions
- Older adults aged 65 or above, as well as those with chronic health concerns such as asthma or COPD
- Pregnant women also at risk of endangering health
- Immuno-compromised individuals are at a higher risk of experiencing severe symptoms

Common symptoms:

- For children: Breathlessness, wheezing and persistent cough, high fever, poor feeding and dehydration
- For Adults: Persistent cough, nasal congestion or runny nose, mild to moderate fever, fatigue, general body aches, sore throat and shortness of breath in severe cases

First HMPV cases detected in India

5 children test positive in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat; Nadda says closely monitoring situation

PTI, NEW DELHI: Five infants tested positive for the Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Gujarat on Monday, the first reported cases of the virus in India. Union Health Minister J P Nadda sought to assuage fears, saying the government is closely monitoring the situation and there is no reason to worry.

HMPV is a globally recognised respiratory virus that recently gained attention after its outbreak was reported in China. It is a viral pathogen that causes respiratory infections in people of all age groups.

While the Karnataka, Gujarat, and Maharashtra governments assured that there was no cause for alarm, the Delhi government directed all hospitals in the capital to remain fully prepared to manage a potential surge in respiratory illnesses with former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal urging the Centre to act swiftly to prevent a potential health crisis.

Two cases were detected in Karnataka by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) through routine surveillance for multiple respiratory viral pathogens.

A three-month-old girl with a history of bronchopneumonia was diagnosed with HMPV after being admitted to Baptist Hospital in Bengaluru. She has already been discharged, the health ministry said.

An eight-month-old boy with a history of bronchopneumonia tested

FIRST REPORTED CASES:

► Five infants tested positive for Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat, the first such cases reported in India

► Bengaluru: A three-month-old female and an eight-month-old male infant with a history of bronchopneumonia tested positive. Both are recovering well.

► Ahmedabad: A two-month-old boy from Rajasthan required ventilator support initially but is now stable.

► Tamil Nadu: Two more children tested positive for the virus and are currently undergoing treatment in two hospitals

positive for HMPV on January 3 after being admitted to Baptist Hospital. He is now recovering, it said.

Neither of the two have any history of international travel, the ministry underlined.

In neighbouring Tamil Nadu, two more children tested positive for the virus.

These two are the first cases to be reported from the city and are currently undergoing treatment in two hospitals, officials said.

The fifth case was reported from Gujarat's Ahmedabad. A two-month-old boy admitted to a private hospital in the city tested positive for HMPV.

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PEOPLE'S OUTCRY: Police are harassing Velingkar protestors at govt behest

Massive outrage at chargesheets filed against those who protested against Subhash Velingkar's offensive remarks related to St Francis Xavier

Team Herald

MARGAO/PANJIM: There was massive public outrage activists against the filing of charge sheets against those who protested against former RSS Goa chief Subhash Velingkar's derogatory remarks on St Francis Xavier. People termed this as "an attempt to silence and suppress the voice of public".

"Contrary to what should have been done, the Chief Minister, who also holds the position of Home Minister, has failed to intervene and drop the cases against the protesters. The fact that charges have been filed only highlights the true intentions of this government. One thing the authorities seem to overlook is that these protestors took to the streets in response to the offensive statements made by Subhash Velingkar against Saint Francis Xavier. This marks a trou-

Goa is being governed by criminals. The ministers, are instructing the police to target innocent people who are merely exercising their right to protest
– Abhijit Prabhudesai, social activist

Protestors took to the streets in response to the offensive statements made by Subhash Velingkar against Saint Francis Xavier. This a troubling new approach by the govt, where it seeks to suppress social activism and public dissent by filing cases and chargesheets
– Xavier Fernandes, social activist

Such chargesheets are used to keep people on the leash. Has Velingkar been chargesheeted also? Police investigation is losing credibility as the force is used to keep the opposition forces at bay
– Cleofato Almeida Coutinho, Senior Advocate

bling new approach by the government, where it seeks to suppress social activism and public dissent by filing cases and chargesheets,"

The police have moved swiftly against these protestors, while countless other high-profile cases languish in the system, Subhash Velingkar's inflammatory remarks created a climate of fear and division, and the people responded
– Jack Mascarenhas, President of Goyche Fudle Pilge Khatir

said Xavier Fernandes, social activist. Social activist Abhijit Prabhudesai said, "It is deeply shocking to witness

that criminals in Goa are roaming freely while ordinary citizens and social activists are being harassed by the police under the directions of the government. Filing charges against those who protested is nothing more than an attempt to silence the voice of the people. In reality, Goa is being governed by criminals. The ministers, some of whom are allegedly involved in criminal activities, are instructing the police to target innocent people who are merely exercising their right to protest."

Senior Advocate Cleofato Almeida Coutinho said, "Such chargesheets go nowhere. They are used to keep people on the leash. Has Velingkar been chargesheeted also? Police investigation is losing credibility as the force is used to keep the opposition forces at bay."

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RETURN OF THE KINGS



Dressed as three kings, children take part in the annual feast of Epiphany, popularly known as the Three Kings Feast at Our Lady of Remedios Chapel, Cuelim-Cansaulim, on Monday

Pilgaokars stand firm as ore trucks want timing extended

Team Herald

BICHOLIM: There's no end to the stalemate over ore transportation in Pilgao just yet. A meeting held on Monday to discuss extending the timing for ore-carrying trucks was met with strong opposition from villagers, farmers and local panchayat members, who have made it clear they will not allow any changes to the current schedule.

With night-time ore transport having been halt-

How can they ask for additional time and use the main road for transportation? The mining company is violating the EC conditions with the government's approval, and there should be another public hearing
– Anil Salekar, villager

ed following the blockades, authorities proposed extending the daytime hours for transportation from 5.30 am to 10 pm. Currently, the trucks run from 8 am to 5 pm with breaks in between. However, villagers and local farmers, along with members of the Pil-

gao panchayat, expressed their firm opposition to the proposal, citing the disturbances caused by night-time transport, including excessive noise pollution that disrupts their sleep.

The meeting, attended by Bicholim Deputy Collector and Sub-Divisional

Magistrate (SDM) Rohan Kaskar, Mayem MLA Premendra Shet, Bicholim Mamlatdar Pravind Gawas, as well as representatives from the Truck Owners Association and Sesa Mining Company.

Rajaram alias Satish Gaonkar, a leader from the Truck Owners Association of Sesa Mining, raised concerns about the difficulties faced by truckers, particularly due to the blockades.

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Cong chief files contempt plea against Speaker

Patkar says Tawadkar didn't act against rebel Cong MLAs

Team Herald

PANJIM: Accusing Goa Assembly Speaker Ramesh Tawadkar of committing 'wilful' and 'deliberate' disobedience of the High Court judgment and order, Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) president Amit Patkar has filed a contempt petition before the High Court against Tawadkar for failing to decide on the disqualification petition against eight rebel Congress MLAs.

In his contempt petition, Patkar sought urgent intervention, as the delay undermines democratic principles and violates the constitutional mandate.

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FLASHBACK

The petitioner Amit Patkar had filed a writ petition before HC seeking directions to the Speaker to decide the disqualification petition within a period prescribed in law as laid down by SC

According to Patkar, the Speaker in an affidavit-in-reply stated that he will decide the plea expeditiously, but failed to comply with the orders passed by the HC vide judgments dated May 2, 2023 and July 21, 2023

The disqualification petition is still pending
Patkar alleged that Tawadkar "deliberately" and "malafidely" did not proceed to decide on the disqualification petition

Shattered family claims drink driving led to Agassaim accident

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Naik family's world was turned upside down in an instant, as a tragic road accident in Agassaim last week claimed the lives of two loved ones and left another struggling for survival. This Monday, little Shravi Naik, just one year and nine months old, succumbed to her injuries after the horrific crash had already taken the life of her father, Rajesh Naik, and left her mother, Ranjana, fighting for her own life in a hospital bed.

But the question now doing the rounds is: was the driver under influence when he rammed his car?

Agassaim Police have started a case of culpable homicide not amounting to murder and slapped other charges against the driver of the vehicle Wilson Santano De Araujo, but the grieving family members accuse the driver of being drunk.

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DRIVER LOOKED DRUNK, THEN HOW WAS HIS BLOOD TEST NEGATIVE, ASKS GRIEVING KIN

PANJIM: The blood alcohol report and the breathalyser test of the driver, Wilson Santano De Araujo, involved in the tragic Agassaim SUV accident has come back negative. However, family members of the victims have expressed disbelief over the findings.

Ankita Naik, Rajesh's cousin, voiced her concern over the investigation's handling. "Everyone who witnessed the accident said the driver was drunk and not in a condition to drive. The delay in conducting the alcohol test may have contributed to the negative results," she said. "After a fatal accident, the test should have been done immediately, not after a seven-day delay."

Ankita also questioned the accuracy of the breathalyser test, suggesting that it could easily be manipulated. "It's not difficult to cheat the breath analyzer," she added. "There are many ways to manipulate the tests, and there's no mention of the driver being under the influence. We know that laws can be bent to one's will, but if the law cannot deliver justice for an innocent man and a child who never even had a chance to speak, then everything is



The SUV involved in the accident at Agassaim

pointless. In cases of fatal accidents, the blood report should be made available to the police within 24 hours of the incident, so that police can add relevant sections for drink driving."

Everyone who witnessed the accident said the driver was drunk and not in a condition to drive. The delay in conducting the alcohol test may have contributed to the negative results. After a fatal accident, the test should have been done immediately, not after a seven-day delay
– Ankita Naik, accident victim's cousin

Trudeau resigns as party leader, will quit PM post next?

AP, TORONTO: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced his resignation Monday in the face of rising discontent over his leadership, and after the abrupt departure of his finance minister signalled growing turmoil within his government.

Trudeau said it had become clear to him that he cannot "be the leader during the next elections due to internal battles". He planned to stay on as prime minister until a new leader of the Liberal Party is chosen.

"I don't easily back down faced with a fight, especially a very important one for our party and the country. But I do this job because the interests of Canadians and the well being of democracy is something that I hold dear," he said.

He said Parliament, which had been due to resume Jan 27, would be suspended until March 24. The timing will allow for a Liberal Party leadership race.

All three main opposition parties have said they plan



This country deserves a real choice in the next election, and it has become clear to me that if I'm having to fight internal battles, I cannot be the best option in that election
– Justin Trudeau, Canadian Prime Minister

to topple the Liberal Party in a no-confidence vote when Parliament resumes, so a spring election after the Liberals pick a new leader was almost assured.

"The Liberal Party of Canada is an important institution in the history of our great country and democracy," Trudeau said.

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MAX. TEMP 33.4 °C
MIN. TEMP 20.3 °C

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We'll be redundant if crime rate goes down here.

Large drug hauls in 2024 fuel abuse concerns in Goa

Medical experts warn about rise in mental health issues linked to cannabis dependence

AUGUSTO RODRIGUES

PANJIM: The Anti-Narcotic Cell (ANC) of Goa Police, in collaboration with the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), seized over 100 kg of narcotics in 2024. Among the haul was a substantial quantity of marijuana, which remains a major concern for local authorities and medical professionals due to its links to mental health disorders.

The ANC alone recovered 92.988 kg of drugs, valued at over Rs 6.94 crore, with the largest seizure being 73.417 kg of ganja. In addition, the NCB made 19 arrests, including 14 Indians and five foreigners.

Among the seized drugs, cocaine was notably found in the possession of foreign nationals on two separate occasions.

The increasing use of chemical drugs in Goa's coastal areas has prompted widespread concern, while medical experts also warn about the rise in mental health issues linked to cannabis use. Dr Rajesh Dhume, head of the Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) at North Goa District Hospital, expressed alarm over the growing prevalence of cannabis addiction, which has now spread from the coastal belt to the State's hinterland. He attributed this shift to the pandemic, which facilitated the expansion



A large quantity of drugs was seized in New Delhi, and after further investigation, Delhi Police sought our help to locate two individuals connected to the drug trade
– Tikam Singh Verma, SP of the ANC

of drug networks into Goa's interior regions. In 2023, data from Goa Po-

The Anti-Narcotic Cell (ANC) of Goa Police recovered 92.988 kg of drugs, valued at over Rs 6.94 crore
The largest seizure was 73.417 kg of Ganja. Other drugs seized include 7.5 kg charas, 605 gm of cocaine, 8.2 kg magic mushrooms and 605 gm cocaine

The Narcotics Control Bureau made 19 arrests, including 14 Indians and five foreigners

lice showed significant drug seizures, including over 2.4 metric tonnes of Ganja and

790 grams of charas. These seizures, largely concentrated in areas like Maina-Curtorim, Mormugao, Ponda and Mardol, indicate the expanding reach of drug networks in Goa, with authorities working hard to curtail the illegal trade.

Increasingly, intelligence agencies are seen working together in drugs-related cases. Two individuals detained recently by the ANC following a request from the Crime Branch of Delhi Police is one such case. This collaboration between different intelligence agencies highlights the growing effort to dismantle drug networks operating in Goa, but it also underscores

that Goa continues to be a soft target for drug traffickers.

According to Tikam Singh Verma, Superintendent of Police (SP) of the ANC, the recent detention of two individuals was part of a larger investigation by Delhi Police into a major drug seizure. "A large quantity of drugs was seized in New Delhi, and after further investigation, Delhi Police sought our help to locate individuals connected to the drug trade," Verma stated.

Overdose deaths have raised serious questions about the effectiveness of law enforcement efforts.

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Mollo, Cansaulim locals refrain from festivities, record objections

At the ISLR Court hearing, locals ensure their concerns about the incomplete property demarcation & environmental damage are officially recorded; press for an immediate stay on construction activities; matter adjourned to Jan 24

Team Herald

MARGAO: In a show of unwavering determination, villagers from Velsao, Pale, Issorcim, Arossim, Cansaulim, and Mollo documented their objections against railway double tracking before the Inspector of Survey and Land Records (ISLR) Court in Margao.

Despite the court not granting an immediate stay on construction activities, the villagers, who set aside their Three Kings Feast celebrations to attend the hearing, demonstrated their resilience by ensuring their concerns about incomplete property demarcation and environmental damage were officially recorded.

Max De Souza, a senior citizen from Velsao, spoke on behalf of the assembled villagers. Along with Velsao Sarpanch Maria Diana Gouveia and Goencho Ekvott (GE) founder member Orville Dourado Rodrigues, De Souza pressed for an immediate stay on construction activities. The villagers' persistence



Velsao, Pale, Issorcim, Arossim, Cansaulim, and Mollo locals at the ISLR Court in Margao

led to the judge permitting them to record their objections in the log book before adjourning the matter to January 24.

The hearing comes amid tensions between railway authorities and the locals. What was meant to be a Happy New Year for the villagers of Mollo turned bitter when South Western Railways and Rail Vikas Nigam Limited, allegedly supported by the authorities, demolished age-old structures that served as the sole source of livelihood

UNWAVERING DETERMINATION

- Velsao, Pale, Issorcim, Arossim, Cansaulim, and Mollo locals documented their objections against railway double-tracking before the ISLR Court in Margao
- Demanded an immediate halt to all construction activities until a fair settlement is reached
- The villagers' persistence led to the judge permitting them to record their objections in the log book before adjourning the matter to January 24.
- Highlighted the ongoing environmental destruction
- Claimed that RVNL contractors dumped truckloads of mud on tree canopies in at Survey No 8/1, Khol, without proper property demarcation

for the residents. Pedro Rodrigues, an affected resident from Mollo Survey No 18/1, demanded an immediate halt to construction activities until a fair settlement is reached. These demolitions occurred despite pending formalities in the demarcation process and verbal instructions to railway officials to wait until Monday's hearing.

Bruno Pereira from Issorcim claimed that RVNL contractors were dumping truckloads of mud on tree canopies in his private forest at Survey No 8/1, Khol, without proper demarcation. The timing of today's hearing had already drawn criticism from locals, as it coincided with the Three Kings Feast celebrations at Our Lady of Remedios Chapel, Cuelim, where thousands traditionally gather at the hillock for worship.

The controversy deepened after a government's demarcation exercise conducted on December 20-21, when locals alleged

that railway workers had tampered with official markers. Despite verbal instructions to railway officials to pause work until today's hearing, construction activities continued, leading to multiple confrontations between workers and residents. During recent demolitions, affected locals reported being held back and confined, allegations that railway officials attempted to deny.

"We are dissatisfied with the mere adjournment when we sought a stay on construction activities," expressed frustrated villagers after the hearing, reflecting the growing tension between development initiatives and local heritage preservation in the coastal belt.

The demolitions and ongoing construction work have reignited fierce opposition from locals, who continue to cite environmental damage, heritage loss, and violations of due process as their primary concerns.

Embarrassment for govt: Cabral fires salvo over delayed projects

Team Herald

PANJIM/QUEPEM: In an embarrassment to the Pramod Sawant government, BJP Curchorem MLA Nilesh Cabral expressed his disenchantment over the incomplete projects in his constituency.

Expressing his disappointment during the induction of Manoj Kumar Naik as the new Curchorem BJP Mandal president on Sunday, Cabral highlighted the lack of progress on several projects, despite assurances from the Chief Minister Pramod Sawant during his visit at Curchorem last year.

"A year back, the Chief Minister came to Curchorem and said, 'Bhivpachi garaz na, radpachi garaz na'. He had also stated that BJP will never forget those who sacrificed for the party. But even after a year, works related to several projects are not moving ahead," Cabral lamented.

