

## Roaring demand to notify Mhadei as Tiger Reserve

**Tigress with two cubs sighted in Chorla Ghat; wildlife protectors allege govt wants to destroy tiger habitat for short-term profits**

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PANJIM: A recent sighting of a tigress with two cubs in Chorla Ghat has made environmentalists raise their demand to notify Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary as Tiger Reserve by several notches.

Mhadei Bachao Abhiyan Convenor Rajendra Kerker said it was proven "that the tigress sighted in Goa was different and not recorded in any database across the country". He had found tiger droppings in the Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary just eight days back.

According to Kerker, truck drivers have seen tigers crossing from Goa to Karnataka and Maharashtra. The latest camera trap has sighted a tigress with three cubs, which means they breed in the Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary.

Kerker said, "When we visited the sanctuary we noticed tiger droppings. In Anjunem dam and Chorla

**TURNING AWAY FROM THE TIGER**

Officials of the Wildlife Division of the Forest Department are not following the recommendations of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) on preservation

Anti-poaching squads constituted, water towers have been erected but staff is not appointed



**CALENDAR OF TIGER SIGHTINGS**

2013: Team led by range forest officer (RFO) Paresh Porob trapped a tigress feasting on wild boar meat

2013: Team led by conservation zoologist K Ulhas Karanth found the presence of tigers in Goa

Ghat, truck drivers have seen tiger during night. Also people have seen tiger crossing from Pansulem area to Karnataka and also even moving to Maharashtra. There is proof of presence of tiger like we seek tigers in the Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary and Kali Ti-

ger Reserve and now in the Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary." Earlier, the State government is saying that there is no present of tiger in Goa and that they come from Karnataka and Maharashtra again and again.

Cont on Pg 11 >>

The presence of tigers has been repeatedly proved in the State. I had also found pug marks, but for the last two years the State government has not been serious

– Rajendra Kerker, Convenor Mhadei Bachao Abhiyan & Environmentalist

The State government is not declaring Tiger Reserve because it has other interests like carrying out mining and other projects in the sanctuary. The government should go ahead and notify Tiger Reserve because it will be golden gate of nature

– Ramesh Gauns, Environmentalist

The State government wants to destroy tiger habitat for short term profits. Failure to declare Tiger Reserve is complete stupidity of the government. To make fast money, the government is knowingly destroying Goa. Only people of Goa can protect the State

– Abhijit Prabhudessai, Federation of Rainbow Warriors general secretary

Environmentalist Rajendra Kerker has several times said that tigers are present in the Mhadei sanctuary and the Central government agency has also proved it correct. But it seems this heartless BJP government is not convinced with it, only out to sell the Mhadei to Karnataka

– Yuri Alemao, Leader of the Opposition

## With cops on his trail, Assam ponzi mastermind was hiding in Goa for two months

**Changed locations frequently as he stayed at Agonda, Palolem, Arambol and Keri**

Team Herald

PANJIM: Deepankar Barman, the mastermind of the Rs 500 crore Ponzi scheme in Assam, had been hiding in Goa since mid-August before the law caught up with him in Keri, Pernem, on Sunday.

Speaking to O Herald, Amit Mahato, Pan Bazar Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) from Assam, said, "He (Barman) was hiding in Goa since August 18, but was constantly changing his location, making it difficult to trace him. He had left Assam much before we registered the first case against him on August 22."

Finally on Sunday, the police apprehended him first in Panjim and then formally arrested him at Keri, Pernem.

"We have recovered Rs 27 lakh in cash from him. He has duped over 10,000 investors across the country."

Guwahati Police Commissioner (CP) Diganta Barah, who is also investigating the case, said that Barman had spread his

ON SCAMSTER'S TRAIL

Deepankar Barman floated the company in 2018 DB Stock Broking

Promised investors high returns of 120%

He disappeared from Assam in August, leaving investors in humongous financial losses

He had left Assam much before local police registered first case against him on August 22

He was hiding in Goa since August 18, but was



constantly changing his location

Long arm of law finally caught up with Barman in Goa on Sunday

network from Assam to Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Sikkim and other States through his firm, DB Stock Broking, of which he is the director.

According to Mahato, the Guwahati police team had been looking for Barman in Goa for some time, but he managed to stay one step ahead by frequently changing his location.

"He would stay at one place for four to five days before shifting. He had stayed at Palolem, Agonda, Arambol and Keri. He was a frequent visitor to Goa earlier too and knew his way around here.

Since he was paying his hotel bills on time, no one suspected him. We got a lot of support from the Crime Branch of Goa Police to nab him," Mahato said.

Meanwhile, the Assam Police have secured a transit remand from Pernem Court and will soon transfer Barman to Guwahati. Barman floated the company in 2018 and promised investors high returns of 120 per cent. He disappeared from Assam in August, leaving investors in humongous financial losses, and triggering the police chase that finally saw him in the net on Sunday.

## With Colva p'yat support, Romi Konkani script gets big boost

**Becomes 51st VP to pass gram sabha resolution demanding equal status for the Roman script**

Team Herald

MARGAO: As the debate over the script issue intensifies, with Devanagari supporters resisting the demands of those favouring the Roman script, several village panchayats across Goa are passing resolutions in support of the Roman script.

The latest to join the movement is the village panchayat of Colva, bringing the total to 51 panchayats that have passed resolutions in their gram sabhas demanding equal status for the Roman script.

