

# CM under fire for 'mismanaging' funds, Oppn for accountability

Team Herald

**MARGAO:** Reacting to Chief Minister Pramod Sawant's demand for Rs 8,000 crores to undertake various projects in Goa, leader of the Opposition Yuri Alemao released a video of Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's speech in Parliament announcing Rs 300 crores for Goa. Alemao claimed that the Central Government only provided Rs 150 crore for the commemoration of 60 years of Goa's Liberation.

Alemao criticised the Chief Minister, advising him to focus on managing existing funds effectively rather than depending on future promises. He pointed out that Sitharaman did not fulfil her promise of providing Rs 300 crore for the Liberation Day celebration. "The Chief Minister needs to focus on putting his own house in order by stream-

**The BJP government has already left Goans in a financial emergency by pushing the State into bankruptcy due to its faulty policies and priorities. Wasteful expenditure on events needs to be stopped immediately**  
— Yuri Alemao, Leader of Opposition

lining available resources by judiciously using them. Strict austerity measures are the only way ahead as the BJP government has already pushed Goa into a debt trap," said Alemao.

Alemao accused the BJP Government of selling Mhadei to Karnataka and wasting crores on the 'Save Soil' event. He suggested that the Chief Minister was prompted by the Congress Lok Sabha manifesto, which

highlighted the need for funds for dams and soil conservation, to ask for financial support. "What has the government achieved in the last five years?" he questioned.

He also urged the government to focus on improving road infrastructure, which is currently claiming one life a day, and to enhance the public transport system by creating infrastructure for bus terminals in Margao and Panjim, as well as other bus stands across the State.

Alemao alleged that the BJP government lacks funds to support needy beneficiaries of social welfare schemes but spends excessively on events. "The BJP government has already left Goans in a financial emergency by pushing the State into bankruptcy due to its faulty policies and priorities. Wasteful expenditure on events needs to be stopped immediately," he stressed.

## FIERY TRADITION LIVES ON



PICS: VINCENT BRAGANZA, GABRIEL D'SOUZA & MEGAN FERNANDES



Villagers participate in a traditional ritual called 'Zudeo' or 'Judeo', where they set hay on fire and beat it out with coconut piddes (the kneel of coconut leaves), as a symbol of those who were against St John the Baptist and ordered his beheading, on the eve of Sao Joao at Vanxim island near Divar. (Inset) Beating of Zudeo at Marna in Siolim, on Sunday night

## Goa govt slammed for delay in legislation against widow discrimination

Team Herald

**MARGAO:** In a recent statement, Goa Pradesh Mahila Congress President Beena Naik criticised the BJP government for its inaction over the past 15 months regarding a Private Member's Bill aimed at preventing widow discrimination. Naik emphasised the urgency for Women and Child Development Minister Vishwajit Rane to promptly introduce legislation addressing this issue. She pointed out that Goa could have led the nation if the government had acted on the Private Member Resolution proposed by Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao on March 31, 2023.

Naik stated that if the BJP government had immediately acted on Alemao's resolution, urging the government to take steps

against "Widow Discrimination, Widow Isolation, and Widow Abuse," Goa would have become the first state in India to enact such a law, setting an example for others. "Time is still not lost and I urge Women and Child Development Minister Vishwajit Rane to bring a bill in the seventh session of the eighth Goa Legislative Assembly commencing in July and give justice to widows," stated Naik.

Naik further emphasised that the Goa Pradesh Mahila Congress has always supported needy widows in Goa and had previously submitted a memorandum to all MLAs, urging sympathetic steps to protect widows. She believes a strong law would provide significant relief to widows across all religions facing challenges after the death of their husbands.

## N Goa police conduct special night drive in Mapusa, detain 55

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** The Goa police launched a special night drive in Mapusa on June 21 during which it arrested 55 persons under section 41 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC).

According to North Goa Superintendent of Police (SP), the measure, which is part of ongoing efforts to maintain law and order in the community, led to significant enforcement actions and arrests, underscoring the police's proactive approach to crime prevention and community welfare.

