

Protesting junior doctors in West Bengal defy SC order to rejoin work

Say will continue their protest till the rape and murder victim of RG Kar Hospital was given justice; Mamata invites them for a meeting at the Secretariat to resolve the impasse

PTI, KOLKATA: Protesting junior doctors in West Bengal defied a Supreme Court order, asking them to resume work by 5 pm on Tuesday and said they would continue with their protest till their demands were fulfilled and the rape and murder victim of the RG Kar Hospital was given justice.

As the medicos continued to protest for the 32nd day on Tuesday, demanding the removal of the Kolkata police commissioner and several top State health department officials, the State government said Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has written to the protesters, inviting them to a meeting at the Secretariat to resolve the impasse over the incident.

However, the protesting doctors said the mail for the meeting was from the State health secretary, whose resignation they were seeking, and termed it as 'insulting'. They also said that restricting the number of representatives to attend the



Junior doctors shout slogans as they sit on a dharna after the police stopped their protest march towards Swasthya Bhawan over the RG Kar Hospital rape and murder incident, in Kolkata, on Tuesday

meeting to 10 was 'humiliating'.

The top court on Monday had directed the protesting resident doctors to resume work by 5 pm on Tuesday, observing that if "there is continued abstention from work, there may be a likelihood of adverse action."

The State government claimed in the Supreme Court that the strike has resulted in the deaths of 23 patients and has severely impacted the healthcare

delivery mechanism.

During the day, the protesting doctors marched to 'Swasthya Bhawan' - the headquarters of the Health Department in Salt Lake - and staged a sit-in outside the office building to press for their demand.

The protesters carried brooms and a model human brain, while marching towards 'Swasthya Bhawan' in a symbolic bid to 'clean up' the State health sector.

NOTICE TO 51 RG KAR DOCTORS, ASKED TO BE PRESENT BEFORE ENQUIRY PANEL

PTI, KOLKATA: The RG Kar Medical College and Hospital has issued a notice to 51 doctors for promoting a culture of intimidation, endangering the democratic atmosphere of the institution and has been asked to appear before the enquiry committee on September 11. They have to prove their innocence before the committee, the notice issued by the hospital authority said.

According to the decision made by the Special Council Committee of the RG Kar Hospital, access to the institution's campus is restricted for those 51 doctors unless summoned by the enquiry committee. "Additionally, participation in college activities is prohibited," the notice signed by the hospital's principal said.

SANDIP GHOSH, THREE OTHERS SENT TO JUDICIAL CUSTODY

PTI, KOLKATA: Former principal of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital Sandip Ghosh was on Tuesday sent to judicial custody till September 23 by a special CBI court in a financial irregularities case. The court also sent his security personnel Afsar Ali and two alleged associates - medical equipment vendor Biplab Singha and pharmacy shop owner Suman Hazara - to judicial custody till September 23. Although the accused were previously remanded to CBI custody for eight days leaving the probe agency with the option to pray for another six days of maximum remand, the investigators made no such petition before the court.

SHORE SEINERS



It was a sight to behold as the traditional fishermen engaged in beach seine fishing, netted in loads of fish at Caranzalem beach, on Tuesday

Diarrhoea claims five workers at Mobor, Cutbona jetties

Directorate of Health Services says 163 cases detected since August 17

Team Herald

PANJIM: Five migrant workers working on Mobor and Cutbona jetties have died due to diarrhoea, while 163 such cases have been detected since August 17, according to the Directorate of Health Services (DHS).

Nearly four to five new cases are being detected per day as of Tuesday, informed State epidemiologist Dr Utkarsh Betodkar.

Cont on Pg 11 >>

MAINTAIN HYGIENE STANDARDS AT FISHING JETTIES, CM INSTRUCTS FISHERIES DEPT

PANJIM: Terming the deaths of workers at jetties as very unfortunate, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Tuesday issued strict instructions to the Fisheries Department to ensure that hygiene standards at all fishing jetties are significantly improved and strictly maintained.

Additionally, the Health Department is actively monitoring the situation and providing guidance to the workforce on maintaining proper hygiene, taking preventive measures, and ensuring early diagnosis to prevent further incidents. All the stakeholders of the trade must also ensure strict adherence to the instructions of the Fisheries and Health Departments, he added.

"I have directed both Collectors to monitor the situation on the ground, ensuring that all necessary actions are taken to safeguard the health of the workers," Sawant said.

Hope Guv speaks on 'core issues' than decline in Christian population: Cong

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PANJIM: The opposition Congress Party on Tuesday hoped that Governor P S Sreedharan Pillai will now speak about the rise in unemployment, crimes, land conversions and hill cuttings, among other issues under BJP in the last 12 years and its impact on the identity of the State.

Reacting to the statement of the Goa Governor in Kerala about decline in Christian population and rise in Muslims in the State, which he later claimed was misquoted, the Congress demanded that the Governor should speak on 'core issues' faced by Goans.

The Congress Party wants the Governor to act against the illegal land conversions and hill cuttings. There is rise in cases of murders, rapes and extortions in the State. The Governor should seek explanations from the government, party vice president Sunil Kawthar said.

"It is the duty of the Governor as Constitutional Head of the State to ensure that the government

WHAT CONGRESS EXPECTS FROM GOVERNOR

▶▶ To act against the illegal land conversions & hill cutting and seek explanations from the government

▶▶ To ensure that govt functions under the ambit of Constitution

▶▶ To swiftly act against Chief Secy, allegedly involved in illegal land conversion at Aldona

▶▶ To speak on involvement of former DGP in Assagao house demolition case

functions under the ambit of the Constitution of India. The very fact that the Governor allowed defections and later inducted one of the defectors as a Minister clearly shows that the Governor is not impartial," he claimed.

