

SC pulls up Bengal govt for 'tardiness' in installing CCTVs, building resting rooms

A three-judge bench, led by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, questioned the West Bengal government's delay in fulfilling safety requirements at hospitals in the State

PTI, NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday expressed concern over the slow pace of installing CCTV cameras and ensuring other security measures at West Bengal's State-run hospitals, including RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, as part of efforts to safeguard doctors.

KOLKATA MEDIC RAPE & MURDER

A three-judge bench, led by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, questioned the West Bengal government's delay in fulfilling safety requirements. Senior Advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, representing the State, informed the court that logistical delays caused by floods had hindered progress. "Of the 6,178 cameras planned for installation, only 22 percent have been put up," Dwivedi stated.

The Chief Justice, however, was unimpressed. "Why is the progress so tardy? No areas have surpassed 50 per cent," he remarked. In response, Dwivedi assured

SC TAKES ON WEST BENGAL GOVT

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the bench that most of the work would be completed by October 15, ahead of the deadline of October 31.

The bench noted the State's assurance but emphasised the need for urgency, especially in light of ongoing investigations into the rape and murder of a 31-year-old trainee doctor at the RG Kar hospital.

The court reviewed a fourth status report submitted by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which outlined ongoing probes into both the murder and allegations of financial irregularities at

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▶ Unimpressed, Chief Justice of India questioned the "tardy progress" and said no areas have surpassed 50 per cent

▶ In response, Adv Dwivedi assured the bench that most of the work would be completed by October 15, ahead of the deadline of October 31

the institution.

While CBI investigations are still in progress, the court refrained from revealing detailed findings, citing the sensitive nature of the case.

The bench also addressed concerns raised about individuals implicated in the case who remain in positions of power at the college. Senior advocates Indira Jaisingh and Karuna Nundy, representing the resident doctors, urged the court to ensure their removal until the investigation concludes.

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FRESH START



Fish vendors have begun operating from a new temporary shed in Panjim on Monday. (Inset) The old fish market has been closed for repairs

Activists, NGOs to wash and clean TCP dept office today

Team Herald

PANJIM: Preparations are afoot for a unique peaceful protest at the Town and Country Planning (TCP) department office at Patto-Panjim, on the eve of Gandhi Jayanti on October 1.

NGOs and activists will gather in the office at 3 pm and wash and clean the office and demand the resignation of Chief Town Planner (CTP) Rajesh Naik, who they alleged was responsible for selling Goa by allowing conversion of

“The protest is meant to mark the need for the people to assert their rights. We see wanton destruction is being inflicted on our green and clean State. We need to make our voice heard to all the authorities

- Dr Ketan Govekar, ex-Associate Professor

large tracts of land.

The activists have made an appeal to all right thinking Goans to be present in the TCP department office

for two hours on Tuesday evening in large numbers to save the State for posterity.

Activist Xencor Polgi said, "History in making as we all Goenkar will assemble at Patto, Panjim on October 1, to clean TCP department office and its system starting with resignation of chief town planner Rajesh Naik, who have been given extension in service. Naik has worked against the interest of Goa and it is utmost important that he quit the post"

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Why Rajesh Naik, Chief Town Planner Goa, needs to go

Rajesh Naik approved the zone changes for a record number of 49 lakh sq mts; (95%) of the zone changes converted eco-sensitive zones like fields, no-development hill slopes, orchard and private forest to settlement zones

CLAUDE ALVARES

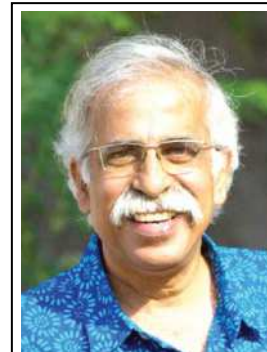
Today, large numbers of ordinary Goan citizens, young and old, will be attending the event scheduled for this evening at 3 pm at the Town and Country Planning office at Dempo Towers, Patto, Panaji, to collectively ask Rajesh Naik, Goa's Chief Town Planner (Planning) who is on unwarranted extension since April 2024, to retire/resign from the office of the CTP, because of the tremendous damage he has caused to the ecology of the State by his various approvals of projects under the infamous sections 16B and now 17(2) and 39A of the TCP Act.

GUEST ARTICLE

Rebellion and resistance have been welling up in various corners of the state over the past few months as a large-scale vomit against the outrageous and audacious acts of the TCP department and its head honcho, Chief Town Planner Naik.

Large numbers of social activists from villages under assault by the real estate mafia from Delhi, Hyderabad, Pune and Mumbai are converging at Panjim at the office of the Town Planning Department with brooms and dustpans, to literally clean it up under the Prime Minister's directive: Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

The principal call for the clean-up event has been issued by Swapnesh Sherlekar, the most prominent and vocal environmental activist and blogger of



Claude Alvares, a renowned environmentalist, is the director of Goa Foundation, an environmental monitoring action group that has filed successful public interest litigation cases

them all. He has been supported by a large number of activists from across Goa, including Dhiren Phadte, Judith Almeida, Sanjay Naik, Xencor Polgi, Ramakant Kankonkar, Mayur Shetgaonkar, Pravin Shetgaonkar, Anthony D'Silva, Anthony D'Souza and several others, too numerous to mention. Their call is endorsed by villagers and village-level groups from south to north, all facing "real estate abuse", a new pejorative term and offence. We are after all talking of nothing less than the rape of Goa.

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Sensex falls 1,272 points & Nifty drops 368 points

PTI, MUMBAI: Equity benchmark indices tumbled nearly 1.5 per cent on Monday due to heavy selling in frontline stocks Reliance Industries, ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank amid rising geopolitical risks in the Middle East and weakness in Japanese markets.