He said that construction of the bus stand, swimming pool and some other projects which were launched in 2012 are still not nearing completion.

"These projects were not for my interest and were

A year back, the Chief Minister came to Curchorem and said, 'Bhivpachi garaz na, radpachi garaz na'. He had also stated that BJP will never forget those who sacrificed for the party. But even after a year, works related to several projects are not moving ahead

— Nilesh Cabral, BJP Curchorem MLA

meant for the people of Curchorem. Only two-and-half years are pending for this term and these works have been expedited. I will speak to the Chief Minister," he said.

However, on Monday Cabral refuted criticising the government for slow pace of works in Curchorem and defended that he had only repeated the Chief Minister's statement.

"I am quoted out of context. I was merely repeating the lines often spoken by the Chief Minister. It's been a year since the upgraded hospital at Cacora, Curchorem, was inaugurated, but many facilities are still not provided there," he added.

4 defunct sewage pumps leave Margao localities stinking

Sewage overflow reported in Comba, Calconda and Chinchal; officials assure to repair the faulty by Jan 15

Team Herald

MARGAO: Nearly four pumps pumping sewage from the drainage channels in Margao have stopped functioning, resulting in sewage overflowing from chambers in low-lying areas.

The sewage overflow has been reported in Comba, Calconda, and Chinchal, causing the these areas to stink.

The sewage corporation officials accompanied by MLA Digambar Kamat, inspected the affected areas and assured residents that these faulty pumps will be repaired by January 15.

During the inspection, it was revealed that four pumps, which are crucial for pumping sewage from these channels and sending it to the treatment facility, have stopped functioning.

Speaking on the matter, MLA Kamat stated that the shutdown of these pumps had caused sewage to flow back into the low-lying areas, flooding the chambers.

As a temporary solution, sewage will be pumped out using tankers, which have already been deployed in the affected areas, including Comba and Chinchal. These tankers will operate round-the-clock until the pumps are repaired. Additionally, efforts are underway to divert the excess sewage away from the low-lying areas.

"The situation will be brought under control as soon as the pumps are fixed. In the meantime, tankers will continue to pump out the sewage, and measures are taken to redirect the flow," the MLA assured.

He emphasised that the sewage issue would be fully addressed by the deadline set for the repairs, ensuring that the affected residents would no longer face the ongoing inconvenience.

A meeting was also held with the District Collector to discuss the issue in greater detail.

CHAMBERS FLOODED WITH SEWAGE

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- The inspection revealed that four pumps, which are crucial for pumping sewage from these channels and sending it to the treatment facility, stopped functioning
- The shutdown of these pumps caused sewage to flow back into the low-lying areas, flooding the chambers
- They assured the residents that these faulty pumps will be repaired by Jan 15

Pomp, religious fervour mark Three Kings festivities in Cuelim, Reis Magos, Chandor

SAGUN GAWADE



Jayson de Souza, Allwin Nadar and Bonny D'Souza, representing as Three Kings, make their way to the Reis Magos Church, Reis Magos, Nerul

Team Herald

VASCO/CALANGUTE/CHANDOR: The feast of Epiphany, popularly known as the Three Kings Feast, was celebrated with traditional pomp and religious fervour at Our Lady of Remedios Chapel, Cuelim-Cansaulim, Reis Magos church in Reis Magos-Nerul and Nossa Senhora de Belém, Chandor, on Monday.

At Cuelim, the highlight of the feast was three children from the village portraying as Three Kings and arriving on horseback in a grand tradition.

Aaron Fernandes from Cuelim, Cayden Correa from Arossim and Ethan Gracias from Cansaulim represented the Three Kings this year. They arrived at the chapel on horseback, accompanied by a band and converged near the chapel, symbolising the journey of the Magi guided by the star of Bethlehem.

A large number of people attended the feast mass. A fair selling traditional sweets, Goan delicacies and other items was set up. Fr Ave Maria Afonso said, "As



Children dressed as Three Kings pose with gifts at Chandor

As part of the feast, three young children from the villages of Cansaulim, Arossim, and Cuelim represent Three Kings and arrive on horseback. They come from three different routes and meet at a designated point near the Our Lady of Remedios Chapel. They attend the masses, where they renew their faith and commit to following Jesus Christ

— Fr Ave Maria Afonso

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three different routes and meet at a designated point near the Our Lady of Remedios Chapel. They attend the masses, where they renew their faith and commit to

following Jesus Christ."

PI Sherif Jacques, a devotee and a villager too said that the Three Kings feast is celebrated for over 500 years.

Meanwhile, at Reis Magos church, Reis Magos, Nerul, the feast of the Three Kings was celebrated with traditional solemnity. Reis Magos means three kings in Portuguese. The church was built in 1555 by the Franciscan Friars.

At Chandor, the festivity commenced with three young boys,

dressed as kings, gathering outside the small chapel dedicated to Nossa Senhora de Piedade, located on the Monte Hill. Clad in royal garments of blue, green, and red, the boys rode on horses and proceeded to the Igreja de Nossa Senhora de Belém, accompanied by a six-member brass band. Colourful umbrellas were utilised to shield the young kings from the intense sun.

Upon their arrival at the church around 10 am, a solemn high mass was presided over by Auxiliary Bishop Simão Purificação Fernandes.

After the mass, each king returned to their respective homes, accompanied by the brass band.

Typically, the young kings are selected from Cotta, Guirdolim, and Cavorim; however, this year, all three kings hailed from Guirdolim.

The church square has been filled with a vibrant fair featuring numerous stalls offering a variety of items, including roasted gram, confections, toys, clay utensils, furniture, and much more. This fair is anticipated to continue for the next eight days.



Transport Minister Mauvin Godinho said: "I'm more Hindu than my own religion. I have more connections with Hindus and I'm proud that I'm more Hindu than my own religion. If we go to check our roots, I'm Hindu only. Afterwards we were converted, this is my belief." Herald TV asked people what their reactions were to Mauvin's utterance.

He has not said anything wrong. Man is born without religion, it's only after the religious rituals that one attains any religion. But you must have seen a chameleon, he changes his colours according to the situation. Even a chameleon will feel ashamed, the way that this minister is carrying out his programmes. If he says he is a Hindu, he does not become a Hindu. Actually he has to drink a glass of gomutra daily, that is how he will be a Hindu. This is only to fool the people and get votes

— Tara Kerkar, social activist

PEOPLE SAY IF YOU GO TO MAUVIN'S ROOTS, HE WILL BE NON-GOAN

I agree with Mauvin Godinho's point of view politically. He may be making such statements keeping in mind the constituency where he is contesting and keeping his vision for electoral politics. But I challenge him to contest in a constituency like Velim, where I am ready to pay for his deposits and I'm willing to forgo the money. Genetically he may be correct, because he is less of a Goan and more of a non-Goan. Thirdly, religiously, by certain rituals, his statements suggest 75% more of a Hindu and 75% of his body should be cremated and 25% of his body should be buried

— Anthony D'Silva, social activist

Mauvin's statement that he is more of a Hindu is absolutely bereft of any faith and trust in Goa. His statement is made to please his Hindu bosses to remain in power, that he will be dropped in the reshuffle which is likely to take place. It has been his strategy to be in power, while in the Congress he told everyone he has Congress blood and that he would never leave the Congress. He said if you go to the roots you'll find out that he was originally a Hindu. The real roots if you go to, it will be known that he is not a true Goenkar. He belongs to the migratory birds which have come to Goa

— Trajano D'Mello, political commentator

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Don't fall prey to lure of easy money: Cops

Goa Police issue advisory to public over rise in online investment scam

Team Herald

PANJIM: Against the backdrop of rising financial frauds in the State, the Goa police have issued an advisory warning people to be aware of the tactics fraudsters use to lure gullible investors by offering high returns in online share trading.

In an advisory, the police have asked people never to trust an investment opportunity that comes through an unsolicited email, social media message or phone call.

"If an investment promises unusually high returns with little to no risk, it's likely a scam. Fraudsters often create a sense of urgency, pushing you to invest before you can fully evaluate the opportunity. Reputable financial

institutions will provide clear information about the risks and the specifics of any investment," the advisory said.

The police have advised people to always check the background of any company or individual offering investment opportunities, use resources like SEBI's online databases or Investors Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) to ensure legitimacy, and seek advice from a certified financial planner or registered investment advisor before making any decisions.

"When investing online, ensure the platform is legitimate and has strong security measures, including two-factor authentication. If you suspect that you have been targeted by a fraudster, report it to Cyber Crime Cell, SEBI, or RBI



immediately," the advisory added. "Authorities are working tirelessly to track down and apprehend those responsible for these scams, but consumer awareness is vital to preventing further vic-

timization. By remaining sceptical of unsolicited offers and verifying the authenticity of any financial opportunity, individuals can protect themselves from becoming the next target of on-

line investment fraud," the advisory said.

The advisory cited a recent incident wherein a person was duped of Rs 38,90,182.90 under the pretext of receiving high returns in online share trading.

It was revealed that the victim was initially added to a WhatsApp group and provided with complete guidance on online trading. The fraudsters further instructed the victim to buy an IPO through an app called 'FYERS', which is not a legitimate platform. Due to a lack of knowledge and awareness, the victim unknowingly transferred Rs 38 lakh to various bank accounts provided in the WhatsApp group, resulting in a loss of his hard-earned money.

shorttakes

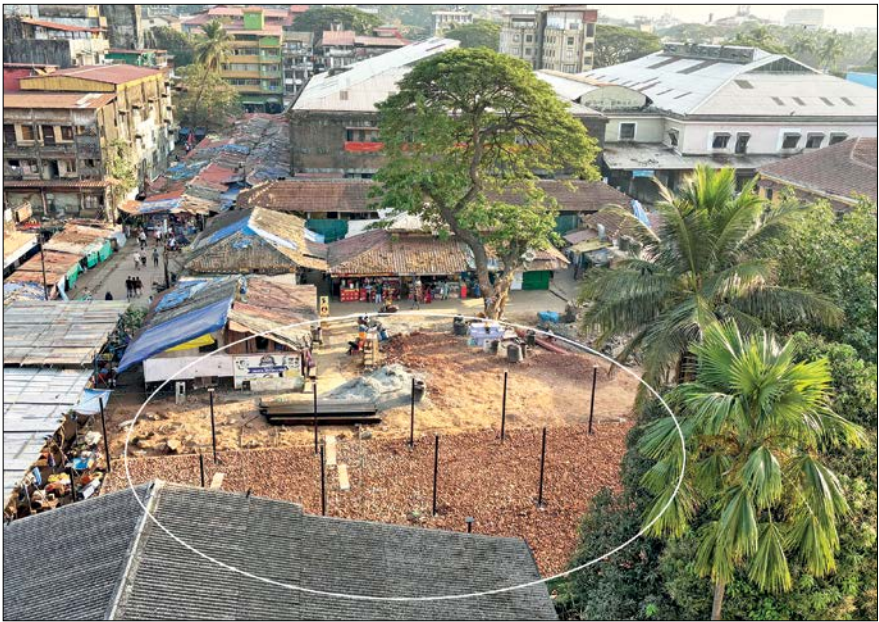
1 RUSSIAN, BELARUSIAN RESCUED IN CALANGUTE-CANDOLIM

CALANGUTE: Two foreign tourists, a 58-year-old woman from Belarus and a 39-year-old male from Russia were rescued by Drishti lifeguards at Calangute and Baga over the weekend. The Russian was caught in a rip current after he stepped into a risk-prone area at Baga beach marked by caution tape. Noticing his distress, lifesavers rushed to assist him with the help of a rescue tube. The woman from Belarus was rescued at Calangute beach as she was struggling in the water due to a rip current and was not able to escape it. She was brought back to the shore with the help of a surfboard. At Baga beach, a seven-year-old girl from Rajasthan was reunited with her parents after she accidentally separated from them. A lifesaver comforted the missing child and after sourcing her father's phone number from her, he contacted her father and reunited him with his daughter within 10 minutes. At Calangute, a three-year-old boy from Uttar Pradesh was reunited with his family by a lifesaver after he accidentally got separated from them. At Mobor a 45-year-old man from Russia was chased and bitten by a pack of stray dogs on Saturday. The first week of 2025 also saw a 23-year-old woman from Taleigao being stung by a stingray off Velsao beach. At Mandrem, a 40-year-old woman from Russia who panicked after she was engulfed in a rip current while swimming off Mandrem beach was rescued with a surfboard and safely brought back to the beach. Lifesavers also averted a tragedy at the Dudhsagar waterfalls after a child from Haryana who was enjoying the natural water pool wearing a lifejacket suddenly panicked and cried for help. Her 38-year-old father jumped into the water without a lifejacket and began drowning. A lifesaver jumped into the water immediately and rescued the drowning father.

2 ROMANIAN BOOKED FOR ILLEGAL SATELLITE PHONE USE IN GOA

MARGAO: Colva police registered an offence against Calina Virgil, a Romanian national residing in Bucharest, for allegedly using a banned satellite phone in India. The incident occurred at St Regis Resort, Mobor, Cavelossim, on 5 January. Police stated that Virgil was found in possession of a Thuraya satellite phone equipped with an orange SIM card. The possession and usage of such devices are prohibited under Indian law. The complaint was filed by a police sub-inspector of Colva Police Station. The satellite phone and SIM card have been seized as part of the investigation.

STOPGAP ARRANGEMENT



A temporary shed is being erected in the Panjim Municipal Market for the fish vendors

Goa Dairy appoints full-time MD after year-long wait

Team Herald

PONDA: After a prolonged delay of over a year, Goa Dairy at Curti has finally appointed a full-time Managing Director (MD). The appointment comes in response to repeated demands from the farmers and members of the Annual General Body Meeting (AGM), who had urged the government to fill the vacant post to ensure the smooth functioning of Goa Dairy.

Naveen Kumar, appointed by the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), Delhi, assumed charge as

the new MD on Monday. Farmers and AGM members had frequently expressed frustration over delays in official work and operational inefficiencies caused by the absence of an MD.

The three-member Administrative Committee of Goa Dairy, consisting of Chairman Parag Nagarsekar and members Rama Parab and Sandeep Parsekar, had actively followed up with the NDDB to expedite the appointment process. In the interim, the committee members had been managing the MD's responsibilities, but they emphasised the need

for a permanent appointment to handle operations effectively.

Naveen Kumar, a Gujarat native with 18 years of experience in the dairy sector, was warmly welcomed by the Administrative Committee upon taking charge. The committee and the farmers expressed optimism about the future of Goa Dairy under Kumar's leadership.

Farmers and committee members anticipate that the appointment will streamline the management and improve services for the benefit of the dairy's stakeholders.

Anjuna VP directed to complete construction of toilet for sr citizen

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Goa Human Rights Commission (GHRC) has directed the Anjuna-Caisua village panchayat and the Directorate of Panchayats complete the construction of a toilet for a senior citizen which was pending for more than five years due to dispute between the tenant and the landlord.

VIOLATION OF RIGHTS

The two-member Commission said that the balance 30 per cent work of the toilet should be done through the authorised agencies, with a functional soak pit near the house of the complainant within next 60 days.

The 81-year-old Radabai Morajkar

81-year-old Radabai Morajkar of Anjuna had filed a complaint dated June 20, 2024 before the GHRC seeking to urgently resolve her toilet facility issue. She stated that her son had a deposited fee of Rs 10,000 with the panchayat on February 18, 2019 for the construction of a toilet but it remained incomplete due the absence of a soak pit

of Anjuna had filed a complaint dated June 20, 2024 before the GHRC seeking to urgently resolve her toilet facility issue. She stated that her son had a deposited fee of Rs 10,000 with the panchayat on February 18, 2019 for the construction of a toilet but it remained incomplete due the absence of a soak pit.

The panchayat in its reply stated that Morajkar's individual household latrine (IHHL) could not be completed due to non-availability of land. The toilet was presently completed about 70 per cent.

Adv A Bacal arguing on behalf of the applicant pointed out that the Director of Panchayats in May 2019 had issued a circular in respect of the scheme for supply and installation of individual house old bio-digester toilets in the State, which had to be provided without NOC/consent of the owner/landlord.

The Commission stated that there was violation of human rights of the complainant due to the negligence of the panchayat and the Directorate of panchayats. In the absence of the completed toilet, the complainant and her son had to go out in the open to answer nature's calls, it said.

GVN lecture series from January 8

Team Herald

MARGAO: Gomant Vidya Niketan, Margao, has announced the organisation of its 25th edition of the 'Vicharvedh Lecture Series' from January 8 to 12.

Anand Masur shared that the series will begin on January 8 with the Datta Govind Pai Raiturkar Lecture, where Piyush Tewari will speak on the topic "Driving Change: How Young Leaders Can End the Road Crash Epidemic." Tewari, a prominent Indian social activist, is known for his work in the field of road safety.

On January 9, the Srinivas Nayak Memorial Lecture will feature Chinmayi Sumit, a Marathi actress and advocate for

the preservation of Marathi schools, women's empowerment, and environmental protection. She will address the topic "Mother Language and Education - The Pillars of Culture."

The Dattatreya N Hemadi Memorial Lecture on January 10 will be delivered by Ranmanus Prasad Gawade, who will discuss "Economics of Happiness." Gawade has worked extensively in the Konkani region, linking rural lifestyles with tourism, and has contributed to redefining local economic practices.

