

Rot of job scam got us these corrupt policemen: Activists

Day after Colvale Jail drug bust, they say cops who paid money to get recruited are now recovering it by getting into crime

Team Herald

PANJIM: A day after a drug trafficking network inside Colvale jail was busted and four officials were suspended, activists and concerned citizens drew a direct connection between a spurt in crimes involving personnel in khaki and the cash-for-jobs scam, which has set the rot deep within the policing system, they said.

Tuesday's bust was the second such incident in recent times. Last month, Indian Reserve Battalion (IRB) Constable Navdeep Pavni was caught attempting to bring contraband into the jail while reporting for duty.

John De'souza, a regular reader of O'Heraldo, was amazed at the police's lenient handling of such matters. "If police officers were found facilitating drug smuggling or possessing drugs, why were they merely suspended, and not arrested?" he questioned in a letter. "When civilians are involved in such cases,

IG PRISONS DENIES DRUG SEIZURE AT COLVALE JAIL, SAYS IT WAS TOBACCO

Inspector General of Prisons Ombir Singh Bishnoi has denied that drugs were seized in the Colvale Jail raid and claimed that only tobacco had been confiscated. "It was only tobacco, but that too is banned in jail. We are conducting an inquiry and if the accusations are proved, I will get them dismissed from services."

they are often arrested immediately. Why is there apparent leniency toward law enforcement officials in this case?"

Activist Rajan Ghate pointed to the systematic failures in the recruitment process. "The biggest question is whether the police

department is functioning at all," Ghate said. "This government has shown time and again that it cannot manage the Home Department. The real problem lies in how police officers are recruited. They pay huge bribes to secure their positions and, once in, they resort to criminal activities to recover those costs. This is why they can't control crimes but are involved in protecting drug trade, sound polluters and other violators."

Xencor Polji, another activist, echoed Ghate and also linked the rise in police misconduct to the job scam. "This latest case is the second such drug smuggling incident in just one month. It's the direct result of the job scam. Police are paying large sums of money to get recruited, and once they're on the job, they start engaging in crimes to get back their investment," Polji said.

Cont on Pg 11 >>

"The real problem lies in how police officers are recruited. They pay huge bribes to secure their positions and, once in, they resort to criminal activities to recover those costs. This is why they can't control crimes but are involved in protecting drug trade, sound polluters and other violators"

– Rajan Ghate, activist

"Police are paying large sums of money to get recruited, and once they're on the job, they start engaging in crimes to get back their investment. The public has lost trust in the police"

– Xencor Polji, activist

"The police are part of a system controlled by the ruling government. No officer is recruited without political influence, or without fulfilling other demands. This creates a culture where officers have to obey their political patrons, and corruption runs rampant"

– Roshan Mathias, activist

Delhi exit polls predict BJP victory

Say AAP to miss hat-trick while Congress faces rout



NEW DELHI: Voters show their ID cards as they wait in queues at a polling booth to cast votes during the Delhi Assembly elections, in New Delhi, Wednesday

PTI, NEW DELHI:

Several exit polls on Wednesday predicted a victory for the BJP over the ruling AAP in the Delhi assembly polls, while the Congress was projected to make no significant gains from last elections.

Two exit polls, however, predicted a victory for the Aam Admi Party (AAP), and as many showed a close contest between them, with an edge for the BJP.

The Election Commission will announce the official results after the counting of on February 8. Exit polls are projections made by election survey agencies based on interviews of voters as they come out after casting their votes. These may vary widely from the actual results. In the 2020 Delhi polls, most exit polls got their predictions wrong.

Cont on Pg 11 >>

DELHI RECORDS OVER 59% VOTING

PTI, NEW DELHI: Delhi recorded 59.71% voter turnout in the assembly polls on Wednesday amid charges of malpractices including money distribution and fake voting by both AAP and BJP who are engaged in an intense battle to decide who rules the national capital. The turnout is lower than the 2020 assembly polls (62.59%) when the Arvind Kejriwal-led party won 62 seat of the 70 seats, while the BJP got eight and the Congress zero.

Cont on Pg 11 >>

Minor rescued from clutches of paedophile at Tivim

Team Herald

MARGAO: Minor children continue to be victims of sexual abuse. Konkarn Railway Police arrested a paedophile at the Tivim Railway Station for sexually abusing a minor child.

According to police, the accused, identified as Paul Fonseca, a Tivim resident, sexually abused the 11-year-old victim on February 2.

According to Konkarn Railway Police, after receiving a call on Tuesday, at 3 am about the incident, they rushed to the Tivim Railway Station and rescued the victim from the clutches of the accused, who was immediately taken into custody and handed over to the Colvale Police for further investigation.

Cont on Pg 11 >>

HEINOUS CRIME

■ The police said that based on the victim's statement, it appears that Paul had also abused the rescued child's younger sibling

■ The victim disclosed that the accused had allegedly abused several other kids

■ The police stated that the accused used to lure children from marginalised families by offering them gifts and bike rides

■ Paul used to take the children to his residence, offer "intoxicated" drinks, show pornographic content and sexually abuse them for days, in violation of the Goa Children's Act



AMRITSAR: Police personnel take deported immigrants for initial questioning after a US military aircraft (below) carrying them landed at the Shri Guru Ramdas Ji International Airport, in Amritsar, Wednesday

US military plane carrying deported Indians lands in Punjab

PTI, AMRITSAR: A US military aircraft carrying 104 illegal immigrants hailing from various states landed here on Wednesday, the first such batch of Indians deported by the Trump government as part of a crackdown it resolved to carry out when it was sworn in last month.