In a bid to enhance security and keep a check on anti-social elements, the police also carried out tenant verification drive focussing on enforcing public health and safety regulations.

Police booked 17 cases under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA).

## Benaulim ZP by-election records 52.12% voter turnout; all candidates confident of victory

Team Herald

**MARGAO:** Despite a slow start during the initial hours of polling for the Benaulim Zilla Panchayat (ZP) by-election, there was a noticeable increase in enthusiasm among voters as the day progressed on Sunday. At the end of the polling day, 52.12 percent voter turnout was recorded.

Candidates claimed that the voter turnout on polling day signifies a desire for change and unity. However, independent candidate Roylea Fernandes alleged that AAP and BJP were colluding, with AAP forming an alliance with Congress for its own political survival.

This by-election was held following a ruling by the High Court that invalidated the OBC caste certificate of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) ZP member Hanzel Fernandes. As a result,

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he was disqualified from his position as the Benaulim Zilla Panchayat member.

On polling day, MLA Venzy Viegas, accompanied by his wife and mother, was among the first voters to cast their ballot. Initially, the voting rate was sluggish, attributed to Church services and Sunday activities. However, after 10 am, the pace of voting significantly increased

as more citizens turned up to make their vote count.

Speaking to reporters, MLA Venzy said, "Let's maintain unity. The message is clear. Today, we must make history again. This vote is for unity. This vote is for togetherness."

He also claimed that the AAP's percentage of votes would increase in this by-election compared to the last elections.

INDIA Bloc candidate Joseph Pimenta stated, "People have come out in large numbers and voted for the INDIA Alliance. There will be maximum turnout in Orlim, Benaulim, Varca, Carmona, and Cavellissim. God is with us."

Roylea Fernandes stated that she and her supporters have not engaged in any hype but have focused on ground work.

"Voters of Benaulim constituency will deliver a verdict that

demonstrates the INDIA Bloc alliance is in national interest. The current conditions and lack of action from authorities clearly indicate that BJP and AAP are aligned. Change is coming to Benaulim. I anticipate victory," she stated confidently.

Grayfans Fernandes, another candidate, boldly claimed a 100 per cent victory.

"People have decided to bring change in Benaulim constituency," he stated.

Earlier in the day, Warren Alemao posted a message on social media urging people to vote for independent candidate Roylea Fernandes.

Warren wrote: "It's voting day. Cast your vote for a secular, educated, and committed candidate who prioritises environmental protection. Your choice shapes the future. Vote wisely! Vote for Roylea Fernandes."

## To tackle garbage dilemma, Raia P'yat to levy Rs 200 fee for dry waste pick-up

Houses with Mangalore roof tiles to pay Rs 130 house tax, ground plus one floor homes will be subject to government's updated tax rates

Team Herald

**MARGAO:** At its gram sabha on Sunday, the Raia panchayat resolved to address the growing garbage menace by imposing a Rs 200 fee for dry waste collection to every household in its jurisdiction.

Additionally, during the gram sabha on Sunday, the panchayat decided to increase the house tax for houses with Mangalore tile roofs from Rs 100 to Rs 130. Houses with ground plus one or more floors will now be subject to fresh house tax rates approved by the government. "Additionally, there will be a re-assessment of houses in the near future to ensure accurate taxation based on property types and structures," added Sarpanch Peter Quadros.

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Sarpanch stated that Eusebio Braganza had proposed the above resolution pertaining to garbage fees.

"As per the resolution, every household is required to pay a fee of Rs 200 towards garbage collection," said the Sarpanch. He emphasised that despite this mandate, it has come to their attention that many residents continue to dump garbage on roadsides or in secluded areas, and some have resorted to burning it, which is unacceptable.

## Goa receives 26.74 pc more rainfall than normal after onset of monsoon

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** The State has received 26.74 per cent more rainfall after the onset of monsoon this year, according to IMD Goa.

According to IMD data, between a period of June 1 and 12, 2024, the State received 12.95 inches of rainfall as compared to normal rainfall of 10.15, marking a positive departure of 26.7 per cent.