On January 11, Manasi Prasad, a renowned Karnataka-based classical singer, will present the Damodar Krishna Verlekar Lecture on the

subject "Keeping it Classical: The Relevance of Music in Our Time." She will explore the significance of preserving traditional music while adapting to contemporary music trends.

The series will conclude on January 12 with Shrigauri Sawant, a social activist and advocate for transgender rights, who will speak on "Me and My Journey." Sawant has dedicated her life to working with transgender individuals and women involved in prostitution, focusing on skill development and livelihood opportunities for marginalized communities.

All lectures will take

place at 6 pm at the Gomant Vidya Niketan Auditorium. Each lecture is expected to last between 45 and 60 minutes. This year's series will feature three lectures in Marathi and two in English.

The 25th edition of the Vicharvedh Lecture Series, organized by Gomant Vidya Niketan, continues its tradition of hosting prominent personalities from diverse fields. Previous editions have seen the participation of several distinguished speakers.

Present at the press meet were Anand Masur, Secretary of Gomant Vidya Niketan, along with members Atul Naik, Suhas Sadekar, and Anjali Desai.

South Goa saw steep rise in murders in 2024

Lawyers say unchecked influx of migrants coincide with spike in criminal activities

Team Herald

MARGAO: South Goa witnessed a rise in murder cases in 2024, with 13 murders reported, compared to nine in 2023.

Despite the increase, the police successfully solved all the cases reported this year. Police data reveals that the region also recorded 10 cases of attempted murder in both 2023 and 2024, all of which were detected.

The growing number of murders in 2024 has raised questions about the challenges faced by law enforcement. While the detection rate remains commendable, concerns persist about the overall rise in crime.

A senior citizen highlighted the issue, linking the increasing crimes to the rapid expansion of villages in South Goa, particularly in Salcete taluka, which includes Margao. "The growing migrant activities have become a cause for concern, compounded by limited police resources, inadequate preventive measures, and insufficient night patrols," he said.

In 2023, South Goa reported nine murder cases, all of which were solved. These included two mur-

MURDER AND ATTEMPTED MURDER TRENDS

2024

- 13 murders (from 9 in 2023).
- 10 attempted murders, same as 2023.
- 100% detection rate for both murder and attempted murder cases.



2023

- 9 murders (from 25 in 2022).
- 10 attempted murders.
- 100% detection rate for both

2022

- 25 murders; 92% detection rate (23 solved).
- 7 attempted murders (from 18 in 2021).

Key Concerns Migrant Activity:

- Linked to the rise in violent crimes, particularly in Salcete taluka
- Over 70% of migrants identified as single young males
- Migrants from States like Karnataka, West Bengal, Odisha, Assam, UP, Jharkhand, and Manipur dominate construction, hospitality and other sectors

Challenges for Law Enforcement:

- Limited police resources
- Inadequate night patrolling and preventive measures
- Rising theft, burglary, drug abuse, and sexual offences in high-migrant areas

Call to Action

Stronger patrolling in crime-prone areas
Enhanced community-police collaboration
Addressing challenges posed by rapid population growth and migrant influx

The number of migrant workers has risen significantly in the last decade due to job opportunities. Over 70 per cent of these migrants are single young males, and many are involved in violent crimes in Salcete

– Vinay Patker, Advocate

The growing migrant activities have become a cause for concern, compounded by limited police resources, inadequate preventive measures, and insufficient night patrols

– Senior citizen, Margao

He also alleged that economically weaker migrants from states like Karnataka, West Bengal, Odisha, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Manipur often take up jobs in construction, restaurants, workshops, and petrol stations. He warned that some hutments housing these migrants might provide shelter to hardened criminals, calling for increased police vigilance.

Residents echoed these concerns, noting that gangs of migrants are often seen moving freely in coastal and town areas, with minimal police checks. A senior citizen alleged, "Night and day patrolling are carried out only for formality and in selected areas. Crimes like theft, burglary, drug abuse, and sexual offences have increased in areas with a high migrant population."

The police, however, maintain that they are taking adequate measures. They cite tenant and servant verification processes, where details are sent to the Margao head office for validation, as an effective tool in crime detection. "These steps have helped us detect cases and reduce crime rates," claimed a police spokesperson.

ders in the jurisdiction of Maina Curtorim Police Station, while Colva, Fator-da, Quepem, Vasco, Ponda, Mardol, and Collem each reported one case. Similarly, 10 cases of attempted murder were reported and resolved in the same period, with Maina Curtorim

and Fator-da registering two cases each, and other police stations like Colva, Cuncolim, Quepem, Verna, and Ponda reporting one case each.

In 2022, the region recorded 25 murders, with 23 cases solved. Attempted murder cases in 2022

stood at seven, compared to 18 in 2021. Most of the accused in these crimes were identified as migrant labourers.

Adv Vinay Patker, emphasised the correlation between the influx of migrants and the rise in violent crimes. "The number

of migrant workers has risen significantly in the last decade due to job opportunities. Over 70 per cent of these migrants are single young males, and many are involved in violent crimes in Salcete. This demands urgent attention," he stated.

APPOINTMENTS



GOA BOARD OF SECONDARY AND HIGHER SECONDARY EDUCATION

(A Corporate Statutory Body constitute by an Act of the State Legislature)

Alto Betim, Barddez Goa 403521
sec-gbshse.goa@nic.in www.gbshse.in Ph.: 08322417593

GBSHSE/EST/DRIV-ON-CON/2024-25/038 Date: 06/01/2025

WALK-IN INTERVIEW

Appointment of Driver at Goa Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education, Alto Betim Goa, on contractual basis for initial period for 01 year and extension subject to approval from competent authority.

Sr No	Designation	No. of Post	Qualification/Eligibility	Consolidated Remuneration per Month in Rs.
1.	Driver	01	Essentials: 1) Secondary School Certificate 2) Driving License issued by (R.T.O) Regional Transport Office. 3) Knowledge of English and Marathi. 4) Resident of Goa-Latest certificate of 15 years residence from Competent Authority. Desirable: 1) Knowledge of Konkani	Rs. 25,000/-

Interested Candidate may attend the walk-in-interview at the O/o Secretary, Goa Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education, Alto Betim, Goa, on 27/01/2025 at 10.00 a.m. along with original and photo copies of documents justifying their educational qualifications (SSC Marksheet & Certificate), birth certificate, 15 years valid resident of Goa certificate, valid employment card, valid driving license along with copy of bio-data. The copies shall be inscribed with the statement "This certificate is true copy of the original" and self-attested below the statement. (Copy of bio-data should be attached with self-attested photocopies of relevant documents and one latest passport size photograph). Candidates appearing for the interview will not be paid any TA/DA.

Selected candidate shall be required to join immediately. The decision of the interview panel shall be final and binding. After recruitment, if candidate wants to discontinue working, within the minimum notice period of 1 month, one-month salary will be forfeited. In case the candidate discontinues to work within 6 months of appointment then the next candidate in the rank as per interview panel may be given opportunity.

Sd/- (Vidhyadatta B. Naik)
Secretary

O HERALDO

The Voice of Goa - since 1900

Pak airstrikes on Afghan soil are both tragic and ironical

India's sharp condemnation of Pakistan's recent air-strike on civilian areas in Afghanistan underscores a broader regional concern that has plagued South Asia for decades: Pakistan's unchecked military actions and the tragic toll they take on innocent lives. But beyond that, there is also an unspoken sense within India's strategic planning circles that the boot is finally on the other foot.

Pakistan, which nurtured and fed the Taliban for decades and was its principal support system, is finally feeling the heat of terrorism.

India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) expressed unequivocal disapproval of the December 26 airstrikes, which claimed the lives of at least 46 civilians, including women and children. The civilian carnage in Afghanistan's eastern Paktika province has drawn widespread condemnation, with India's spokesperson, Randhir Jaiswal, remarking that "it is an old practice of Pakistan to blame its neighbours for its own internal failures."

However, that does not mean that Pakistan's military, which often justifies its cross-border military actions as counter-terrorism operations, has toned down the rhetoric. This time, they framed the attacks as part of their struggle against the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), a militant group based in Afghanistan.

Yet, for Kabul, the narrative is painfully different. Afghan officials are categorically rejecting Pakistan's version, arguing that these attacks primarily targeted refugees, not insurgents, and violated international norms of conduct. The Afghan Ministry of Defence's swift activation of its new missile systems and strong condemnation show that the government is prepared to take this challenge head-on.

Afghan officials, particularly from the Taliban-run government in Kabul, have denounced the strikes as a violation of Afghan sovereignty and a "blatant act of aggression". Enayatullah Khwarazmi, a spokesperson for Afghanistan's Ministry of National Defence, has made it clear that the Afghan government would respond to this "cowardly act," and the foreign ministry has lodged a formal protest, warning that such incursions cannot go unanswered.

Afghanistan's response to the attack—a formal protest and the summoning of Pakistan's ambassador—reflects a growing impatience with Pakistan's military tactics. Afghanistan's growing military capabilities, including the activation of the Milan Konkursi missile system, signal a readiness to confront such challenges head-on. These developments suggest that Kabul is prepared to meet military incursions with force, should the need arise. As tensions between the two countries escalate, the broader implications for regional security and bilateral relations are significant. Both Afghanistan and Pakistan have long accused each other of harbouring militants, with Pakistan claiming that Afghanistan does little to curb the TTP's activities and Afghanistan accusing Pakistan of violating its territorial integrity.

The civilian toll—predominantly women and children, many of whom had fled previous military operations in Pakistan's northwest—speaks volumes about the indifference toward human life in these regions. As tragic as it is, the situation was almost inevitable given the long-standing accusations against Pakistan of fomenting trouble on Afghan soil and its recurring military actions against what it claims are militant groups. However, when the line between counterterrorism operations and acts of aggression blurs, the distinction between combatants and non-combatants becomes dangerously irrelevant.

Pakistan's claim to be combating terrorism on Afghan soil, however, rings hollow when the victims are civilians caught in the crossfire of geopolitical manoeuvring. As India rightly points out, this is not the first time Pakistan has engaged in such actions under the guise of counter-terrorism.

The consistent pattern of shifting the blame to its neighbours while disregarding international law and the sanctity of human life cannot go unnoticed.

India's reaction is a reminder of the precarious regional stability and the dangers of unchecked military aggression.

The attacks in Paktika show that violence, especially in conflict zones, must never be justified by the ends. Innocent lives, including women and children, are always the ultimate cost of such policies. India's diplomatic position on the matter is a reinforcement of its long-standing concern about Pakistan's destabilizing activities across the region, making it clear that the time for complacency is over.

As the situation unfolds, it is clear that the stakes in this volatile region continue to rise. The consequences of these military strikes—both in terms of human lives lost and the diplomatic fallout—will likely shape the trajectory of relations between India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and other neighbouring countries. The lesson is clear: violence cannot be justified by its supposed objectives, and the price of these policies will always be measured in the lives of innocent civilians. As India's response demonstrates, there is no room for tolerance of such actions in a peaceful, civilised world.



SIDDHARTH DESAI

The year began with a remarkable milestone on March 11, when the Defence Research and Development Organization successfully conducted the first flight test of an indigenously developed Agni Fire Missile featuring Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle technology



tal production, while the private sector accounted for 20.8%. This progress sets a solid foundation for the government's ambitious target of reaching Rs. 3 lakh crores in defence production by 2029. Additionally, India emerged as a key player in global defence exports, with exports reaching a historic Rs. 21,083 crores in FY 2023-24,

India's rise as a Global Defence Power in 2024

In 2024, India experienced a transformative year, significantly bolstering its military capabilities and enhancing its strategic status in the global defence landscape. The government's Atmanirbharta initiative, aimed at fostering self-reliance and indigenisation in defence and security, led to critical policy reforms, strategic partnerships, and technological advancements. This commitment to self-sufficiency positioned India closer to its ambition of becoming a formidable global power.

The year began with a remarkable milestone on March 11, when the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) successfully conducted the first flight test of an indigenously developed Agni Fire Missile featuring Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology. This cutting-edge technology allows a single missile to carry and deploy multiple independent re-entry vehicles, enabling precise targeting of various objectives.

Although MIRV technology has existed since the 1960s and is held by several major nations, including China, this marked India's inaugural achievement in developing it. This successful test signified a major leap in India's strategic deterrence capabilities, placing it alongside nations like the US, Russia, the UK, France, and China. A significant highlight of 2024 was the unprecedented growth in Indigenous defence production. India achieved a record production value of Rs. 1.27 lakh crores, reflecting a 16.7% increase from the previous year. This remarkable growth underscores the effectiveness of government initiatives and policies aimed at enhancing local manufacturing. Public sector undertakings (DPSUs) and other PSUs contributed to 79.2% of to-

marking a 32.5% increase from the previous year. Over the last decade, Indian defence exports have expanded 31-fold, reinforcing India's position as a vital exporter in the global defence market.

In July 2024, the commitment to Atmanirbharta continued with the release of the Positive Indigenization List (PIL) by the Department of Defence Production (DDP). This fifth PIL included 346 critical items such as weapon systems, sensors, and essential components for defence production. Previous PILs had already totalled 4,666 items, of which 2,972 had been indigenized, with an import substitution value of Rs. 3,400 crores. These lists aim to minimize reliance on imports, particularly in strategically vital sectors like aerospace, armaments, and ammunition.

The year also witnessed substantial advancements in technology and the introduction of new defence platforms, further enhancing India's military capabilities. In September, India approved capital acquisition proposals amounting to Rs 1.44 lakh crores, with 99% of funding directed toward indigenous projects. Key initiatives included Future Ready Combat Vehicles and Project 17B stealth frigates for the Indian Navy. Additional contracts were awarded for AL-31FP jet engines for Sukhoi Su-30MKI fighters and advanced unmanned underwater vehicles.

A landmark moment occurred in October when Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez inaugurated India's first private military aircraft manufacturing facility in Vadodra, Gujarat. The Tata Airbus project aims to locally produce 40 C295 Tactical Transport Aircraft, supplementing the 16 units imported from Spain under a Rs. 21,935 crore contract signed in 2021. The C295, designed for medical evacuations, disaster response, and maritime patrol missions, is expected to begin rolling out from the Vadodra assembly line by September 2026.

Also in October, India and the United States finalized a \$3.3 billion contract for 31 MQ-9B Predator drones, with allocations for the Indian Navy, Army, and Air Force. These drones, known for their surveillance and intelligence capabilities, can reach altitudes of 40,000 feet and remain airborne for nearly 40 hours. The MQ-9B drones are designed to perform multiple roles, including maritime surveillance and anti-submarine warfare, establishing maintenance facilities in India.

Another significant achievement was the development of the Indian Light Tank Zorawar, which completed rigorous trials, including high-altitude tests beyond 4,200 meters.

This development enhances India's strategic options, particularly in border areas where mobility and firepower are crucial. The Indian Army also announced the establishment of the Signals Technology Evaluation and Adaptation Group (STEAG) to research and evaluate emerging technologies like AI, 5G, and quantum technologies to improve military capabilities.

Throughout 2024, several significant inductions further bolstered India's defence readiness. The commissioning of the second Arihant-class submarine, INS Arighat, on August 29, showcased advanced design and manufacturing techniques. Notably, it integrated indigenous systems and equipment developed by Indian scientists and industry. Similarly, the INS Tushil, a multi-role stealth-guided missile frigate, was commissioned on December 9, equipped for diverse naval warfare operations.

The Indian Army's diplomatic activities expanded significantly, engaging with 118 countries through various defence cooperation initiatives. The army's reorganization efforts increased the number of defence wings from 45 to 52, with new wings established in Poland, Algeria, Ethiopia, and Mozambique. The army participated in 39 joint exercises, promoting themes like Yoga and Nari Shakti, while women officers gained equal opportunities for career advancement. On August 1, Lt. Gen. Sadhna Saxena Nair became the first woman to serve in the DGMS Army, reflecting the growing role of women in defence.

The year also saw significant infrastructure development, with the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) and other agencies constructing essential road networks in border areas. The Defence Minister inaugurated 75 infrastructure projects across 11 states and union territories, including roads and bridges.

Efforts to maintain peace along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) resulted in successful disengagement and troop relocation, allowing for resumed joint patrols in sensitive regions.

Looking forward, the achievements of 2024 lay a robust foundation for India's defence future. By prioritizing self-reliance, Indigenous production, and strategic partnerships, India is positioning itself as a formidable force in the global defence landscape. As it aims to become a \$5 trillion economy by 2029, the expanding defence sector will play a crucial role in securing its status as a global power, contributing to both national security and economic growth.

(The author is an advocate by profession)

City needs organised transportation system

The frequent and unpredictable closures and re-openings of roads in Panaji have created significant traffic congestion and frustration for commuters. This has led to a disregard for traffic rules, with many drivers now ignoring "No Entry" signs to circumvent the chaos. This is making things dangerously unsafe too.

To mitigate these issues, it is crucial to implement more structured traffic management plans during roadwork. Implementing an "Odd-Even" system, where vehicles with odd-numbered and even-numbered license plates are allowed on alternate days, could significantly reduce traffic volume and alleviate congestion while construction work is underway. This measure would not only improve traffic flow but also contribute to a more organized and efficient transportation system in the city.

To minimize disruption caused by road closures, daily maps indicating open and closed roads should be published in local newspapers until the work is completed.