Of the deportees, 33 each are from Haryana and Gujarat, 30 from Punjab, three each from Maharashtra and Uttar

STATE-WISE BREAKUP OF DEPORTEES

Haryana	33	Maharashtra	3
Gujarat	33	Uttar Pradesh	3
Punjab	30	Chandigarh	2



Pradesh, and two from Chandigarh, sources said. Nineteen women and 13 minors, including a four-year-old boy

and two girls aged five and seven years, were among the deportees, they said.

The C-17 Globemaster aircraft of the US Air Force landed at the Amritsar airport at 1:55 pm. The US action came just days before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Washington to hold wide-ranging talks with President Donald Trump.

Cont on Pg 11 >>

Aga Khan, leader of Ismaili Muslims, dies at 88



AP, PARIS: The Aga Khan, who became the spiritual leader of the world's millions of Ismaili Muslims at age 20 as a Harvard undergraduate and poured a material empire built on billions of dollars in tithes into building homes, hospitals and schools in developing countries, died Tuesday. He was 88.

His Aga Khan Development Network and the Ismaili religious community announced that His Highness Prince Karim Al-Hussaini, the Aga Khan IV and 49th hereditary imam of the Shia Ismaili Muslims, died in Portugal surrounded by his family.

Cont on Pg 11 >>

India is second biggest market for OpenAI: Altman

Says he sees country as one of the leaders of the AI revolution



Union Minister of I&B and Electronics & IT Ashwini Vaishnaw with OpenAI CEO Sam Altman during a meeting, in New Delhi

PTI, NEW DELHI: Two years after his dismissive stance on India's AI potential raised eyebrows here, OpenAI CEO Sam Altman on Wednesday gave a ringing endorsement to Artificial Intelligence momentum in the country – and billed India as an important market not just for the new-age technology itself but for the ChatGPT creator as well.

In New Delhi on Wednesday, Altman – while sharing dais with Union IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw – said India is the second biggest market for the company and that Open AI had tripled its users here in the last year.

He made the most of his whirlwind tour to India, meeting industry captains including Paytm Founder-CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma, Snapdeal Co-Founder Kunal Bahl, Unacademy CEO Gaurav Munjal, Ixigo Group CEO Aloke Bajpai, Filmmaker Shekhar Kapur, Peak XV Managing Director Rajan Anandan, and Partner at leading venture capital firm Accel Prayank Swaroop.

Cont on Pg 11 >>

ALTMAN IN INDIA On India

■ India the second-biggest market for his company

■ User growth tripled in the last year

■ Takes U turn on his dismissive stance on India's AI potential; says developing AI models is getting cheaper, making it feasible for India to participate in building advanced AI

On AI innovation

■ Predicts a 10x reduction in AI development costs within a year

■ Compares the decreasing cost of AI to Moore's Law, which transformed computing with exponential growth in hardware capability

■ OpenAI to invest \$500 billion over the next four years to build new AI infrastructure in the US

Bill on comunidade land use in Assembly session

PANJIM: In the two-day Assembly session starting on Thursday, the Goa government is set to introduce a Bill on amending the Code of Comunidades, which will impose strict restrictions on the use of Comunidade land and disallow its use for purposes other than what was originally proposed.

The ordinance on this was brought in October 2024 and the government seeks to turn it into law in this Assembly session. The Administrator of Comunidades will be granted the authority to issue restraining orders on land use, prohibiting any deviation from its original purpose.

Cont on Pg 11 >>

Online row over 'racist nightclub' Foreigners allege they were allowed entry into the Goa night spot while Indians waited outside

AGENCIES, PANJIM: A video shared by two Scottish men accusing a Goa nightclub of discrimination has gone viral, sparking a heated debate on social media. Ryan Williams, a Scottish-Korean man, posted the video on Instagram, alleging that he and his friend, Robin Alderslowe, were granted free entry to the club while Indian locals were left waiting in a long queue.

In the video, Williams and Alderslowe, the latter dressed in traditional Scottish attire and playing the bagpipes inside the club, walk past the line of waiting locals. Williams claims, "They let us get in for free because we are foreigners, but locals had to wait."

The video, captioned "Racist Nightclub in Goa," quickly caught the attention of social media users. Some expressed outrage over the nightclub's alleged preferential treatment towards foreigners, while others defended the establishment, suggesting that the actions were motivated by business interests rather than racism.

One user remarked, "Asians love treating foreigners better than locals," while another added, "It's really sad that this problem isn't just limited to India, but happens in other places too. A few bad apples are giving the many respectful Indians a bad name."

Cont on Pg 11 >>



RACIST NIGHTCLUB IN GOA, INDIA

MAX. TEMP 33.5 °C
MIN. TEMP 20.2 °C

idharudhar



Get your jumbo jet so you can take your illegal migrants back!