

Forget Rs 300 cr: Goa unlikely to get an extra penny from the Centre for SFX Exposition

Union Finance Ministry replies to South Goa MP's query on Exposition funding saying "substantial resources" have already been transferred to Goa to "meet its financial needs"

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PANJIM: With barely 20 days to go for the decennial Exposition of St Francis Xavier (SFX) relics, Goa's supposed request for Rs 300 crore as additional funds for the crucial event, is unlikely to be considered.

In a reply to South Goa MP Capt Viriato Fernandes' query on the Rs 300 crore funds, which CM Pramod Sawant had said he had sought from the centre, the Finance Ministry has all but said that additional funds for this will not be sent. During a pre-budget

meeting convened by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at New Delhi in June this year, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant had requested a grant of Rs 300 crore for the decennial Exposition of St Francis Xavier's relics.

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DOUBLE ENGINE MESSAGE: MONEY GIVEN, MAKE ENDS MEET

▶▶ 2024-25: Tax devolution - Increased from Rs 2,480 crore in 2019-20 to Rs 4,708.37 crore in

▶▶ 2024-25: Grants-in-aid - increased to Rs 1,506.57 cr from Rs 566 crore in 2014-15 crore

▶▶ 2022-23 & 2023-24 - Scheme for Special Assistance

to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) Rs 572.75 crore and Rs 695.20 crore respectively released

▶▶ 2024-25 (SASCI Part-I) Rs 140.58 crore of the Rs 215 crore has been approved and transferred to Goa

Sound demon goes on a rampage across Goa on Narakasur night

All-night music and revelry at different locations drown out the complaints of citizens, who say that effigy makers create a public nuisance with their open drinking, blocking of roads and boisterous celebrations

Team Herald

PANJIM: Thundering music, nightlong revelry, and disturbed citizenry - Narakasur night saw effigy makers turn up the decibel across Goa even as the Goa Human Rights Commission (GHRC) stepped in to turn down the loud music in St Inez, Panjim, after a complaint from a local resident.



“Narakasur got an extended life and in our Dona Paula locality, the effigy was burnt at 7.45 am on Diwali day. The music was so loud that it rattled the windows of my flat - Sanjeev Sardesai, historian

“I was walking from Tonca to St Inez and I could feel my heart palpitating. Loud music and bright lights, drinking in public, road blockades - all of this causes widespread inconvenience. A public interest litigation (PIL) is required to curb the violations done in the name of tradition

- Sandeep Heble, Goa RTI Forum joint secretary

“I have been approaching GHRC every year since 2022 with a request not to allow loudspeakers below my flat since my wife and I suffer from serious ailments. My wife has suffered a stroke earlier and the loud music could have caused her a second, fatal stroke

- Thomas Henry D'Souza, St Inez resident

Historian Sanjeev Sardesai, who had a sleepless night thanks to the loud music played by Narakasur organisers at Dona Paula, remarked, "Narakasur got an extended life and in our area the effigy was burnt at 7.45 am on Diwali day. The music was so loud that it rattled the windows of my flat." Sardesai added that the burning of effigies on roads damaged the tarmac and often left debris that could lead to punctures and suggested that the effigy makers must be made to clean up the roads the next day.

Not too far away from Dona Paula, pulsating music made life difficult for citizens in the Tonca-St Inez stretch. Goa RTI Forum joint secretary Sandeep Heble said,

"I was walking from Tonca to St Inez and I could feel my heart palpitating. Loud music and bright lights, drinking in public, road blockades - all of this causes widespread inconvenience."

"A public interest litigation (PIL) is required to

curb the violations done in the name of tradition. This needs to stop," Heble said, demanding stringent action against those using laser lights, as it caused severe eye strain.

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Speaker dismisses disqualification petition against 8 rebel Congress MLAs

Decision comes after two years; Tawadkar said that the arguments of the petitioner were factually and legally incorrect

Team Herald

PANJIM: Goa Assembly Speaker Ramesh Tawadkar on Friday dismissed the disqualification petition filed by former Congress president against eight rebel party MLAs who defected to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The Speaker dismissed the petition after two years stating that the arguments of the petitioner were factually and legally incorrect when he says that the Speaker had decided about the merger in the order dated September 14, 2022.

On October 14, the Speaker had dismissed the disqualification petition filed by Dominic Noronha of Dramapur-Sirlim against eight Congress rebel MLAs Digambar Kamat, Michael Lobo, Aleixo Sequeira, Deli-

lah Lobo, Kedar Naik, Rajesh Faldessai, Rudolf Fernandes and Sankalp Amonkar.

The petitioner had argued that all eight MLAs had voluntarily given up the membership of their original political party and had incurred disqualification under Para 2 of the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution.

The respondents claimed that their merger with the BJP was valid as they constitute two-third of the Members of Congress Legislature Party (CLP). They argued that there was no need of an actual and factual merger of the original political parties i.e. Congress and BJP. They stated that as per Para 4 of the Tenth Schedule, there was a deemed merger and prayed that the petition be rejected.

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SAUDADE IN EVERY FLAME



Family members lighting candles on the graves at the St Inez cemetery, Panjim for All Souls Day which is observed on November 2

Rohit Bal dies at 63

AGENCIES, MUMBAI: Iconic fashion designer Rohit Bal, who merged Indian heritage with modern aesthetics and created his unique stamp on couture, passed away on Friday after a cardiac arrest. He was 63.

Bal had been battling a prolonged illness for over a year, but returned to the ramp just last month at a fashion week in Delhi. This proved to be his last show.

Bal began his career in the mid 1980s and went



on to become one of India's most well-known fashion designers. His death was mourned by many on social media, including Raymond Group Chairman Gautam Singhania, who called him an "incredible friend".

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Enraged taxi driver assaults tourists in Calangute

A taxi driver in Calangute, asked to move aside by tourists at St Anthony's chapel junction, unleashes fury on pedestrian tourists; police arrest the driver, accomplice absconding

Team Herald

CALANGUTE: Safety of tourists visiting Goa has again come into question after a group of tourists from Pune were

allegedly assaulted on Diwali night on Thursday by a taxi driver and another person at the St Anthony's chapel junction in Calangute, when they were attempting to

walk across the road at around 9 pm.

Relating the incident to reporters, Rizwan Sheikh, one of the tourists from Pune, said as the road was blocked on all sides

with Diwali night traffic, he asked a taxi driver who was parked in the middle of the road to move a little ahead.

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Eminent economist Bibek Debroy passes away

Debroy's last column suggests he had premonition of his death

PTI, NEW DELHI: Bibek Debroy, a key economic adviser to the Prime Minister, whose prolific work included economic theory, income inequality, and infrastructure financing, died on Friday. He was 69.

Debroy, who had a history of diabetes, hypertension, and a blockage in the heart for which he had a pacemaker, was admitted to the AIIMS emergency late on October 31 and died around 7 am on Friday.

"He was admitted with subacute intestinal obstruction. He also suf-



fered from hypertension and diabetes mellitus," an official source at AIIMS, Delhi said.

An empirical economist and a Padma Shri awardee, Debroy was the chairman of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council since September 2017.

A columnist to several newspapers, he had four days before his death sent a piece to The Indian Express newspaper, with a note: "Unusual Column. Short of a requiem", according to the daily.

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