Besides, profit-taking after a record-breaking rally and foreign fund outflows added to the gloom, analysts said.

The BSE Sensex tumbled 1,272.07 points or 1.49 per cent to settle at 84,299.78.

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Don't fly DUBAI visit & Shop of **Goa** first time biggest event from IN GOA

SHOPPING FESTIVAL

27th SEPT To 6th OCT

Time: 10.30 am To 9.00 p.m.

'One script policy' discriminating against the four other scripts of Konkani: GKF

KBM president Ratnamala Divkar said Devanagari lobby is not against Romi Konkani; GKF says the statement made by Divkar is "false and misleading"

Team Herald

MARGAO: Global Konkani Forum (GKF) rejected the statement by Konkani Bhasha Mandal (KBM) President Ratnamala Divkar on Sunday that the Devanagari lobby is not against Romi Konkani and Roman script Konkani is getting equal treatment from KBM and the government.

Jose Salvador Fernandes, Secretary, GKF said that as per the statement made by KBM President, Romi Konkani cannot be given equal status along with Devanagari as official script of Konkani under the Official Language Act, because of Sahitya Akademi follows "one language, one script policy."

"GKF would like to state that first of all, this policy of the Sahitya Akademi totally goes against the Constitu-

tion of India, especially Article 14, which guarantees equality before the law. GKF would like to know what criteria was used by the Konkani Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi in 1981, when they unanimously passed the resolution to give recognition to only Devanagari script as the sole official script of Konkani language?" he questioned.

He further said that this 'one script policy', is therefore discriminating against the four other scripts of Konkani, and needs to be challenged in the court of law. The nation's mantra is unity in diversity.

"KBM President says there is no different treatment given to Romi Script by KBM. The representation of Roman Script members on the KBM executive committee speaks for itself.

“GKF would like to know what criteria was used by the Konkani Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi in 1981, when they unanimously passed the resolution to give recognition to only Devanagari script as the sole official script of Konkani language?"

- Jose Salvador Fernandes, secretary, GKF

Moreover, discrimination towards Roman script is also seen at government level, where the Dalgado Konkani Akademi is not given grants on par with Goa Konkani Akademi," said Fernandes.

He alleged that the KBM President, and other protagonists of Devanagari are definitely against Romi Script.

"Otherwise I challenge her to say that she or KBM

does not have any objections to Konkani in Roman script being introduced in the schools. This will prove that she or KBM is not against Romi Konkani, because the Sahitya Akademi and the Official Language Act have no objections with Romi getting introduced in schools," he said.

He said even the National Education Policy does not impose any language or script on any school. Then why KBM and Devanagari proponents like Uday Bhembre, Damodar Mauzo are against introducing Roman Script in schools? "The Devanagari protagonists want to choke the script to a slow death," he said.

KBM President further said that GKF is trying to create a religious divide, which is totally false, and is made with a malafide intention to polarise

two communities.

"In fact, the day the clause 'Konkani means Konkani written in Devanagari script' was inserted in OLA 1987, that very day the seeds of religious divide was sowed, betraying the 95 percent Romi script protagonists, who participated in the language agitation," she had said on Sunday at a programme of KBM held at Margao.

Protesting against the comments, GKF Secretary Fernandes said that it was insane and baseless on the part of KBM President to accuse Roman script protagonists as communal. "We are only asking for our rights as religious and linguistic minorities, as it is our fundamental right as per article 29 (1)," Fernandes said.

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Supreme Court asks IIT to grant admission to youth who missed fee submission deadline

The top court used its extraordinary powers under Article 142 of the Constitution in asking IIT Dhanbad to admit Atul Kumar into its Electrical Engineering B Tech course



Forget blacklisting! He deserves a rough ride on his own road.

PTI, NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday came to the rescue of a Dalit youth, who had lost his seat in IIT Dhanbad after missing the deadline to deposit a fee, by asking the institute to admit him to the B.Tech course.

"We cannot allow such a young talented boy to go away. He cannot be left in lurch," a bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said.

The top court used its extraordinary powers under Ar-

ticle 142 of the Constitution in asking the IIT Dhanbad to admit Atul Kumar into its Electrical Engineering B.Tech course.

"We are of the view that a talented student like the petitioner who belongs to a marginalised group who did all to secure admission should not be left out... we direct that candidate is granted admission to IIT Dhanbad and let him be in the same batch to which he would have been granted admission if the fees would have been paid," the bench said in the order.

“We are of the view that a talented student like the petitioner who belongs to a marginalised group who did all to secure admission should not be left out... we direct that candidate is granted admission to IIT Dhanbad and let him be in the same batch to which he would have been granted admission if the fees would have been paid

- Supreme Court

Article 142 of the Constitution empowers the top court to



pass any order in the interest of justice.

The parents of Atul Kumar, 18, failed to deposit Rs 17,500 as the acceptance fee by June 24, the deadline for depositing the requisite fees for blocking the seat.

The parents of the youth also approached the National Commission for Scheduled Castes, Jharkhand Legal Services Authority and the Madras High Court to save the hard-earned seat.

Kumar, the son of a daily wage, hails from a below poverty line (BPL) family living at Titora village in

Muzaffarnagar district of Uttar Pradesh.

The National Commission for Scheduled Castes also expressed its inability to help him.

As he had taken JEE at a centre in Jharkhand, the youth had also moved the Jharkhand State Legal Services Authority which suggested him to approach the Madras High Court as it was IIT Madras that had conducted the exam. The high court had asked him to approach the top court.