The Congress Party has demanded swift action from the Governor against the Chief Secretary, who is allegedly involved in illegal land conversion at Aldona.

Cont on Pg 11 >>

Preliminary report blames 28 contractors for dilapidated road conditions in Goa

PWD instructed to get these roads repaired through these contractors free of cost as per defect liability period; CM reiterates those who fail to do so will be blacklisted and PWD engineers will be issued show cause notices

Team Herald

PANJIM: Engineers India Ltd in its preliminary report has held as many as 28 contractors responsible for the dilapidated road conditions in the State and instructions have been issued to PWD to get these roads repaired through them free of cost as per defect liability period.

Addressing mediapersons on Tuesday, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant reiterated that contractors concerned who do not repair the dilapidated roads built by them free of cost will be blacklisted, while the PWD engineers will also be issued show cause notices.

Sawant said that last week the government received a preliminary report from Engineers India Ltd on road conditions in the State and based on the report, instructions have

“We are checking on how work orders were issued to contractors during last one year, who completed roads and what's the present condition and what would be the suggestions of Engineers India Ltd. One decision is final and that is without spending money from the State exchequer, the contractors will have to repair the roads or else they will be blacklisted.”

Presently, based on the preliminary report, contractors have been asked to repair the roads. A committee has been constituted to fix responsibility and it will also henceforth check the quality of roads and its durability period and suggest action against the contractors, Sawant said.

The activists have alleged that the roads are repaired only when VIPs visit the State.

Cont on Pg 11 >>

Bihar native held for raping minor at Oxel

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PANJIM: The Anjuna Police arrested a 29-year-old man from Bihar for allegedly raping a four-year-old girl at Deulwado-Oxel, near Siolim.

According to the police, the accused has been identified as Md Faiyaj Alam, native of Bhagwatpur, Supaul-Bihar, a painter by profession, currently residing at Deulwado-Oxel, near Siolim.

He was arrested following a complaint lodged by the minor girl's mother. The accused committed the crime when the minor was playing outside the rented room of the accused.

Cont on Pg 11 >>

Kim vows to make his nuke force ready for combat with US

AP, SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un vowed to redouble efforts to make his nuclear force fully ready for combat with the United States and its allies, State media reported Tuesday, after the country disclosed a new platform likely designed to fire more powerful intercontinental ballistic missiles targeting the mainland US.

Kim has repeatedly made similar pledges, but his latest threat comes as outside experts believe Kim will perform provocative weapons tests ahead of the US presidential election in November. In recent days, North Korea has also resumed launches of trash-carrying balloons to-

ward South Korea. In a speech marking the 76th founding anniversary for his government on Monday, Kim said North Korea faces "a grave threat" because of what he called "the reckless expansion" of a US-led regional military bloc that is now developing into a nuclear-based one. Kim said such a development is pushing North Korea to boost its military capability, according to the official Korean Central News Agency.

Kim said North Korea will "redouble its measures and efforts to make all the armed forces of the state including the nuclear force fully ready for combat," KCNA said. Pg 8 >>

GSPCB team visits Miramar, Caranzalem beaches; collects samples of Plaster of Paris idols and water

To check the quantity of PoP used in making the idols and level of contamination in the sea

Team Herald

PANJIM: A day after Ganesh idols made of Plaster of Paris (PoP) immersed after one and a half days washed ashore at Caranzalem beach, the Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB) officials visited Miramar and Caranzalem beaches and collected samples of the idols and the water on Tuesday.

The officials said the water and the idols will be tested to check the quantity of PoP used in making the idols and level of contamination in the sea.

Speaking to reporters, Denza Cardozo, GSPCB scientist, said, "We have been deputed by our office to inspect the Miramar and Caranzalem stretch and check if there are any Ganesh idols lying on the beach. We have collected



“A team was sent to collect samples of idols and water. We will put them to test to know whether the idols were made of PoP or clay. Water samples will also be tested to determine level of contamination. The report is likely to be ready in three or four days”

—Mahesh Patil, GSPCB Chairman

the samples and proceeded with the analysis in the lab. We will try to find out whether these idols are made of clay or PoP.”

However, she did not commit when the report would be released.

Dozens of Ganesh idols made of PoP immersed after one and a half days of Ganesh Chaturthi washed

ashore at Caranzalem beach on Monday, raising pollution concerns.

This happened in spite of strict guidelines and complete ban by the Board on use of PoP for making Ganesh idols.

Cont on Pg 11 >>

OPPN SLAMS GOVT FOR FAILING TO PREVENT IMPORT OF POP GANESH IDOLS INTO GOA

MARGAO: The Opposition has sharply criticised the State government for its failure to prevent the import of Plaster of Paris (PoP) Ganesh idols into Goa.

In a statement, Goa Forward Party president and Fatorda MLA Vijai Sardesai condemned the government's lack of action and oversight, emphasising the need for stricter regulations to protect local traditions and the environment.

Describing the situation as 'heart breaking', he criticised the government's inadequate response and calling for more stringent measures. Sardesai said,

"I had warned earlier. After that, the Chief Minister promised to take 'strict action' and 'adequate vigilance'. But it has now been proved that these assurances were hollow."

He criticised the government's failure to follow through on its commitments, leading to the ongoing issue with PoP Ganesh idols. Sardesai further said that many God-fearing Goans, including himself, are deeply saddened by the sight of Ganesh idols washed ashore. He called this a clear reflection of the government's gross negligence and its failure to act in the best interests of Goa.