Piyush Panchal, by email

Great arrangements for the Exposition

Truly a wonderful and memorable experience, left me amazed at the arrangements made which synchronized like clockwork, hundreds of volunteers devoting their precious time guiding pushing the wheelchairs of the disabled with dedication expecting no reward, the use of electric Golf carts to ferry the elderly and handicapped persons was an intelligent solution.

letterstotheeditor

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

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

Instinctively I reached my pocket to give a tip, when I raised my head I saw a board on the e-buggy which politely read 'Please do not tip'. I soon realized that service of love and affection cannot be repaid with money in true spirit of the saint we came to venerate, in all we need to appreciate the excellent organisation put up by church, volunteers, holy congregation of bishops, priests, sisters, helpers for their punctuality, a big round of applause to the impresario of this great event Sandip Jaques IAS and Fr Henry Falcão the coordinator, Fr Lawrence and Fr Patricio.

The live choir of young violinists gave an atmosphere of serenity and tranquility. My late father who was a lawyer used to travel often via Borim to Panjim would stop at Old Goa to pray for Divine wisdom for fair justice.

Old Goa still maintains its antiquity from 75 years back. Thanks to the government of Pramod Sawant for his generosity and help. The meaning Acronym of DNA has to be changed now to Divine Noble Acts. Agnello Furtado, Chinchinim

Road digging never ends

People heaved a sigh of relief that the Smart City work was over. Road digging continues under Smart City causing chaos along the Don Bosco school road, near the market and other places. Now the roads have to be re-laid again once the works are complete. It's a blatant misuse of taxpayers money.

Most of the public concerns

stem from roads being re-dug often. It has become a common sight for us to see the roads being dug very often in almost all the areas.

Due to digging of roads, traffic congestion and haphazard parking in the state capital has created chaos. This is a miserable image of Goa which is supposed to be a tourist destination. These dug up roads are impacting business and commuters. It also leads to air pollution which is an alarming subject for the health of citizens.

Pedestrians and vehicle users are the worst affected. Free movement of vehicles is hindered and it has become a nightmare for motorists to navigate.

K G Vilop, Choroa

Loud music has negative effects on children

It is learnt that the Ahmedabad district Child Protection Unit has reportedly issued a notice to the British rock band 'Coldplay' not to allow children below five years at the concert to be held in the city.

The notice also stated that children between 5-18 years should be allowed with ear plugs in order to ensure that loud noise does not pose any damage to their ears. Compare this with the children living along the coastal belt in Goa being subjected to loud music every single night.

These pubs play loud music beyond the permissible time limit, and also much louder than levels permitted. Compared to adults, children may be more vulnerable to noise effects because they are

growing and developing. Loud music for long periods of time can have many negative effects on children, including hearing loss.

Other negative effects include increased heart rate and heightened emotional responses. Elevated blood pressure and other cardiovascular ailments can be found in children who are chronically exposed to loud noise. Loud music produces stress and sleep problems. It can cause stomach upset. It affects their ability to concentrate and remember things which in turn causes a decline in their learning ability. A study of the effect of loud music on children living along the coastal belt needs to be carried out by the health department which will give a clear picture of the extent of damage that has been caused.

Adelmo Fernandes, Vasco

Constant repairs of New Patto Bridge

The picture titled, "Bridge Bottleneck," (O Herald, 4.1.2025) depicts the repairs being undertaken last week of the New Patto Bridge. In November 2024, during the peak of the monsoon season, large crevices had formed along the expansion joints on the part of the bridge coming into the city. A temporary arrangement was made by covering it with steel plates. On Friday (3rd Jan) the same spot was being repaired and there was a traffic pile-up till Divja Circle. The work could have carried out at night,

people'sedit

WHAT IS A NEW YEAR?

SANDHYA VASUDEV

New Year, that is, the first of January, was around and social media platforms were flooded with messages and videos.

I remember a colleague who would be attired in everything new including new shoes, socks and handkerchief. A few others would attend office bleary eyed, having stayed up late cutting cakes and celebrating with family and friends.

We family members much earlier during teen years had a practice of calling up one another at midnight December 31 and wishing Happy New Year. The telephone lines were sure to be engaged and available only after several attempts.

In retrospect, I wonder as to what has made anyone celebrate the New Year. It is merely a numeral change and the day will be like any other. Is it the feeling that something old has passed by and the anticipation that the number change will bring about a change in one's fortunes? From centuries the years have been marked to chronicle history. A little peek behind the celebration of January 1 as the New Year will help.

In ancient Egypt, the New Year began in mid-July when the brightest star, Sirius, appeared in the sky. In ancient Rome, the New Year began in March (known as Martius) when new heads of state took over power. A later king added two more months, Ianuarius and Februarius to cover the winter period. Ianuarius was incidentally named to honour the God of beginnings, Janus. When Julius Caesar took power in 46 BC, he got experts to create a new solar calendar which was the Julian calendar, and the civil year officially began on January 1. But this calendar had a discrepancy and by the mid 15th century it was off the solar cycle by many days. The Catholic church noticed this and Pope Gregory XIII introduced a new calendar, and thus the Gregorian calendar was born which also formalized January 1 as the beginning of New Year.

Although different cultures have different new year traditions like Pongal, Ugadi, Baisakhi, Navroz, Hijri, Diwali, the Gregorian calendar has now been adopted as the international-standard civil calendar for official purposes. So is it any wonder that everyone celebrates the change in calendar year?

Let it be a time to reflect on what went wrong and right, and the possible reasons behind them. It is a time to learn from past mistakes and to motivate oneself to go forward in a different way, never to commit the same blunders. It is a time to promise oneself that come what may, to spread positivity, and to speak up against injustice and oppression, both at personal and social levels. It is time for new calendar resolutions and promises to oneself of patching up, forgiving and forgetting. The calendar helps to chronicle events and consequent memories, so let us signal creation of new memories, hopefully better than before.

Wishing everyone all the best for the year 2025.

instead of at mid-day and on a working day when the roads are packed with locals and tourists.

This bridge, with entry into and exit from Panaji has been in the news for the wrong reasons. Some years back, a crack had developed on the side of the bridge exiting from the city and was patched up. Fixing steel plates would not solve the problem. This bridge being an important link needs to be well-maintained and re-built at places before any unfortunate incident takes place.

Sridhar D'Iyer, Caranzalem

Guarantee MSP for farmers

The protest of 'fast-unto-death' by the tenacious Punjab farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal sends a strong message to the ruling BJP that his fight for the legal guarantee to Minimum Support Price is for farmers from all States, and not just restricted to Punjab alone.

The MSP for key agricultural commodities has been a persistent sticking point in the negotiations between the government and the farmers. Over the years the problems of Indian farmers have worsened as farm incomes have been squeezed by slower output growth, higher costs and increased vulnerability to changing climates.

It is neither the paucity of funds nor the lack of infrastructural and institutional mechanisms to ensure a guaranteed MSP, but basically a lack of understanding of what agriculture needs and above all a lack of political commitment to ensure remunerative prices to farmers.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, Chennai



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan during a meeting, in New Delhi, on Monday



A municipal worker at a sewage treatment plant during a cold and foggy winter morning, at Sangam, in Prayagraj, on Monday



Rescue work underway after a Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) bus fell into a gorge, in Idukki district, Kerala, on Monday



Students at an event organised to celebrate Maharashtra Police Raising Day, in Thane, Mumbai, on Monday

alloverindia



A social worker stages a demonstration to urge devotees to keep Ganga river clean, ahead of Maha Kumbh Mela 2025, in Prayagraj, on Monday

Six held for murdering four persons in MP
SINGRAULI (MP): Police have arrested five persons and detained a minor boy for allegedly killing four men and dumping their bodies in a septic tank of a house in Madhya Pradesh's Singrauli district on January 4, an official said on Monday. A senior police officer said a property dispute with one of the slain persons triggered the crime. While three men were shot dead, another was attacked with a rod and strangled to death. The four bodies were found dumped on Saturday evening in the septic tank of a house under Bargawan police station limits, 30 km from the Singrauli district headquarters, police said. "The slain men partied for three days to celebrate New Year in the house owned by Suresh Prajapati (who was also killed)," said Deputy Inspector General Saket Pandey.

Woman, daughter escape attack by rhino during safari in Kaziranga
KAZIRANGA (ASSAM): A woman and her daughter had a close shave in Assam's Kaziranga National Park (KNP) when they fell off a safari vehicle with a rhino in close proximity, an official said on Monday. The girl fell from the open vehicle while they were taking a safari inside the Bagori range of the KNP and her mother jumped out to pick her up on Sunday. A rhino waiting nearby was seen moving towards them in a video that has gone viral on social media. The driver, however, stopped the vehicle and the two climbed into it again. The two were not injured but were taken for medical aid as they were in a state of shock for a while. The official pointed out that tourists should be careful while taking a safari inside the KNP. He urged all tourists to follow the rules strictly.

Country determined to completely eradicate Naxalism: Prez Murmu
NEW DELHI: President Droupadi Murmu on Monday condoled the loss of lives in the Chhattisgarh Naxal attack and said that the country is determined to completely eradicate Naxalism. Eight jawans of the District Reserve Guard (DRG) and a civilian driver were killed after the Naxals blew up their vehicle with a powerful improvised explosive device (IED) in the state's Bijapur district on Monday. It is the biggest strike by Maoists on security forces in the state in the last two years and the first assault in 2025. "The Naxalite attack on security forces in Bijapur, Chhattisgarh is condemnable. I express my deepest condolences to the bereaved families of the brave soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice for the security of the country. "Our country is determined to completely eradicate Naxalism," Murmu said in a post on X in Hindi.

Clash between two families after woman's 'abduction', FIRs filed in UP
GORAKHPUR: A dispute between two families from different communities escalated into a clash in Uttar Pradesh's Kushinagar district following the disappearance of a woman, police said on Monday. Jai Kumar, a resident of Laukariya village in Kushinagar, lodged a complaint with the police after his daughter went missing on December 28, 2024, officials said. According to the complaint his daughter was married to man in Gorakhpur's Gulriha area. In the complaint, Jai Kumar alleged that Roz Muhammad, who also belongs to Laukariya village, abducted his daughter, leading to heightened tensions and physical altercation between the families, the police said. On January 2, the Gorakhpur police questioned Roz Muhammad's father Ali Hasan based on the complaint, the officials said.

NDRF rescues nine family members from drowning in Ganga
MAHAKUMBH NAGAR: The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) personnel stationed at the Maha Kumbh Mela site rescued nine members of a family from drowning in the Ganga River on Monday, officials said. An NDRF official stated that Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Manoj Kumar Sharma was visiting Arail Ghat on Monday when he noticed a boat carrying nine individuals drifting uncontrollably in the strong current. The family members on the boat were shouting for help. "Upon hearing their cries, DIG Sharma immediately directed the NDRF team to enter the river and rescue the stranded family. The team successfully brought all nine individuals to safety," the official said, adding that those on board were members of the same family.

8 jawans among 9 killed in Naxal IED blast in Chhattisgarh

Naxals launch biggest attack in 2 years with 70kg IED

PTI, BIJAPUR: In their biggest strike on security forces in Chhattisgarh in two years, Naxals blew up a vehicle using an improvised explosive device weighing 60 to 70kg, killing eight District Reserve Guard (DRG) jawans and their civilian driver in Bijapur district on Monday, police said. Police suspect the powerful IED was planted long back along the route used by DRG, a state police unit involved in anti-insurgency operations. The explosive device went off near Ambeli village under the Kutru police station area at around 2.15 pm when DRG personnel from Dantewada district were returning in their Scorpio vehicle after an anti-Naxalite operation, Inspector General of Police (Bastar Range) Sundarraaj P said. Eight DRG jawans travelling in the SUV and the driver of the vehicle were killed on the spot, located around 70km from district headquarters Bijapur, the official added.



Debris at the site following the death of eight jawans of District Reserve Guards (DRG) and a civilian driver after Naxals blew up their vehicle with an improvised explosive device, in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district, on Monday

DRG draws its personnel mostly from local tribal population and ranks of surrendered Naxalites. Reinforcement was rushed to the spot and the bodies were being evacuated. A search operation was launched in the area by security forces to hunt down those responsible for the killings, the IPS officer informed. The DRG personnel targeted by Left-wing extremists were involved in an anti-Naxalite operation carried out for three days on the borders of Narayanpur, Dantewada and Bijapur districts in the Bastar region by joint teams of security personnel, the IG said. Five Naxalites were killed in the three-day-long operation and one DRG head constable also lost his life, he said. After the operation, DRG personnel from Dantewada were returning to their base in the vehicle when the attack occurred, Sundarraaj added. "It seems the IED used in the attack weighed 60kg to 70kg. However, forensic

experts are at the spot to gather exact details," Deputy Inspector General of Police (south Bastar) Kamlochan Kashyap said. Preliminary investigation suggests the IED was old and planted long ago as wires connected to it were buried deep in the ground and grass had grown on the layer of soil over the device, he said. Kashyap admitted there were lapses which led to the tragic incident, but did not elaborate further. During an inspection of the blast site, around 150-metre-long wire connected to the trigger of the command IED was recovered, officials said. Visuals from the spot, around 400km from state capital Raipur, showed a huge crater, more than 10-feet deep, splitting the concrete road after the blast. The vehicle was completely destroyed in the explosion while dismembered bodies were seen placed on plastic sheets. A part of the SUV was seen hanging on a nearby tree.

Journalist murder case: Main accused nabbed from Hyderabad

PTI, BIJAPUR: Suresh Chandrakar, the prime accused in the murder of a journalist in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district, has been arrested from Hyderabad by a Special Investigation Team (SIT), police said on Monday. The accused, a contractor by profession, was absconding since the murder of journalist Mukesh Chandrakar came to light on January 3, they. The SIT, constituted to conduct the probe into the murder case, rounded up Suresh Chandrakar from Hyderabad late Sunday night, Inspector General of Police (Bastar Range) Sundarraaj P told PTI. The accused was brought to Bijapur on Monday morning and his interrogation was underway, the official said. Suresh Chandrakar's brothers Ritesh Chandrakar and Dinesh Chandrakar and supervisor Mahendra Ramteke have already been arrested in the case, he said. Mukesh Chandrakar (33), a freelance journalist, went missing on January 1. His body was found on January 3 in a septic tank on a property owned by Suresh Chan-

drakar at Chattanpara Basti in Bijapur town, police earlier said. The deceased worked as a freelance journalist for the NDTV news channel and also ran a YouTube channel, 'Bastar Junction', which has some 1.59 lakh subscribers. A news report highlighting alleged corruption in a road construction work in Bijapur, that was shown on NDTV on December 25, is being discussed as the motive behind Mukesh Chandrakar's murder. The said construction work was linked to contractor Suresh Chandrakar. Chhattisgarh Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma had claimed that Suresh Chandrakar was a Congress leader. The opposition party, however, claimed the accused joined the ruling BJP recently. Authorities have initiated action against the accused's illegal properties and encroachments. A construction yard built by Suresh Chandrakar after usurping forest land along the Bijapur-Gangaloor Road has been razed, local officials had said.

COURAGE DEFINED



Female candidates take part in a recruitment rally for Agniveer General Duty (Women Military Police), in Bengaluru, on Monday

400+ flights delayed at Delhi

PTI, NEW DELHI: More than 400 flights were delayed at the Delhi airport on Monday due to low visibility conditions caused by adverse weather. An official said there were no flight diversions at the airport. "Low visibility procedures are still in progress at Delhi Airport. However, there has been no impact on flight operations. According to the official, over 400 flights were delayed on Monday.

India condemns Pakistan airstrikes on Afghanistan

PTI, NEW DELHI: India on Monday "unequivocally" condemned Pakistani airstrikes on Afghanistan and said it is Islamabad's old practice to blame its neighbours for its internal failures. Pakistan carried out airstrikes in certain areas in Afghanistan in what it said was aimed at targeting some terrorist hideouts. "We have noted the media reports on airstrikes

We have noted the media reports on airstrikes on Afghan civilians, including women and children, in which several precious lives have been lost. We unequivocally condemn any attack on innocent civilians — **Randhir Jaiswal, External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson** on Afghan civilians, includ-

ing women and children, in which several precious lives have been lost. We unequivocally condemn any attack on innocent civilians," External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. "It is an old practice of Pakistan to blame its neighbours for its own internal failures. We have also noted the response of an Afghan spokesperson in this regard," he said.