However, during the period, North Goa received 2.6 per cent of less rainfall than the while South Goa received 55.7 per cent more rainfall.

As far as seasonal rainfall is concerned, the state has received three per cent less rainfall this monsoon, the IMD said.

According to the IMD data, during the period of June 1 to June 23, 2024, the State has received an average of 24.49 inches of rainfall as against normal rainfall of 25.25, registering a negative departure of three per cent.

North Goa district re-



ceived 22.5 inches of rainfall as against 25.58, registering a negative departure of 11 per cent while South Goa received 26.19 inches of rainfall against 24.95 a of rainfall, registering a positive departure of five percent.

Meanwhile, the IMD issued an orange alert for June 24 and 25 while a yellow alert for June 26 and 27. "Heavy rainfall to very heavy rainfall with strong surface winds is very likely at isolated places over North Goa and South Goa districts of the state on June 24 and 25," the IMD said.

For June 25 and 26, the IMD said, "Heavy rainfall with strong surface winds is very likely at isolated places over North Goa and South Goa districts of the State."

## Soak in the celebration of Sao Joao Traditions

**24<sup>th</sup> June : 10am-10pm**  
**At Helipad, Dauji-Ella, Old Goa**

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Live Bands | DJs | Cultural Entertainment
- Traditional Goan Songs and Dances
- Food Stalls | Rain Dance

**24<sup>th</sup> June**

- Konkani programs by Lawry, Jr. Reagan, Akki, Avito, Pershirl, Kimberly, Dr. Stacy
- DJ Joyson, DJ Naveen, DJ Aaron, DJ Yash
- Forefront, 24k, Lynx, Crimson Tide
- Pure Magic, Archies, Shine On

**Event hosted by RJ Godfrey and Rhea Dias**

- Best Koppel Contest,
- Best Sao Joao Outfit Contest-Individual/Couple
- Best Sao Joao Outfit Contest-Family (min.3 person)
- Best Sao Joao Outfit-Traditional Group (min.7 person)
- Best Traditional Cookery Contest Games

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**Goa Tourism Helpline No.1364**

## Fisheries Union stands with traditional fishermen against marine pollution

Team a

**MARGAO:** The All-Goa Small Scale Responsible Fisheries Union (AGSSRFU) has declared its support for the fishing communities of Velsao in South Goa amidst ongoing a against fish mortality incidents in the Arabian Sea at Velsao Beach. The local fisherfolk attribute these deaths to toxic chemicals discharged into the seawater from a nearby fertiliser plant.

Shaila D'Mello, President of AGSSRFU, announced the Union's decision on June 10, following a site visit to Velsao Beach. During their visit, they observed a significant

### VELSAO FISH KILL

number of dead fish along the northern stretch of the beach. AGSSRFU criticised the decision to locate the fertiliser factory on the hill, calling it an initial mistake.

AGSSRFU expressed deep concern over the situation and pledged their support to the local fishing communities in their protest against these incidents.

Additionally, AGSSRFU acknowledged various complaints filed on this matter with authorities in Goa. They noted statements from Go-

enche Fuddle Pillge Khair (GFPK) and directives from Pradip Chaterjee, National Convenor of NPSSFW (National Platform for Small Scale Fish Workers) in Kolkata, urging further examination of the issue.

"We have also taken note of complaints from NGOs like Goencho Ekvott to the Velsao panchayat dated May 27, and Gochea Ramponkaracho Ekvott (GRE) to the Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB) and other authorities, as well as videos addressing the issue of fish mortality by Cortalim MLA Anton Vas," said D'Mello.

AGSSRFU also highlighted their support for local fisherman Aliston Pinto from Velsao, who has spoken out about the issue in video interviews.

"The fertilizer plant Paradeep Phosphates must be held accountable for releasing toxic effluents into the Arabian Sea waters at Velsao Beach," D'Mello said.

They called for a united effort among all organizations involved, including fishing groups, to address marine water pollution and fish mortality caused by Paradeep Phosphates.