It shows that the people of Goa still want and support Konkani in the Roman script. The level of support we see for the Romi script, is not same for Devanagari

– Jose Salvador Fernandes, Secretary of the Global Konknni Forum

Reports indicate that several other panchayats are also preparing to introduce similar resolutions.

At the recently concluded All India Konkani Parishad, Devanagari supporters and their leaders firmly op-

posed the demands made by the Global Konknni Forum (GKF) for equal status for the Roman script in the Official Language Act and its introduction in schools.

These resolutions reflect the voices of those who genuinely want Konkani in the Roman script to flourish and be protected

– Rosario Fernandes, a supporter of the Roman script

Cont on Pg 11 >>

## RAIN INFLECTS PAIN



Commuters were caught unawares following heavy showers that flooded streets of Panjim and dampened the Diwali shopping spirit, on Monday

## Musk adds X factor to Team Trump

AFP, WASHINGTON: Tech billionaire Elon Musk added some star power and heft at a Donald Trump rally in Madison Garden, New York, on Sunday, urging people to come out and vote with their friends and family. Wearing a MAGA hat, Musk was seen cradling his 4-year-old son, X Æ A-Xii.

Musk, 53, the CEO of SpaceX and Tesla and the owner of X, formerly Twitter, has thrown his millions, time and influence into sending the former Republican president back to the White House since endorsing him in July.

Musk has reportedly donated \$118 million to his personal pro-Trump



Elon Musk roots for Donald Trump at Madison Square Garden, in New York

political action committee. However, the world's richest man was plunged into new controversy on Friday after a report that he was in regular contact with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Cont on Pg 11 >>

## Anjuna gauncars to compensate fellow guancars fighting cases beneficial to the comunidade

AUGUSTO RODRIGUES

ANJUNA: Winds of unity were felt blowing during the Extra-Ordinary Annual General body Meeting (EoGM) of Comunidade of Anjuna when all gauncars unanimously decided to compensate fellow guancars fighting cases in the High Court and Supreme Court beneficial to the body.

The sixth minute of the EoGM reads: "It is decided in the in the Extra-Ordinary General Body Meeting that the cases which are pending in High Court and Supreme Court if it is beneficial to comunidade than comunidade should compensate to the applicant Trevor Mascarenhas. It is unanimously

The compensation paid would not only decrease the financial burden but show the comunidades solidarity with those working for the good of the community

– Pedro Mendonca, Gauncar, Anjuna

resolved in the EoGM."

The question of compensation arose when the matter "to discuss on the cases that are pending before the High Court and Supreme Court came up for discussion".

At this point, gauncar Pedro Mendonca stood up and reasoned that "the compensation paid would not only decrease the financial burden but show the comunidades solidarity with those working for the good of the community".

Mascarenhas, it may be noted, is fighting a tenancy case at the Goa Bench of the Bombay High Court where two lakh square meters of the comunidade is at stake.

A case is also being

fought in the Supreme Court regarding the North Goa Administrator of Comunidade overruling the decision of the Gauncars in relation to the fees to be paid during the last Sunburn Festival.

"All of us will stand to gain with the work Mascarenhas has put in. Why should all of us benefit with him spending money from his pocket," asked Mendonca. This was the only point in the agenda that was decided with none objecting.

Discussion tended to veer on whether land should be leased during Christmas week when the application from Tribevibe Entertainment Private Limited to organise a Bollywood event came up.

Whilst many gauncars raised objections on grounds that Christmas is family time, a few gauncars, living in the neighbouring states, were in favour. The general body rejected the application on the basis that, "it was incomplete".

Cont on Pg 11 >>

## After four-year delay, Centre may start Census in 2025

**The Oppn has criticised the Modi govt for delaying the decadal exercise, while demanding a caste-based Census**

PTI, NEW DELHI: The Centre plans to initiate the next census, an official survey of the nation's population, in 2025 after a four-year delay and the process is expected to continue till 2026, which means that future census cycles will be completely altered.

After the Census, the delimitation of Lok Sabha seats will take place, with this process expected to be completed by 2028.

The development followed a week after the Centre extended the tenure of Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, Mritunjay Kumar Narayan, till 2026 to oversee the conduct of the decadal census.

The Opposition has been criticising the Narendra Modi-led coalition government for delaying the decadal Census programme, while demanding a caste-based Census. Initially scheduled for April 2020,



The EoGM rejected the request from Spacebound Web Labs Private Limited, listed on number seventeen of the agenda, to refund of Sunburn festival 2023. O Herald had inadvertently mentioned in its edition dated 28/10/2024 that the application was not part of the agenda and hence, the same was not discussed

the Census was first postponed due to the outbreak of the Covid-19. Since then, it remains on hold as the Centre has not yet announced a new schedule for the survey.

In September, PTI had reported that the Centre had started the preparations for conducting the decadal census, but was yet to take any decision on including caste as a category.

Will this new Census include a detailed enumeration of ALL castes in the country, in addition to that of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes that has been done in every Census since 1951?

– Jairam Ramesh, Congress general secretary (communications)

The Census has been held in India every 10 years since 1881 and is aimed at collecting a demographic and socio-economic data of the population.

Will there be a caste Census?

The Congress on Monday sought an all-party meeting to get clarity on whether the next census would include a detailed enumeration of all castes and whether the census will be used for determining the strength of each state in the Lok Sabha.

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The real one is right behind me, hidden by the smog.