India ranks above global avg in spoken English, Delhi leads chart: Pearson report

PTI, NEW DELHI: India ranks above global average in speaking English with Delhi leading the chart followed by Rajasthan, according to Global English Proficiency Report by Pearson. The report released on Monday is an in-depth analysis of English proficiency trends across India, the Philippines, Japan, Egypt, Colombia and Europe. The Pearson Global English Proficiency Report 2024 aggregated and analysed data from approximately 750,000 Versant tests conducted worldwide, offering a detailed snapshot of current skill levels and emerging trends. Versant by Pearson is an English Language assessment tool that accurately and efficiently evaluates candidates' English language

The Pearson Global English Proficiency Report 2024 aggregated and analysed data from approximately 750,000 Versant tests conducted worldwide, offering a detailed snapshot of current skill levels and emerging trends. Versant by Pearson is an English Language assessment tool that accurately and efficiently evaluates candidates' English language proficiency, assisting businesses in hiring the best talent suited for their needs

proficiency, assisting businesses in hiring the best talent suited for their needs. The report cited that while India's average English skills score (52) is lower than the global average English skills score (57), the country's average English speaking score (57) is higher (54). The report also said India's average English writing score (61) is equivalent to the global average writing score (61). Delhi led with the high-

est English speaking score (63) followed by Rajasthan (60) and Punjab (58). "In today's global economy, English proficiency is not just a skill but a strategic asset. The Pearson Global English Proficiency Report 2024 provides business leaders with the data-driven insights they need to make informed decisions about hiring and developing their workforce. By integrating these insights into their talent strategies, organizations can enhance their competitive edge and drive growth," said Giovanni Giovannelli, president of Pearson's English Language Learning division. According to the report, the Indian market has experienced significant growth in English skills in recent years, which is predicted to continue, with an emphasis on voice-based testing. "Indian Business leaders know that accurately testing English skills reduces the cost of mis-hires and protects credibility, particularly when hiring at scale. India's average writing score is 61, matching the global average, reflecting steady improvements driven by increased digital communication and the necessity for written English in global business contexts," it said.

Prashant Kishor arrested, 43 supporters detained

PTI, PATNA: Jan Suraj founder Prashant Kishor, who was on a fast-unto-death at Gandhi Maidan in Patna to demand the cancellation of a Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC) exam, was arrested early on Monday, police said. According to a senior police officer, Kishor and his supporters were removed from the protest site as the demonstration was being held near a restricted area, making it "illegal." Kishor was arrested on the fifth day of his protest over an alleged question paper leak in the December 13 examination conducted by Bihar PSC. According to Jan Suraj party's supporters, police took Kishor to Patna

AIIMS for a medical examination. They also alleged that security personnel manhandled and slapped Kishor while taking him into custody. Talking to PTI, Patna District Magistrate (DM) Chandrashekar Singh said, "Yes, Kishor and his supporters, who were on a dharna at Gandhi Maidan, were arrested by police on Monday morning. They will be produced before a court." The DM said their demonstration was "illegal" as they were holding it near the restricted site. Patna Police had registered a case against Kishor for holding the fast-unto-death at Gandhi Maidan's restricted site, another official said.

BEFORE THE MAMLATDAR/Jt-MAMLATDAR OF BARDEZ, Goa
Case No. MUT/14554/314555/Margao/2024
Shri. Anil Maruti Mohite, Treasurer, r/o Flat no. BF-3, Green Empire, Gogol, Margao, Salcete, Goa. Applicants
Vs
1. Akar Creations Pvt. Ltd., ... Respondents
To, The above named respondents/legal heirs

PUBLIC NOTICE
WHEREAS, the above named Applicant Anil Maruti Mohite, Treasurer r/o Flat no. BF-3, Green Empire, Gogol, Margao, Salcete, Goa had requested in his mutation application to include name of their Society, The Green Empire Co-Operative Housing Society Limited in the occupants column after deleting the name of existing holder, Akar Creations Pvt. Ltd. in respect of Form D of Chalta No.15/3 and 15/4 of PT Sheet No. 120 of Margao City of Salcete Taluka. The right acquired by virtue of Deed of Conveyance registered under No. MGO-1-3695-2023 dated 01-09-2023 executed before the Sub-Registrar of Salcete Taluka.

WHEREAS, The notices in Form G was sent to all the interested parties by registered A.D., however some of the notices could not be served and returned unserved to the sender with postal remark expired, incomplete address, house locked, not known, insufficient address and party out of station Etc.

AND WHEREAS, the aforesaid applicant by application dated: 13/12/2024, has prayed for substitute service by means of publication in the Local Daily newspaper under, order V rule 20 (1A) of the C.P.C. 1908. As the applicant has submitted that they are not aware about the correct addresses of the respondents/their heirs if any for effecting personal service of the notice and prayed to serve notice by way of publication in the local newspaper. Whereas I am satisfied that this is a fit case for such a publication.

NOW THEREFORE, all the interested parties are hereby given notice of the said mutation entry and called upon to file their objection if any to the mutation entry in the office of Mamlatdar/Jt. Mamlatdar of Salcete within fifteen days from the date of publication of this notice alongwith material/documentary evidence on which you rely upon in person or through authorized agent, failing which deem fit action under relevant provision of the Goa, Daman Diu Land Revenue code, 1968 will be taken in your absence.

Given under my hand & Seal on this 27th day of December 2024.

(SEAL) Sd/- Mamlatdar/Jt. Mamlatdar of Salcete Margao-Goa.

diya-9763624344

Before the Mamlatdar/ Jt-Mamlatdar of BARDEZ, Goa
Case No. MUT/99168/Siolim/2025
Felicia Carolina Fernandes, resident of House no.447/1, Tropa, Siolim, Bardez, Goa 403517 presently residing at Flat no. B/1, 2nd Floor, 118, Ulacon Co-op Housing Society Ltd, Vakola, St. Anthony Street, Santacruz (East), Mumbai, Maharashtra 400055.Applicant
Vs
1. Lawrence Francis Fernandes alias Lorence Fernandes alias Lourenco Francisco Fernandes alias Lawrence Fernandes, ...Respondents
2. Christina Laurence Fernandes alias Cristalina Piedade Fernandes alias Piedade Joana Cristalina Fernandes alias Christina Laurence Fernandes, ...Respondents
3. Maria Fernandes alias Mary Lawrence Francis Fernandes, ...Respondents
To, The above named respondents/ legal heirs,

PUBLIC NOTICE
Applicant Felicia Carolina Fernandes, resident of House no.447/1,Tropa, Siolim, Bardez, Goa 403517 presently residing at Flat no. B/1, 2nd Floor, 118, Ulacon Co-op Housing Society Ltd, Vakola, St. Anthony Street, Santacruz (East), Mumbai, Maharashtra 400055, has filed the application U/S 96 of Goa Land Revenue Code 1968 for Mutation in property bearing Survey no. 212/15 of village Siolim Taluka Bardez Goa. Applicant has acquired the right over the property by virtue of Order in inventory proceeding no. 456/2024/D dated 17/10/2024 passed in the court of the civil Judge Junior Division at Mapusa Goa. Therefore applicant requested to include her name in the occupant column of form I and XIV of above mentioned sy.no., by deleting existing name of Lorence Fernandes.

WHEREAS, The notices in Form X was sent to all the interested parties by registered A.D., however some of the notices could not be served and returned unserved to the sender with postal remark expired, incomplete address, house locked, not known, insufficient address and party out of station Etc.

AND WHEREAS, the aforesaid applicant by application dated: 30-12-2024 has prayed for substitute service by means of displaying on the website of Directorate of Settlement and Land Records, Panaji (https://dsir.goa.gov.in/PublicSubNotice_Mutation.aspx) as per Rule 10 sub rule (2) of Goa Land Revenue (Records of Rights and Register of Cultivators) (Amendment) Rules 2021. As the applicant has submitted that they are not aware about the correct addresses of the respondents/their heirs if any for effecting personal service of the notice and prayed to serve notice by way of displaying on Directorate of Settlement and Land Records website. Whereas I am satisfied that this is a fit case for such a publication.

NOW THEREFORE, all the interested persons are hereby given notice of the said mutation entry and called upon to file their objection if any in the office of Mamlatdar/ Jt. Mamlatdar of BARDEZ within fifteen days from the date of displaying of this notice on the DSLR website along with material/ documentary evidence on which you rely upon in person or through authorized agent, failing which deem fit action under section 96 of the Goa, Land Revenue code, 1968 will be taken in your absence.

Given under my hand & Seal on this 06 January, 2025
Date 06-01-2025

Sd/- Jenisa Pereira
Mamlatdar/Jt. Mamlatdar cum
Certifying Officer
BARDEZ

(SEAL)

KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of India Undertaking)

TENDER NOTICE
On behalf of Regional Railway Manager, Sr. Regional Engineer invites following open tenders on www.ireps.gov.in system. **Name of the Work:** Reconditioning of Wheel Burns / Scabs and Reconditioning of cupped welded joints using RDSO approved technology on running rails under SSE/P-way/ Bhaktal section in Karwar region of Konkan Railway in Konkata State. **Tender No.: KR/KWOL/W/2024/106-RB. Cost of the work in Lakhs: Rs.31.36 lakh** Excluding GST. **Closing Date & Time:** 27.01.2025 at 15.00 Hrs. For further details, contact Office of Sr. Regional Engineer, Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. Karwar. For more details visit (<https://www.ireps.gov.in>).



Prez Joe Biden speaks at a reception for new Democratic members of Cong in the State Dining Room of the White House, in Washington



US Secy of State Antony Blinken (R), and South Korea's National Assembly Speaker Woo Won Shik, at the National Assembly in Seoul, South Korea



Greek Orthodox faithful hold up a wooden crucifix after being retrieved in the Golden Horn during the Epiphany ceremony in Istanbul, Turkey



Manish Malhotra arrives at the 82nd Golden Globes on Sunday, Jan. 5, 2025, at the Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills, California, on Monday

CLASSIFIED CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

SITUATIONS VACANT

Don Bosco High School, Panjim requires one trained Teacher to teach Hindi on Contract basis, in Child care leave vacancy upto end of A.Y 2024-25. Experience preferred. Candidates may appear for a walk-in-interview with testimonials in the office of the Headmaster, on Saturday 11/01/2025 at 10.00 a.m.

Wanted all rounder cook for restaurant and helper. Good salary, food and accommodation free. Contact- 9860324673, 9146090861.

Require ITI electrical/ electronics technicians, fresher/ experience with two wheeler licence for audio video installation, Office at Caranzalem, Whatsapp CV on 7875041216

Vacancies available for Fresh/ Experienced B.Com/ M.Com/ CA Articleship Completed candidates in CA Firm IN PANJIM. Email CV's to: CAGSLOBO@gmail.com

Wanted driver cum booking staff for a logistics firm in Verna. Qualification 12th pass. Kindly call or whatsapp your CV on 8766493664

Wanted Driver for ecco cargo (salary 14k - 16k) Panjim Bhatlem. Mob:- 7387577747 / 8698884181

Urgently Required Waiters, Bartender and Dishwasher for a Restaurant on Margao- Colva. Accommodation & food provided. Contact 9850926050.

Wanted Truck Driver, Jr Sound Engineer, Sound/ Video/ Lighting Technician, Event Executive & Event Helper for an Event Co. in Panjim. Contact 8806014400.

One Trained Under Graduate Teacher wanted in High School section on contract basis to teach English and Social Science till end of academic year 2024-25. Interview on 10th January 2025. Candidates be present alongwith testimonials at 9.30 am at SFX High School, Siolim for skill test and interview

Wanted one trained Graduate teacher to teach English & Geography for 60 days on a Earned leave vacancy. Qualified candidates may appear walk in interview at Guardian Angel High School, Curchorem Goa on 21/01/2025 between 9.30 a. m & 12.30 p. m., with all your testimonials.

Wanted two trained Graduate teacher to teach English for 365 days and Science for 60 days on a child care leave vacancy. Qualified candidates may appear walk in interview at Guardian Angel High School, Curchorem Goa on 21/01/2025 between 9.30 a. m & 12.30 p. m., with all your testimonials.

Accounts/ Admin staff required in Panjim for a Travel company. Good package for Commerce Graduates with good communication skills . Whatsapp CV to 9623671185

Urgently required 15 Candidates for MNC company in Margao for their office, Age 25+ years, minimum qualification 12th pass. Fix pay 30000/-. Preferred NRIs, Sailors, Ret. Employees, Housewives, Bankers. Contact: 9657793667/ 8857962173.

Wanted Multi Tasking Staff (Night Watchman), qualification - S.S.C on Contract Basis till 30-04-2025. Walk in interview on 14/01/2025 at 09:30 a.m. in Mount Mary's Higher Secondary School, Chinchinim. Candidates as per Government Recruitment Rules, may attend the interview along with Application, Testimonials, valid Employment Card in original and Xerox copies.

Wanted Teacher Grade - I in English, Qualifications- (M.A., B.Ed) on contract basis till 20-03-2025. Walk in interview on 14/01/2025 at 09:30 a.m. in Mount Mary's Higher Secondary School, Chinchinim. Candidates as per Government Recruitment Rules, may attend the interview along with Application, Testimonials, valid Employment Card in original and Xerox copies.

Wanted Teacher Grade- I in Konkani, Qualifications- (M.A., B.Ed) on contract basis till 06-03-2025. Walk in interview on 14/01/2025 at 09:30 a.m. in Mount Mary's Higher Secondary School, Chinchinim. Candidates as per Government Recruitment Rules, may attend the interview along with application, testimonials, valid employment card in original and Xerox copies.

Urgently wanted Female Office Assistants & Executives for Visa, Ticketing, Holiday Sales & Recruitment for Pyramid Travels, Margao. Call 9822017771

SITUATIONS VACANT

Urgently wanted Delivery Driver in Benaulim with professional licence. Contact +918767056254

Required Office Staff M/F, (8th to graduate) Computer Operator, Supervisor, Gunman, Store Manager, Driver, Security Guard (Job As per Experience). Attractive salary + Other facility. Contact: requiredgoajobservice@gmail.com 9582292906. Whatsapp: 7838867502

Wanted Branch Manager & Relationship Manager For Axis Securities (Stock Market, Insurance, Mutual funds) Margao.BBA & MBA fresher can apply. Send your Bio-data on 8380035770

Required experienced House keeping Staff, male/female food Accommodation provided. Calangute Contact/whatsapp: 9689156449

Wanted -waiters for family restaurant & bar at Ponda farmagudi contact 9545419389

Wanted urgently experienced Goan Chefs, Kitchen Helpers For Catering Business and Service Waiters for a Café in Benaulim 9822128906, 8329703309.

Wanted experienced Beautician at RL vogue salon fatora contact no 9823874100

Vacancy for an store keeper for a FMCG Company located at near Umiya mercado mall - margao Experience : Minimum 6 months of experience in store managing. Qualifications : 10th/ 12th pass Please contact 8408894746/7083735002

Wanted Waiter, Tandoori Cook, Cashier for Longinhos Bar & Restaurant opp. Margao Municipal Bldg. Mobile: 7387602012

Needed Accountant Paint & Hardware Shop Benaulim -Goa. Qualification: have experience of atleast 2 years. Ph. No 8468839520/ 9834892276

Wanted Trained Primary Teacher with D.Ed (English Medium) on contract basis for 45 days. Walk-in-interview has been scheduled on 11' January 2025 at 9.30 a.m. in Little Flower of Jesus Primary School, Calangute. Candidates may attend the interview along with application, testimonials in original and Xerox copies.

Seeking experienced sales girls and shop boys for a multi Designer store in Panjim. Contact: +91 98817 31917

Wanted: Seeking a hardworking and reliable individual for Driver cum office boy in PanjimContact: +91 98817 31917

SITUATIONS WANTED

Looking for an opening, preferably in Pharmaceutical Company/ Teaching. Has 4 years experience in Logistics. Qualification BSc. (Chemistry-1996). 8329970308.

THANKSGIVING

Thanks to Jesus, Mother Mary, St. Anthony, St. Francis Xavier, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Handi Khuris (Maina) for many favours granted. Melvin.

TOURS & TRAVELS

Special Package Bangkok + Pataya =42000/- (4n/5days) Singapore+ malaysia+ Bangkok =115000/- (9n/10days) Dubai =65000/- (4n / 5days) from Goa. (All Inclusive) Contact: 7248913648, Nurvi Holidays.

Japan & South Korea , 12 nights . Flights , good hotels , transfers , sightseeing . 230,000 . Create your tour on www.SpeedbirdTravels.com. Whatsapp 9623671110

VEHICLES AVAILABLE

For Sale -Sparring Used Tata 2010 Model 315 V Backo Jcb. Done Engine Overhauling, Bushing, King Pins, Painting, Life Time Tax Etc Rs-12,00,000/- (Rupees- Twelve Lakhs Only)Negotiable. Contact Desai- 9860092112

Skoda rapid 2012 elegance mpi petrol manual 70500 km black, owner driven for sale. Price 3 lakhs. call/ Whatsapp: 9923939528.

VEHICLES WANTED

We buy all Car's & Bike's. Maruti, Toyota, Hyundai, Honda (Vintage Car's) etc, even accidental and scrap car's. Spot payment-8381027157

B'desh issues second arrest warrant against Sheikh Hasina

PTI, DHAKA: Bangladesh's International Criminal Tribunal (ICT) on Monday issued arrest warrants against deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and 11 others, including former military generals and an ex-police chief, for their alleged role in incidents of enforced disappearances.

This was the second arrest warrant by the ICT against Hasina, who fled to India after her Awami League regime's toppling following unprecedented anti-government protests in August last year. The tribunal has so far recorded three cases against her.

Justice Md Golam Mortuza Mojumdar, chairman of the tribunal, issued the arrest warrant after hearing a prosecution plea," an ICT official said.

The Inspector General of Police was ordered to arrest the twelve people, including Hasina, and produce them before the

This was the second arrest warrant by the ICT against Hasina, who fled to India after her Awami League regime's toppling following unprecedented anti-government protests in August last year. The tribunal has so far recorded three cases against her

tribunal on February 12 in the case filed over complaints of enforced disappearances of several hundred people.

The deposed premier's then-defence adviser Major General (retd) Tarique Ahmed Siddique and former IGP Benazir Ahmed are among those named in the case. While Siddique is currently under custody, Ahmed is believed to be on the run.

ICT Chief Prosecutor Mohammad Tajul Islam did not disclose the names of most of the accused "in the interest of investigations and their arrest".

"The next hearing for this case is also scheduled for February 12. The tribunal has instructed that

the investigation report be submitted on that day if completed," Islam later told reporters.

He, however, said if the investigation report could not be submitted by then, the law enforcement agencies would have to provide a progress report on the arrests.

Islam told the tribunal that the ousted regime had established a culture of enforced disappearances under state sponsorship.

The chief prosecutor alleged that those involved in carrying out these disappearances were rewarded. He added that agencies like the elite anti-crime Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), the police's Detective Branch (DB), the Counter Terror-

ism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit, and the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) were most frequently used for the purpose.

"Over the past 15 years, a culture of fear was established in Bangladesh through enforced disappearances and crossfire. Thousands of people were abducted by various forces, either in plainclothes or in uniform. Most of them never returned," Islam told journalists.

Last month, Dhaka officially sought Hasina's extradition from India. While New Delhi acknowledged the receipt of the letter, it refrained from commenting on it.

The ICT issued the first arrest warrant against the ex-premier on October 17 on charges of genocide and crimes against humanity committed during the July-August protests and uprising.

allovertheworld

Workers unload fish to be made as 'prahok' (fermented fish paste) at Chrang Chamres village along the Tole Sap river in Phnom Penh on Monday. The pungent smell of rotting meat hangs heavily in the air as Cambodians crowd the country's riverbanks, gutting and crushing finger-sized fish by the tonne as the annual frenzy of making prahok paste gets underway

FROM PAGE 1& 2

GOVT HAS NO FACILITIES TO TEST FOR HMPV IN GOA

"Under the Directorate of Health Services, we have analysed data of cases during the last three months and we have not found an increase in cases. If we find cases then we will begin diagnosis instantly," he said.

Dr Shekhar Salkar of Manipal Hospital claimed that only Manipal Hospital has testing facilities for HMPV, which cost Rs 18,000. "The reports are available within an hour. HMPV testing is done as a part of the pneumonia panel for lower respiratory infections. Cost of the test is Rs 18,000, as the reagent used is very costly," Dr Salkar told reporters.

However, according to senior ENT specialist Dr Jorson Fernandes: "What we need to promote right now is preventive measures like wearing masks in crowded places. Let's remember the Cs - close contacts, closed places and crowded places need to be avoided. As long as we follow this, the virus won't have much of an impact. Testing should not be a concern for the people."

FIRST HMPV CASES DETECTED IN INDIA

The infant, who hails from Dungarpur in Rajasthan, was hospitalised on December 24, 2024, with symptoms of respiratory infection.

Initially, the child needed ventilator support but his condition is stable now, Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation medical officer Bhavin Solanki said.

Union Health Minister Nadda said the government is closely monitoring the situation and there is no reason to worry.

He said HMPV is not a new virus and no surge in any of the common respiratory virus pathogens has been observed in the country.

In a video message, Nadda said in the wake of the recent reports of HMPV in China, the health ministry, the ICMR, the country's apex health research body, and the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) are keeping a close watch on the situation in China and other neighbouring countries.

The World Health Organization has "taken cognisance of the situation and will share the report shortly with us", he said.

"The country data for respiratory viruses available with ICMR and integrated disease surveillance programme has also been reviewed and no surge in any of the common respiratory virus pathogens is observed in India," Nadda said.

The joint monitoring meeting was held under the Chairmanship of DGHS on January 4 to review this situation.

"The health systems and surveillance network of the country remain vigilant in ensuring the country is ready to respond promptly to any emerging health challenge. There is no reason to worry we are closely monitoring the situation," he said.

He said that health experts have clarified that HMPV virus is not a new virus. It was first identified in 2001 and it has been circulating in the entire world. HMPV spreads through the air by way of respiration, Nadda stated.

This can affect persons of all age groups, he said.

The virus spreads more during winter and early spring months. Earlier in the day, the health ministry said there was no unusual surge in Influenza-Like Illness or Severe Acute Respiratory Illness cases in the country.

India is well-equipped to handle any potential increase in respiratory illnesses and public health interventions can be deployed promptly if needed, it said.

The Delhi government, meanwhile, directed all the hospitals in the capital to remain fully prepared to manage a potential surge in respiratory illnesses.

In a directive marked 'most urgent', Health Minister Saurabh Bharaadwaj instructed the Health and Family Welfare Department to closely monitor the situation, and remain in constant touch with the Union health ministry for timely updates.

Meanwhile, Karnataka Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said there was no need to panic as the infections detected are of old virus strains existing in the country and they are not life-threatening.

The minister who chaired a meeting of health department officials said the two infected infants are "normal".

"I don't think we should be pressing the panic button, because HMPV is not a new virus... HMPV is an existing virus and a certain percentage of people do get affected by it and it is not something new," Rao said.

as transmissible as Covid-19 while Rao underlined that there was no need for Covid-like protocols as of now as there have been no "unnatural developments".

Gujarat Health Minister Rushikesh Patel assured people that the state government is prepared to tackle the situation.

Arrangements will be made for the diagnosis of HMPV in various government hospitals, the minister said, adding that the people should understand the viral infection symptoms and take measures accordingly.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said citizens must not panic and asserted his government will soon issue a comprehensive advisory on the situation.

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, meanwhile, said no HMPV case has been found in Mumbai.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee also confirmed on Monday that no HMPV cases have so far been detected in the state.

HMPV was first discovered in 2001 and belongs to the Paramyxoviridae family. It spreads through respiratory droplets from coughing or sneezing, as well as by touching contaminated surfaces or coming into direct contact with infected individuals.

PEOPLE'S OUTCRY: POLICE ARE HARASSING VELINGKAR PROTESTORS AT GOVT BEHEST

Jack Mascarenhas, President of Goyche Fudle Pilge Khatir (GFPK), an NGO, said, "The police have moved swiftly against these protestors, while countless other high-profile cases languish in the system, which reveals a disturbing priority of suppressing dissent rather than ad-dressing the root causes of unrest. Subhash Velingkar's inflammatory remarks created a climate of fear and division, and the people responded. Instead of addressing the hate speech that fuelled the protests, the authorities seem more concerned with punishing those who dared to speak out"

Meanwhile, former minister Mickky Pacheco claimed that the cases and chargesheet filed against him were the result of vindictive politics and misuse of government machinery.

Addressing a press conference in Panjim, he said "I was not at the protest, but it has been claimed that I was responsible for blocking the highway and rioting. However, the fact is that I was there for hardly two minutes. I had gone alone," he said.

PILGAOKARS STAND FIRM AS ORE TRUCKS WANT TIMING EXTENDED

He appealed to the authorities to extend the daytime hours, explaining that the current timing limits the number of trips that trucks can make each day.

A representative from the mining company echoed these concerns, urging the authorities to revise the timing to allow for more efficient transportation. Both MLA Shet and Deputy Collector Kaskar assured that the issues would be raised with the government for further deliberation.

Despite the authorities' reassurances, the villagers remained adamant in their opposition. Pilgao residents, including Sunil Sawant, called for the mining company to strictly adhere to the transportation timings set in the Environmental Clearance (EC) conditions. Sawant emphasised that the government should redirect transportation to Matwada, Pilgao, as specified in the EC conditions, instead of using the main road.

Anil Salekar, another villager, criticised the truckers for demanding an extension of the timings without considering the hardship faced by the villagers. "How can they ask for additional time and use the main road for transportation? The mining company is violating the EC conditions with the government's approval, and there should be another public hearing," he said.

CONG CHIEF FILES CONTEMPT PLEA AGAINST SPEAKER

The petitioner had filed a writ petition before the High Court seeking directions to the Speaker to decide the disqualification petition in a time-bound manner and more particularly within a period prescribed in law as laid down by the Supreme Court.

According to Patkar, the Speaker has filed an affidavit-in-reply stating that he will hear and decide the disqualification petition expeditiously, but failed to comply with the orders passed by the High Court vide judgments dated May 2, 2023 and July 21, 2023.

Even after one-and-half-years, the disqualification petition is still pending for a decision before the Speaker since the order dated May 2, 2023, Patkar said, adding that the Tawadkar had 'deliberately' and 'malafidely' not proceeded to decide on the disqualification petition. Till date, the Speaker had not issued notices to hear the petition, he said and prayed to initiate contempt proceedings against the Speaker and punish him in accordance with law.

Patkar had filed disqualification petition before the Speaker on December 6, 2022 after the eight Congress MLAs switched over to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on September 14, 2022.

Aldona MLA Adv Carlos Alvares Ferreira is representing Patkar in the disqualification petition before the Speaker.

SHATTERED FAMILY CLAIMS DRINK DRIVING LED TO AGASSAIM ACCIDENT

The police however claim to have found no trace of alcohol in the tests.

What was meant to be a joyful family outing to Old Goa turned into a nightmare that no one could have anticipated. The couple's prayers for a child, after seven years of marriage, had been answered with the birth of Shravi, only for their hopes to be dashed in an accident that has now stolen everything from them. Ranjana, still unconscious and unaware of the tragic losses she has suffered, also suffered the amputation of a leg.

For family members, the pain is unbearable. "All the prayers and hard work of the parents that were put into bringing the child into this world have met a fatal end," said Ankita, a relative. Ranjana, who is still unconscious, has no clue how fate cruelly snatched her family away in the blink of an eye.

TRUDEAU RESIGNS AS PARTY LEADER, WILL QUIT PM POST NEXT?

"A new prime minister and leader of the Liberal Party will carry its values and ideals into that next election. I am excited to see that process unfold in the months ahead," he added.

Trudeau came to power in 2015 after 10 years of Conservative Party rule, and had initially been hailed for returning the country to its liberal past. But the 53-year-old scion of one of Canada's most famous prime ministers became deeply unpopular with voters in recent years over a range of issues, including the soaring cost of food and housing, and surging immigration.

The political upheaval comes at a difficult moment for Canada internationally. US President-elect Donald Trump has threatened to impose 25% tariffs on all Canadian goods if the government does not stem what Trump calls a flow of migrants and drugs in the US — even though far fewer of each crosses into the US from Canada than from Mexico, which Trump has also threatened.

LARGE DRUG HAULS IN 2024 FUEL ABUSE CONCERNS IN GOA

For example, in the investigation into the death of a Kerala resident at a Goa music festival at Vagator Beach in January 2024. A senior Kerala Police officer, commenting on the case, suggested that stronger investigative efforts could have yielded better results.

Goa has long been known as a hotspot for drug trafficking, with international peddlers seeing the State as a safe haven for their activities. Despite efforts from the Goa Police and NCB, some officials believe that tackling the problem will require greater cooperation from the local community. "The police can only do so much; local assistance is crucial to get to the heart of the operations," said a senior officer from the Hyderabad Narcotics Enforcement Wing (NEW), speaking on condition of anonymity.

One of the main concerns highlighted by experts is the mixing of chemicals with narcotics to increase profits, which has led to a rise in overdose cases. Dr Fenton D'Souza, who has provided medical services at electronic dance music (EDM) parties in Goa, emphasised that most overdose victims are those who consumed impure or adulterated drugs.

Drug peddling in Goa has reportedly become more insidious, with local taxi drivers and hotel staff often acting as intermediaries between dealers and tourists, according to an NCB source who wished to remain anonymous. "Breaking the network takes time but finally, the link is busted in most cases," the source added.



Pulse oximeters may misread oxygen levels in people of colour, FDA wants to change

AP, WASHINGTON: Makers of medical devices that quickly measure oxygen levels in the blood would have to gather extra data to show that their products work for patients of colour,

under a new federal proposal released Monday. The Food and Drug Administration's recommendations apply to pulse oximeters, which are clip-on devices used in hospitals

and medical clinics to ensure patients are getting enough oxygen. The FDA said it wants companies to conduct larger studies and include more patients from different racial groups.

By snapping a device onto a finger and then sending two wavelengths of light into the skin, the oximeter measures how much of the light is absorbed and estimates how

much oxygen is flowing through the blood.

The issue has become a prominent example of the potential racial biases of medical technology, leading to multiple meetings and studies by FDA

regulators since 2022.

The FDA's draft recommendations, which are not binding, would make several changes to how companies are expected to test their devices.

RETURNED TO THE LORD

Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful servants.
Psalm 116:15



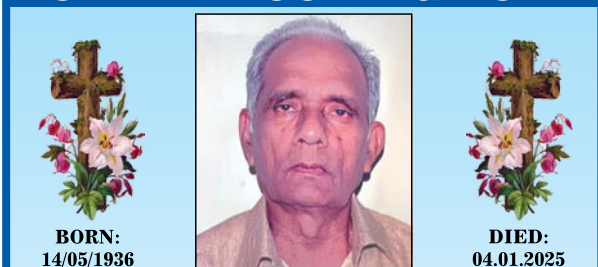
FR. CHRYSOLOGUS D'CUNHA

Don Bosco Panjim
(Moir, Goa)

The Provincial and the Salesians of Panjim-Konkan Province, deeply mourn the passing away of our beloved Salesian Fr Chrys on 6 January 2025. He was a Salesian for 60 years and a priest for 52 years. He served at Andheri, Matunga, Fatorada, Tuem, Quepem, Sulcorna and Panjim. We offer our heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family.

The funeral Eucharistic Celebration to thank God for the gift of Fr Chrys will be held today, 7 January 2025 at 3 pm, at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, Don Bosco Panjim, followed by burial at the Salesian Cemetery, Don Bosco, Fatorada.

LORD I AM COMING HOME



AUGUSTINE BARRETTO

(Ex-British Navy-Bahrain, Ex-UAE Defence-Abu Dhabi)

Beloved Husband of Gebelina (Bella) Barretto.
Loving Father/Father-in-law of Rosita/Trevor Nunes, Ramsey/Clara Barretto.

Doting Grandfather of Malaika, Lizann, Maryann & Miriam. Loving Brother/Brother-in-law of Late Estrela/Late Joaquim Andrade, Late Adelacio/Late Pedro Fernandes, Valerian/Late Filomena Barretto, Late Sr. Theresa Barretto (F.M.C.K.), Etelvina/Late Estaquio Gomes, Romaldina/Late Altinho Saldanha, late Valerian (Milagres)/Late Monica Barretto. Funeral Cortege will leave his residence at Punola, Ucassaim on Wednesday, 08.01.2025 (Tomorrow), at 3:15pm to St Elizabeth's Church, Ucassaim for the Eucharistic Celebration followed by burial. Relatives and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

JJ UNDERTAKERS, CALANGUTE, 9823012874

FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

27-03-1961



04-01-2025

Melita Fernandes

(Caranzalem, Dona Paula)
(Ex-Corporator of city of Panjim)

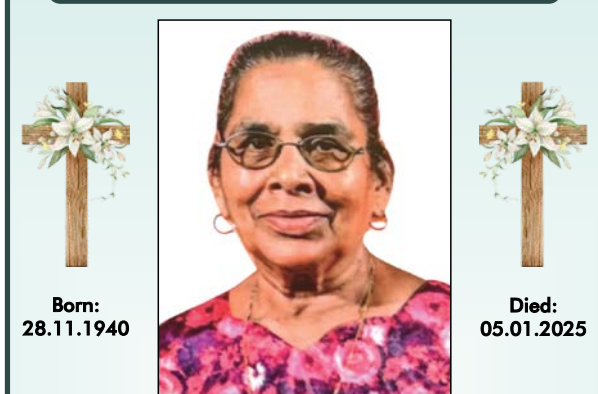
Daughter of late Nazareno/Domina Fernandes. Beloved wife of Manuel Afonso (Ex-Dy. Director of Transport). Loving mother/mother-in-law of Malcolm/Nafisa & Melroy/Stecky. Sister/sister-in-law of late Manuel/Angela, Felix/Zita, Henrique/Cynthia.

Passed away bravely after a brief illness. The Eucharistic celebration will take place at 3:30 pm Today, 7th January, 2025 at Our Lady of The Rosary Church, Caranzalem followed by burial at Taleigao cemetery.

We kindly request no condolence visits at our home. Relatives and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

GOANRITES 9822136397

RETURNED TO THE LORD



Born:
28.11.1940

Died:
05.01.2025

MARIA AURORA PEREIRA

(Ex Ward Member [1986 - 1991])

-: Camarbhath, Sao Jose De Areal -:

Wife of late Xavier Travassos.

Mother / mother-in-law of

Domingos (Ex. MSC / Festival) / Emilia,

Antonio (Tony) / Perpetua (UK), Williana / Xavier

(Prop. ME & MOM Sports), Petsy / Pedro Antonio (V. Ships).

Grandmother of Jarret / Leiven, Cayson, Viear, Vivaldy, Vieat,

Amberly, Lovell, Wendell and Clydell.

Sister / sister-in-law of late Josefa / late Conceicao Minguel

Gomes, late Ana Maria / late Bostianv Marie,

Maria Damian / Joaquim Estibeiro,

late Remet / Leocadia Pereira.

Sister-in-law of late Joanita / late Thomas Fernandes,

late Joao Remet / Terezinha Travasso.

Funeral cortege will leave her residence at 3:15 p.m. on Wednesday, 8th January 2025 at St. Joseph Church, Sao Jose De Areal, for Eucharistic celebration at 3:30 p.m., followed by burial.

Relatives and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

Confident Advts. & Funeral Service, Margao 9823022194

DEATH
UTKARSH
SHIVDAS
KARPE

Cacora, Curchorem Goa

Husband of Apoorva Karpe,
Father/Father-in-law of Sidhanth &
Diksha, Srusti & Sandesh
Gawandalkar. Brother of Gauri Bushan
Karpe/ Nagajyoti.

Left for heavenly abode on 06/01/2025

Funeral procession will leave at 11 am from his Cacora residence to Sanguem crematorium on Tuesday, (TODAY) 7th January 2025. Family, friends and relatives kindly accept this as the only intimation.

Third Death Anniversary

In Loving Memory of
**Lawrence
Rodrigues**

COLVA

There will be an Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved Lawrence, on Wednesday, 8th January 2025 (Tomorrow) at 7.45 am at Our Lady of Mercies Church, Colva followed by prayers and blessing at the grave offered by his sorrowful wife - Rosy, children and grandchildren. Relatives and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In Everloving Memory of



AURELIA BARRETO E ANTÃO

(Falvaddo, Arossim, Cansaulim.)

One year passed since you left us,

But your loving memories will always remain deep in our hearts.

There will be an Eucharistic celebration for our beloved Aurelia on Wednesday 8th January 2025 at 8:45 am at St. Thomas Church, Cansaulim, followed by prayers and blessings at the grave. Offered by her Sorrowful Husband Anthony Antao. Loving mom of Ashley / Shirleen (U.S.), Aliskey / Golda (U.K) and Ashwin / Crina (U.K). Loving grandmother of Adam, Aidan, Aaron, Ana, Alloysius, Adrian, Alsen, Alicia.

Relatives, Neighbours & Friends kindly accept this as the only intimation

Second Death
Anniversary Remembrance

Josefa Isaac

(Wife of Late Thomas Isaac)

There will be an Eucharistic celebration on Wednesday, 8th January, 2025 at 7.30 am at Our Lady of Rosary Church Caranzalem, in thanksgiving for the gift of our beloved Mother.

Offered by her children,
Theresa (Tina) & Anil Isaac
and their families.

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

SANTANA LAZARO LOPES
RIVONA

16th OCTOBER 1933 - 8th JANUARY 2024

A year has passed, and though God called you home, your memory and strength remain with us. We miss you.

There will be a Eucharistic Celebration on Wednesday 8th January 2025 at 8:30 am.

At Our Lady of Rosary Church, Rivona, followed by prayers and blessings of the grave.

4 YEAR WITH THE LORD

In memory of our beloved

JOSEPH SAVIO
CALDEIRA

Born: 19/3/1974 - Died: 9/1/2024

Gone but never forgotten,
Your Love continues to
shine bright in our hearts.

There will be a Eucharistic Celebration for our beloved Joseph on 9th January, 2025 (Thursday) at 4:00 pm, at Don Bosco Shrine, Panjim. Fondly remembered by his wife Myrtle, son Jaiden, mother Shirley and family.

Relatives and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

For when the dead rise to life they are like angel's in heaven" Mathew 22:30.

One year
Remembrance

In loving memory of

RAY SEBASTIAN
MASCARENHAS

"DUNCHE BHATT- SARZORA"

There will be a one year remembrance mass tomorrow 8th January at 8.00 am. at Our Lady of Assumption Church, Sarzora followed by blessing of the grave.

Offered by parents: Robin/Hazel

Brother: Horrace & Sister: Rafaela.

Relatives & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

Costy's Ads, Chinchinim, Navlim, 9850473904

ONE YEAR REMEMBRANCE

In everloving memory of

SOCORRO
ANTONIO
COLACO

-: CORTALIM -:

There will be an Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved Socorro at 8.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 8th January 2025 at St. Philip and St. James Church, Cortalim, followed by prayers and blessing at the grave, offered by his sorrowful wife: Cipriana Antonieta Joanes e Colaco, son / daughter-in-law: Sanroy Colaco, Stefan Colaco / Dipty Fernandes.

Relatives and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

Confident Advts. & Funeral Service, Margao 9823022194

Third Death Anniversary

In everloving memory of



JOAO DE SOUZA (JOHN)

1st DADDIO, TELAULIM - NAVELIM

Quietly remembered everyday, no longer in our life to share, but in our hearts, you are always there.

There will be a Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved JOHN at 7.15 am on Wednesday, 8th January 2025 at Our Lady of Rosary Church, Navelim followed by prayers & blessing at the grave offered by his sorrowful wife Marcella, and family.

Relatives and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

BOSS ADVT

First Death Anniversary

In Ever-loving Memory of our beloved

MARIA
MAGDALINA
FERNANDES
(ELVIRA)

Palmar Grande,
Chinchinim

Today, marks the 1st anniversary of your passing away, Mum, It's a year since you left us, But your love and wisdom continue to guide us everyday. We miss you each passing day, But we find comfort in the beautiful memories you left behind....

There will be a Eucharistic celebration for the soul of our beloved MUM on 8th January 2025 (tomorrow) at 8.00 am at Our Lady of Hope, Chinchinim, followed by prayers and blessings at the grave.

Offered by her sorrowful husband Rosario children: Sassy/Antonio, Evonne/Dr. Fraddy. Grandchildren: Ethio, Nolan, Elisha, Eden and family. Relatives, friends & neighbours kindly accept this as the only intimation.

Costy's Ads, Chinchinim, Navlim, 9850473904

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

EUGENIA
CARMELINA RODRIGUES

GOGOL - NEW VADDO



BORN: 02 JULY 1935 - DIED: 06 JANUARY 2024

WIFE OF LATE MANUEL JOSE RODRIGUES

MOTHER / MOTHER IN LAW OF: ANGELO (A.R. CONSTRUCTIONS)/ CIRIACA RODRIGUES, SAVIO(BABUSH)/MARIA, MONICA, NITA/LATE JOSE, DELILAH/ARTHUR, PHILIPA/PASCAL.

SISTER OF: FILOMENA/LATE MAXIMO FERNANDES, LATE MARIE/LATE ANTHONY ALMEIDA.

GRAND MOTHER OF: ABNER/KALYANI, SHERIE, SHAWN/SHIVOLA, MOVIN/ELCY, STANY/DAYLE, PRINCE/CAROL, NOBIE/LIBAN, SAMEER, SAMSON/SHAROL, MONICA/JAYAWANTT, LEENA, RUBINA/GLEN.

GREAT GRAND MOTHER OF: KIAN, ZACH, WAYNE, NATHAN, LIAM, KAIRAA.

There will be an Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved Eugenia Carmelina Rodrigues on 08-01-2025(Wednesday) at 7.00 A.M at St. Joaquim Chapel-Borda.

Followed by Prayers & Blessings of the Grave(Sonsodo Cemetery).

RELATIVES & FRIENDS KINDLY ACCEPT THIS AS THE ONLY INTIMATION.

CONDOLENCE

We deeply mourn
the sad demise of our dear

MELITA

27-03-61 - 04-01-25

Caranzalem (Dona Paula)

and convey our
deepest sympathies
to the bereaved family.

Tribute of love from

Rosaria Pires
Domingos Pires
Mila Pires
Mafaldina Pires
Pacin Pires
Roman Pires
Late Frank Pires
Lorenzo Pires

MAY HER SOUL REST IN PEACE



Sanket helps Agassaim YC to collect full points

Team Herald
sports@herald-go.com

MAPUSA/RAIA: Agassaim Youth Club registered a comfortable 2-0 win over Portais Sporting Club in the Goa Football Association's Division II Ilhas Zone League match played at Taleigao ground, on Sunday.

FOOTBALL LEAGUES

Sanket Jotkar netted both the goals in the second session of play for the winners.

U-13 Div I: Guardian Angel SC, South Goa Utd secure wins

Guardian Angel SC defeated Vasco SC 2-1 in the

Goa Football Association U-13 Division I League match played at Betalbatim Church ground, on Monday.

Roman Rebelo and Joslan Oliveira scored for Guardian Angel SC, while Jaiwant Khobreakar reduced the margin for Vasco SC.

In another match played at Don Bosco Oratory, Fatorda, South Goa United Club SC edged past Sporting Clube de Goa 4-3.

Stanslaus Costa, Savion Fernandes, Mohammad Asif Mirchi and Snyder Simoes scored a goal each for South Goa United, while Samarth Korgaonkar scored a brace and Medan Pereira was the other scorer for Sporting

Clube de Goa.

Women's League: Aniela stars for Livval Sporting

Livval Sporting Association thumped Patrongs SC 6-0 in the Goa Football Association-Vedanta Women's League match at SAG ground, Benaulim, on Monday.

Aniela Barreto scored five and substitute Jossel Mascarenhas scored one goal. De-laila D'Souza of Patrongs SC added one self-goal in Livval goals tally of six.

U-17 Elite I League: FC Goa upset Sesa FA

Young Gaurs started

out their U-17 Elite I AIFF League campaign with a resounding 3-1 win over Sesa Football Academy in the match played at Sirsaim ground.

FC Goa came strongly into the match by scoring all their three goals in the first session of play.

Lesvin scored a brace in the 11th and 43th minute. Ruell got on the score sheet with a well-placed goal in the 45th minute for the third goal. Sesa FA came into the second session with renewed ideas and managed to reduce the margin in the 64th minute to make it 3-1 and put some pressure on the FC Goa defence.

However, the Gaurs soaked the pressure well and held out for the win.

Aryan wins QTCA All Goa Open Blitz Chess

ALFREDO FERNANDES



The winners along with chief guest Pradeep Naik (former chairperson and councillor of Curchorem Cacora Municipal Council), guest of honour Amit Morudkar (engineer, Panjim Municipal Corporation), Sameer Naik (secretary, QTCA), IA Sanjay Kavlekar (tournament director), Amrut Naik (treasurer, QTCA), SNA Tanishq Kavlekar (chief arbiter), other arbiters and officials

Team Herald
sports@herald-go.com

PANJIM: Aryan Raikar emerged as the undisputed champion clinching the title with an impressive 8 points out of 9 rounds in the QTCA All Goa Open Blitz Chess Tournament 2024 organised by the Quepem Taluka Chess Association in association with the Government College of Arts, Commerce and Science, Quepem, recently.

ALL GOA OPEN BLITZ CHESS TOURNAMENT

The tournament brought together the finest chess talents from across Goa competing in nine intense rounds of blitz chess. Aryan's remarkable performance included a decisive victory against the top seed Devesh Naik in the final round. Devesh and Sairaj Vernekar finished second and third respectively with 7.5 points showcasing commendable performances throughout the tournament.

The top 20 winners were: Aryan Raikar, Devesh Naik, Sairaj Vernekar, Atharv Katkar, Chaitanya Gaonkar, Anec Kanjiravila B C, Datta Kambli, Anish Naik, Avnish Borkar, Satyam Phal, Rachel Pereira, Rhys Carvalho, Nivesh Naik, Vardhan Shekhar, Sani Gawas, Adarsh Patekar, Rajarajeshwari

Deshmukh, Aarav Chopdekar, Sidh Rane and Aashman Desai.

In the category prizes, the best veteran (above 45) titles were awarded to Aravinda B R and Ashok Saxena, while Ayusha Prabhudesai was recognised as the best women player (above 18). The best age category players included Aarav Nagueskar and Ansh Gawas (U-7 boys), Amaira Borkar and Shivanya Rao (U-7 girls), Siddhanth Naik and Rejmon Rodrigues (U-9 boys), Shinel Rodrigues and Tvisha Dessai (U-9 girls), Atharva Borkar and Nathan Cardozo (U-11 boys), Skyla Rodrigues and Diya Naik (U-11 girls), Ritvik Sairaj N and Mayank Kurtikar (U-13 boys), Shrama Morudkar and Israa Rikarty (U-13 girls), Vansh Dessai and Sarthak Kavlekar (U-15 boys), and Aditi Kamat and Sanika Naik (U-15 girls).

The prize distribution ceremony was graced by the presence of esteemed dignitaries, including chief guest Pradeep Naik (former chairperson and councillor of Curchorem Cacora Municipal Council), guest of honour Amit Morudkar (engineer, Panjim Municipal Corporation), Sameer Naik (secretary, QTCA), IA Sanjay Kavlekar (tournament director), Amrut Naik (treasurer, QTCA), SNA Tanishq Kavlekar (chief arbiter), other arbiters and officials.

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Team Herald
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RAIA: United Boys of Ambaulim Sports Club produced a dominating performance to outclass Sporting Club of Davorlim 5-0 and to secure a spot in the quarter-finals of Fr Agnelo Youth Soccer tournament organised by Fr Agnelo Youth Sports Club, Paroda, at panchayat ground, Avedem-Par-

FR AGNELO YOUTH SOCCER PARODA

oda, on Monday. In a one-sided affair, UB Ambaulim dictated the game from the outset. Visiton Fernandes opened the scoring in the 20th minute and UB Ambaulim continued to pile on the pressure in the second half.

Airon Fernandes doubled the lead with a beautifully crafted goal, con-

necting a cross from his teammate. Teron Fernandes then capitalised on a defensive lapse by SC Davorlim to make it 3-0 in the 38th minute.

Despite a late surge by SC Davorlim, UB Ambaulim's defence held strong and Airon Fernandes and Sowell Fernandes sealed the victory with two additional goals in the dying minutes, securing a resounding 5-0 win for UB Ambaulim.

Navelim SC down DBO Fatorda, in last eight

Team Herald
sports@herald-go.com

RAIA: Navelim Sporting Club edged out Don Bosco Oratory, Fatorda, 3-1,

ABRANCHES MEMORIAL FOOTBALL

to enter the quarter-finals of 1st Fernando Abranches memorial inter-village

football tournament organised by United Club of Verna at Verna panchayat ground, on Monday.

The match started on a fast pace and Don Bosco Oratory missed the first chance to score through Elroy Barreto in the 10th minute of play, while Navelim SC's Prestly Gomes' powerful shoot

from the edge of the box was punched away by goalkeeper of Don Bosco Oratory and remained 0-0 at half time.

In the second half, both teams eager to score, Navelim SC scored the first goal with a powerful header beating goalkeeper Carol Soares of Don Bosco Oratory by Ronaldo Pereira. Navelim

SC increased their tally through Meliston Dias and Atif Shaikh scored the third goal. Edgar Noronha of Don Bosco Oratory pulled one goal back.

Ronaldo Pereira of Navelim Sporting Club was awarded the man-of-the-match by Isidor Rodrigues, former footballer of Mormugao Port Trust and Vasco Club.



The U-13 and U-15 Goa Police football teams participated in a tournament organised by the Ujala (Hooda) Foundation, recently. The closing ceremony was attended by Aran Hooda, Director General of Police Alok Kumar, Deputy Inspector General of Police Ajay Sharma, Superintendent of Police (Sports) Sunita Sawant, Deputy Superintendent of Police (Sports) Shivram Vaigankar, Police Inspector (Sports) Raia Naik and Ujala Foundation members Sandip Hooda, Rina Hooda and Sanjay Sharma. Appreciation letters were awarded to the players. DGP Alok highlighted the importance of fitness, discipline, and sportsmanship, wishing the young athletes a bright future. Superintendent of Police (Sports) Sunita Sawant expressed gratitude to the Ujala Foundation for their efforts.

Geno Dragons clinch Sarsangan Junior Cricket Series

Team Herald
sports@herald-go.com

MARGAO: Geno Dragons triumphed over Desserts n More Avengers by eight wickets in the sixth and final Test of the Desserts n More Sarsangan Junior Cricket Test Series played at the Arlem Cricket ground.

The victory tied the six-match series at 3-3, but a superior Net Run Rate crowned the Dragons as champions of the competition, which featured 40 young cricketers aged 12-25.

Batting first, Desserts n More Avengers posted an impressive 264/5, powered by an unbeaten century from Nityay Kuncolienkar (101 off 67 balls, 9 fours). Supporting contributions came from Kaushal Churi (52), Paarth Kossambe (26), Rajat Dalal (21), and Kush Pai Raikar (16). For the Dragons, Om Keny stood out with figures of 2/26, while Avinash Sakhardande and Sahil Neurenkar claimed a wicket each.

In reply, Geno Dragons put up a commanding 296/5, taking a crucial 32-run first-innings lead.



INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Man-of-the-match: Saish Hegde

Best batter: Nityay Kuncolienkar

Best bowler: Ishan Hodarkar

Player of the tournament: Sahil Neurenkar (185 runs, 8 wickets, 14 dismissals)

Best batter: Sanat Prabhudesai (421 runs)

Best bowler: Aaheesh Prabhugaonkar (15 wickets)

Best wicketkeeper: Vismay Falgaonkar (11 dismissals)

Best fielder: Atchut Naik Dalal (7 dismissals)

Vismay Falgaonkar led the charge with a scintillating 112 (62 balls, 9 fours, 3 sixes), ably supported by Saish Hegde (67), Sanat Prabhudesai (30), Om Keny (21), and Atchut Naik Dalal (17).

Nityay Kuncolienkar, Ayan Borkar, and Kush Pai Raikar managed to take one wicket each for the Avengers. Trailing by 32 runs, the Avengers faltered in their second innings, managing only 121. Nityay Kuncolienkar (40) and Aditya Dalal (39) tried to stabilize the innings, while Rajat Dalal

contributed 17. However, four batters failed to score, leaving a modest target of 90 for the Dragons. Ishan Hodarkar's decisive spell of 3/26, supported by Pranav Nagarshenkar (2/3) and Saish Hegde (1/8), sealed the Avengers' fate.

The Geno Dragons chased down the target with ease, reaching 91/2 as Sanat Prabhudesai (48 not out) and Atchut Naik Dalal (30) steered their side to a comprehensive win. Aaheesh Prabhugaonkar took a consolation wicket for the Avengers.

Pallavi Salgaocar, Dr Sagar Salgaocar and their son Shivam were the guests at the closing ceremony.

TODAY'S SPORTS

Goa Professional League: Pax of Nagoa SC vs Sporting Clube de Goa, at Nagoa Panchayat ground. Vasco SC vs Sesa FA, at Tilak Maidan, Vasco. Panjim Footballers vs Clube de Salgaocar, at Duler Stadium, Mapusa. Kick off 3.45 pm

Reliance Foundation Development League (Group Stage) Goa Leg: Dempo SC vs FC Goa, at Duler Stadium, Mapusa, 8.30 am

GFA Division II League (Bardez Zone): FC Tuem vs Vagator Parish Youth SC, at Vagator ground, 3.45 pm

GFA U-13 Division II League (South Zone) Group B: Futebol Club YFA vs St Anthony's Club, Colva, at Navelim ground, 4 pm

Simon Barreto memorial football (inaugural): Fr Agnel YSC, Paroda, vs Benifica Youth Club, at SAG ground, Curtorim, 4.30 pm

1st Fernando Abranches Memorial Trophy 2025 (inaugural): Raia Sporting Club vs Curtorim Gymkhana at Verna panchayat ground, 4.30 pm
Cavelossim Panchayat Cup: Navelim Villagers Union vs Parish Youth Nuvm, at Fr Druston and Wellington ground, Cavelossim, 4.30 pm

Fr Agnelo Youth Sports Club Paroda soccer: United Club of Seraulim vs Guirdolim Club, at panchayat ground, Avedem-Paroda, 4.30 pm

GOA DIARY

Fr Agnel YSC to face Benifica YC in opener

RAIA: Fr Agnel YSC, Paroda, will face Benifica Youth Club in the opener of Simon Barreto memorial inter-village football tournament organised by Maina Sports Club on January 7, at DYSA ground, Curtorim, 4.30 pm. 16 teams will be participating namely Fr Agnelo YSC, Paroda; Benifica Youth Club, Arlem Youth Association, Dicarpali SC, Mandopa Sports Club, Santa Cruz Society of Poitomaddo, Ambelim Sports Club, Guirdolim Club, Sao Jose de Areal, Parish Youth Nuvm, Curtorim Gymkhana, United Boys of Ambaulim, Don Bosco Oratory, Fatorda; United Sports Club Seraulim, Sarzora Sports Club and hosts Maina Sports Club. The winners will receive Rs 50,000 plus trophy and runners-up Rs 40,000 plus trophy and other individual prizes.

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Injured Bumrah likely to be rested for England series

PTI, SYDNEY: Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, who sustained back spasms, is likely to be rested for the majority of India's home white-ball series against England, keeping an eye on the ICC Champions Trophy, starting from February 19.

Bumrah, who was India's stand out player with 32 wickets in their 1-3 thrashing at the hands of Australia in the just-concluded Border-Gavaskar Trophy, couldn't bowl in the final innings of the series here after suffering back spasms.

The 30-year-old Bumrah bowled more than 150 overs in the series. The injury has a direct link to his excessive workload in the series, and the BCCI medical team will try to ensure the new Test captain is



ready for the ICC showpiece where his presence is mandatory to India's fortunes.

According to sources privy to the development, the grade of Bumrah's back spasm has not yet been ascertained.

India will open their Champions Trophy cam-

paign against Bangladesh on February 20 in Dubai.

If Bumrah's injury is in grade 1 category, then it will take a minimum two to three weeks of rehabilitation before Return to Play (RTP).

In case of Grade 2 injury, the recovery can go up to

six weeks while Grade 3, the most severe in nature, requires a minimum three months of rest and rehabilitation programmes.

It was always known that Bumrah will not play T20I bilateral series as this is not the World Cup year, but with the Champions Trophy around the corner, he would have certainly played two if not three ODIs against England as its the 50-over format.

But now, the grade of his injury will decide whether Bumrah plays the England series at all or at least the last match at his home ground in Ahmedabad on February 12 to check on his fitness.

India will face England in five T20Is and three ODIs from January 22.

CJI recuses from hearing pleas of IOA, AIFF

PTI, NEW DELHI: Chief Justice of India Sanjay Khanna on Monday recused himself from hearing two separate pleas pertaining to finalisation of the constitutions of the Indian Olympic Association and the All India Football Federation, both framed by former apex court judge Justice L. Nageswara Rao.

At the outset of the proceedings, the Chief Justice of India (CJI), who was sitting on the Bench with Justice Sanjay Kumar, said he would not be part of the Bench to hear these cases as he had earlier taken up one of the pleas in Delhi High Court.

"Let the pleas come before another Bench headed by Justice PS Narasimha on February 10. I remember hearing this in Delhi High Court," CJI Khanna said.

ICC, BCCI, CA & ECB explore possibility of 2-tier Test system

PTI, SYDNEY/NEW DELHI: The ICC in collaboration with cricket boards of India, Australia and England is exploring the possibility of a two-tier Test system to facilitate more series between big three nations.

The Age reported that Jay Shah, the new ICC chairman, is set to meet Cricket Australia chair Mike Baird and his England counterpart Richard Thompson later this month to discuss the finer points.

"Any plan for a move to two divisions in Test cricket would kick in after the end of the current Future Tours Program in 2027," the Age reported quoting its sources.

The BCCI is currently gearing up for its Special General Meeting on January 12 in Mumbai where interim secretary Devajit Saikia is expected to get a full-time role. Saikia was appointed in the interim role after Shah vacated his

post last month to take over as ICC chairman.

A BCCI official indicated that the discussion floated around the ICC corridors in 2016, the first-time when a two-tier Test system was seriously considered.

Jay Shah, the new ICC chairman, is set to meet Cricket Australia chair Mike Baird and his England counterpart Richard Thompson later this month to discuss the finer points

We don't have any news of any such move as yet. Currently, preparations are being made for SGM and the recent tour to Australia too needs to be discussed.

There was such a move sometime back, but we haven't heard anything since, a BCCI source told PTI.

The BCCI and cricket bodies of Zimbabwe and Bangladesh opposed the

move, citing the possibility of decreasing revenue.

They had also argued that smaller nations would miss out on the opportunity of playing against top teams if such a system comes into existence.

However, nine years down the road the modalities have changed and even some of the reputed experts such as former Indian skipper Ravi Shastri are supporting the division.

"I've been a firm believer in that if you want Test cricket to survive and be alive and thriving, I think that's the way to go."

The top teams play against each other more often, so there is a contest; you want contests, Shastri told SEN during the recent fifth Test between India and Australia. Even some of the top players such as England Test skipper Ben Stokes had criticised the current model of World Test Championship.

sportspopup

Mumbai City FC overcome late scare

KOLKATA: Mumbai City FC beat East Bengal FC by 3-2 at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan in the Indian Super League, on Monday. Despite conceding 55 per cent of the possession to East Bengal FC, the Islanders were more lethal in the final third, taking eight shots on target as opposed to the five of the home team, and moved up to fifth from the seventh spot in the standings. East Bengal FC's next match will be the Kolkata Derby against Mohun Bagan Super Giant on January 11, whereas Mumbai City FC are set to feature against Jamshedpur FC on January 12. Result: East Bengal FC 2 (Sahil Panwar OG 66', David Lahlansanga 83') Mumbai City FC 3 (Lallianzuala Chhangte 39', Nikolaos Karelis 43' 87').

Harmanpreet, Renuka rested; Mandhana to lead India women in ODIs against Ireland

NEW DELHI: Prolific opener Smriti Mandhana was on Monday named captain of the Indian women's cricket team for this month's three-match home ODI series against Ireland after regular skipper Harmanpreet Kaur was rested. Also given a break was pacer Renuka Singh Thakur, the BCCI announced in a press release. The short series against Ireland will begin on January 10 at Rajkot and all three games will be played at the same venue. Harmanpreet had injured her knee during the home series against the West Indies last month, forcing her to sit out of the last two T20Is before returning to play three ODIs. India squad: Smriti Mandhana (C), Deepti Sharma (VC), Pratika Rawal, Harleen Deol, Jemimah Rodrigues, Uma Chetry (wk), Richa Ghosh (wk), Tejal Hasabnis, Raghuvi Bist, Minnu Mani, Priya Mishra, Tanuja Kanwer, Titas Sadhu, Saima Thakor, Sayali Satghare. All matches in Rajkot, starts at 11 am - 1st ODI: January 10, 2nd ODI: January 12 and 3rd ODI: January 15.



Paris Saint Germain players celebrate with a trophy after the French Super Cup final match against Monaco in Doha, Qatar. Ousmane Dembele's stoppage-time goal settled the French Champions Trophy, giving Paris Saint-Germain a 1-0 win

Focus on Satwik-Chirag as Indians look for strong start at season-opening Malaysia Open

KUALA LUMPUR: India's doubles duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will aim for a strong result, Lakshya Sen will look to build on his recent form and HS Prannoy will hope to shake off rust after a lengthy break at the season-opening Malaysia Super 1000 tournament starting, here, on Tuesday. For Satwik and Chirag, seeded seventh, this USD 1.45 million event marks the start of a new season like it did in 2024. In women's singles, two-time Olympic medalist PV Sindhu will be missing from the tournament, having recently got married. In her absence, other Indian players -- Malvika Bansod, Aakarshi Kashyap, and Anupama Upadhyaya will look to make their mark. In women's doubles, the Indian duo of Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand, seeded sixth, will look to carry the momentum from a maiden Super 300 title in Lucknow and its participation in the season-ending BWF World Tour Finals. Eighth seeds Tanisha Crasto and Ashwini Ponnappa, who retained the Guwahati Masters Super 100 title, will take on Japan's Misaki Matsutomo and Chiharu Shida in their first match. The Panda sisters, Rutuparna and Swetaparna, will also be in action, looking to make their presence felt. In mixed doubles, Tanisha Crasto will partner Dhruv Kapila, while Sathish Karunakaran and Aadya Variyath, along with Ashith Surya and Amrutha Pramuthesh, will also compete in their respective events.

Six-year-old Reyansh swims his way into record books

THANE: Reyansh Khamkar, a six-year-old from Thane, has etched his name in the record books by becoming the youngest swimmer to complete a challenging 15-kilometer stretch in the sea. The Maharashtra State Amateur Swimming Association said he swam from Malpe Jetty to Waghotan Jetty in Vijaydurg in an impressive three hours, the achievement earning him recognition from the India Book of Records. Reyansh, who is trained by coach Kailash Akhade at Starfish Sports Foundation, completed the feat in his first-ever sea swimming competition, attracting attention for his remarkable stamina and skill at such a young age.

Skipper Rohit, Virat's Test future hangs in balance

PTI, SYDNEY: The nightmarish batting performance is deservedly under the scanner after India's meek surrender in the Border-Gavaskar series but a closer look at the team's bench strength would reveal that bowling resources are a bigger concern for the side as it navigates a difficult transition.

Skipper Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli's Test future hangs in balance after their poor returns with the bat but the national selection committee has the reserves to ensure that the order remains a solid one even if the two giants were to be phased out.

However, bowling, especially pace, is a different story. The cupboard in the fast bowling department is bare and it will take some time to prepare another crack line-up that can match up to the aura of Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami and Ishant Sharma.

The available names are doing their best but is that enough for the team or for Bumrah, whose workload became a massive concern during the just-concluded series? The spearhead was forced to watch from the dressing room during the last innings of the decisive fifth and final Test that India lost by six wickets as back spasms prevented him from bowling.

Mohammed Siraj, after 36 Tests, hasn't developed into a game-changer yet and Prasidh Krishna bowls too many loose balls.

There is the duo of Akash Deep and Mukesh Kumar,

who are skilful, but they are not really tested at the highest level.

In the Ranji circuit, there aren't too many exciting fast bowling options that the selectors can explore as of now. The main problem seems to be a dearth of left-arm seamers as Arshdeep Singh hasn't actually set the stage on fire and Yash Dayal doesn't look a finished product.

But when it comes to batting there is some real talent available although the Ajit Agarkar-led selection committee will not decide anything till the end of the Ranji Trophy season.

If the panel decides to move away from Rohit and Kohli or the two announce retirements, there are at least half a dozen name ready to stake a claim for the two slots that will open up.

One of the prime contenders could be B Sai Sudharsan of Tamil Nadu. The elegant left-hander impressed in his appearance for India A against Australia A in Mackay but then he had a sports hernia operation and is undergoing rehabilitation.

As and when Sudharsan is ready and if there are at least a couple of slots, he should be in contention provided he is in form and has the requisite fitness levels. In the current set-up, there is Devdutt Padikkal, another stylish and sinewy left-hander, who has played a couple of Tests.

Abhimanyu Easwaran has been around the side for three years now but



Skipper Rohit Sharma



Skipper Rohit Sharma

there is a belief in the Indian cricketing circle that he is not cut out for bigger challenges in SENA (South Africa, England, New Zealand and Australia).

A proof of it the recent series, where he travelled with the squad but wasn't

even remotely in contention for a playing XI slot in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. For Sarfaraz Khan, his technique against real quick bowling was always doubtful but the manner in which he got out in Pune and Mumbai in the home

Tests against New Zealand has made the current team management wary.

In most of the venues, Sarfaraz didn't even come out to bat during the customary net sessions, an indication that he is quite low in the pecking order.

There is every chance that he might not make it to squad for the upcoming limited-overs series against England. There are also three seasoned players who might get a second wind if the second half of Ranji Trophy goes well for them.

They are Chennai Super Kings skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad, who is yet to make his debut, three-Test-old Rajat Patidar and Mumbai's very own Shreyas Iyer.

Iyer's problem has been the short ball, while Patidar flattered to deceive against England at home last year. Gaikwad failed in two India A games Down Under but his pedigree is unquestionable.

It is understood that the selection committee won't be looking at just the volume of runs or wickets but would also focus on impactful performances.

A century on a Lahli green top or a five-wicket haul on a Rajkot belter would carry more weight than performances in favourable conditions.

How a young bowler is coming back with the old ball for his third or fourth spell or how a batter is dealing with spinners on rank turners will also hold

Learnt a lot in Australia, we'll be back stronger: Jaiswal

PTI, NEW DELHI: Young India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal on Monday termed his maiden tour of Australia a learning experience and vowed to come back stronger after India went down 1-3 to Australia, surrendering the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

The 23-year-old left-handed batter was one of India's standout performers, amassing 391 runs at an average of 43.44, the second-highest in the series. His contributions included a stellar 161 in the Perth Test, which India



won by 295 runs.

Jaiswal also scored two fifties, but India failed to retain the Trophy for the first time in a decade, after

losing the fifth and final Test by six wickets at Sydney on Sunday.

"I learnt a lot in Australia... Unfortunately, the

result wasn't what we had hoped for, but we'll be back stronger. Your support means everything," Jaiswal wrote on his Instagram page.

The defeat also dashed India's hopes of securing a spot in the World Test Championship final, with Australia now set to face South Africa.

India's loss has left fans and ex-

perts disappointed, but legendary cricketer Sunil Gavaskar backed young talents like Jaiswal and Nitish Kumar Reddy, emphasising the need for hungry players who treat their wicket with utmost importance.

South Africa earns 7th successive Test win

AP, CAPE TOWN: South Africa earned a seventh successive win after beating Pakistan by 10 wickets on day four of the second test at Newlands on Monday and swept the series 2-0.

Pakistan, which was forced to follow on after 194 in the first innings, fought hard to avert an innings defeat with only 10 batters after Saim Ayub was injured on the first day. It was bowled out for 478 in the last session, leaving South Africa only 58 runs to win.

David Bedingham and Aiden Markram knocked off the runs in just 7.1 overs to wrap up the series after their narrow two-wicket win at Centurion, also inside

four days. Since beating the West Indies by 40 runs at Providence last August, South Africa has achieved 2-0 series wins against Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan and qualified for its first World Test Championship final in June in London.

Ryan Rickelton's 259 in South Africa's decisive first innings total of 615 earned him the player of the match, but he didn't take the field on Monday because of a groin injury.

Pakistan's long resistance on the flat, dry pitch was largely based on a determined century from captain Shan Masood, who batted for just over six hours before falling for 145 to 18-year-

old debutant Kwena Maphaka after lunch.

Pakistan started the day on 213-1 and nightwatchman Khuram Shahzad frustrated South Africa in the morning before Marco Jansen had him caught at point on 18. Jansen came close to also dismissing Kamran Ghulam without scoring in the same over but Bedingham missed an easy catch at first slip.

Brief scores: South Africa 615 and 61-0 (D. Bedingham 47 not out). Pakistan 194 and 478 (Shan Masood 145, Babar Azam 81, Salman Agha 48, Mohammad Rizwan 41, Aamer Jamal 34; K. Rabada 3-115, K. Maharaj 3-137, M. Jansen 2-101).

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