

# JOHN ABRAHAM PROPOSES RACING ACADEMY IN GOA

Actor urges Goa government and locals to provide land for the development of a professional motorsport academy

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** Actor and Goa Aces team owner, John Abraham, under the banner of JA Racing, expressed his willingness to establish a racing academy in Goa, provided the government or a local individual offers the necessary land.

Speaking at a press conference held at a hotel in the city on Sunday, he said, "The government of Meghalaya has kindly provided me with 15 acres of land to set up my football academy, and I believe it will become one of India's premier football academies."

He continued, "In the same way, if the Goa government or anyone here can offer us land, we would



be more than happy to move forward, build the track, secure the necessary permissions, and set up a professional academy. The key to success in motorsport is to start at the age of six or seven."

Abraham mentioned that when he meets Goa's Tourism Minister, Rohan Khaunte, he plans to dis-

cuss the possibility of acquiring land for the project. He further said, "Goa is an international destination. Parents would love to bring their children here, and we would greatly appreciate the support of the government. There's no place like Goa for creating the right atmosphere for the sport. I believe Goa

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He also shared his excitement for the upcoming Goa Street Race, stating "Motorsport is thrilling, intense, and electrifying — much like Goa! I am beyond excited to bring the Goa Aces to our home circuit. The Goa

Street Race will be one of the most exciting events of the season, and I can't wait to see the energy, passion, and speed take over the streets."

Akhilesh Reddy, Chairman and Managing Director of Racing Promotions Pvt Ltd (RPPL), added, "The Indian Racing Festival 2025 is set to redefine motorsports in India, pushing the boundaries of

speed, skill, and spectacle like never before. This season, we are excited to bring the high-octane action to the vibrant streets of Goa, a destination known for its energy, passion, and world-class experiences."

Reddy went on to say, "Motorsport is no longer a niche sport in India. With the Indian Racing League and the FIA Formula 4 Indian Championship, we are creating a thriving ecosystem that nurtures talent, attracts global recognition, and secures India's place on the international motorsport stage. The IRF is more than just a competition—it's a revolution, and Goa is the perfect place to take this movement to the next level."

## Car overturns on the new curve flyover at Baina



Team Herald

**VASCO:** Two occupants escaped unhurt after a car in which they were travelling overturned on the newly inaugurated Port Connectivity flyover at Baina on Sunday morning.

The accident has now raised concerns about road safety measures at the spot. The people mostly road users have called for immediate attention to ensure travellers safety and accessibility, particularly at the up ramp and down ramp at Baina.

On receiving the infor-

mation, the police rushed to the spot and cleared the road.

Reacting to the first accident on the newly built flyover, Adv Sunil Loran has demanded a thorough safety audit of the newly built flyover and to identify defects and to rectify them so as to avoid mishaps in the future.

Adv Loran has also demanded a gazette notification granting permanent access to the public to use the flyover as he apprehended that the Mormugao Port Authority (MPA) could restrict access in the future.

## BERRY GOOD

UPENDRA NAIK



A local picks borams (Indian jujube) at Altinho. The sweet-tart summer berries contain vitamins, minerals and antioxidants, and are enjoyed pickled as well as fresh

## STs push for crematorium land in Curti-Khandepar

Team Herald

**PONDA:** The issue of crematoriums for Scheduled Tribes (ST) communities residing near forest areas dominated the discussions at Curti-Khandepar Gram Sabha.

Heated arguments ensued which prompted the Sarpanch Abhijeet Gaude to step in and advise the members to discuss the matters in detail and submit proposals for identifying suitable land for the crematoriums.

While discussing the OPA-Khandepar crematorium, Gaude informed the sabha that two years ago, the ST community was pro-

hibited from performing final rites at the existing crematorium. Following this, some local residents approached the ST and SC Commissioner, who visited the site. The Commissioner instructed the community to propose a 2000-square-metre plot of land for final rites. The Sarpanch called on all ST communities at OPA-Wada to meet with stakeholders and select an appropriate location for the crematorium. The decision on the crematorium site will be made by the ST locals.

The ST communities at Murdi-Khandepar expressed that they have



been performing final rites at the same crematorium for many years, and it is included in the regional plan. However, some individuals raised concerns that it had been incorrectly recorded in the plan. The ST communities clarified their intention to retain the traditional land for the crematorium,

and a resolution was passed to rectify the matter.

The matter of encroachment at the Curti-Khandepar Panchayat crematorium in Deep Nagar Curti was also discussed. Sarpanch Gaude stated that notices had been issued to the encroachers, but no responses or documents had been

provided. He informed that the Directorate of Settlement & Land Records would conduct a demarcation of the land, after which a final decision would be made.

At the start of the session, the appointment of the VDC (Village Development Committee) Convenor was brought up. Panchayat member Bhika Kerker stressed the importance of the VDC in development works and suggested that the Gram Sabha make a suitable decision. The Sarpanch responded that the Sarpanch issue would be revisited at the next Gram Sabha meeting.

## Road closures in Panjim for last phase of Smart City works

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** Imagine Panaji Smart City Development Ltd (IPSCDL) on Sunday announced temporary road closures in Central Panjim (Phase 3) as part of ongoing infrastructure development under the Smart City Mission.

According to a statement, key road stretches in the capital city will remain closed for vehicular traffic from February 9 to February 28, to facilitate essential roadwork.

The roads cover a total length of 1,415 metres, including General Bernardo Guedes Road— From Geeta Bakery to INOX (535 me-

tres), MG Road— From UCO Bank to Vinanti Restaurant (380 meters), Costa Alvaros Road— From Alfran Plaza to DB Road Junction (200 metres), Road from Tom's Liquor Shop to DB Road Junction (200 metres) and two internal lanes between Costa Alvaros Road (100 metres).

The IPSCDL has advised commuters using General Bernardo Guedes Road to take Swami Vivekananda Road and MG Road via Don Bosco School to reach DB Road and those traveling on MG Road can use Swami Vivekananda Road to reach MG Road near Woodland Showroom before proceeding further.

## Dixon Vaz predicts similar fate for AAP in Benaullim as in Delhi

Team Herald

**MARGAO:** Cavelossim Sarpanch Dixon Vaz predicted a similar electoral defeat for the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in the Benaullim constituency, akin to the recent Delhi elections, where the party lost to the BJP.

Speaking to the media on Sunday, Vaz, who has been in an ongoing dispute with Benaullim AAP MLA Venzy Viegas over various Cavelossim village issues, commented on the Delhi election results, which were declared on Saturday.

The Sarpanch went on to criticise AAP's performance in Benaullim, stating, "The party will meet

a similar fate in Benaullim constituency, where we've seen only tall promises but no development in the last three years. Even their much-touted Mohalla clinics, which failed in Delhi, are being promoted here."

"The party that hijacked Anna Hazare's anti-corruption movement has finally been rejected by Delhi voters. Those who claimed to be crusaders against corruption were themselves implicated in the liquor scam and poor governance. Kejriwal's promise of honest politics has proven hollow. People want development, and youth want jobs, not freebies at taxpayers' expense," Vaz added.

## Row erupts over mobile tower on residential building in Varca

Team Herald

**MARGAO:** Tensions are running high in the residential neighborhood of Varca as locals protest against a newly erected mobile tower atop a building in their residential locality.

Vehemently opposing the tower in the locality, residents claimed that it was a health hazard and demanded that it be dismantled.

According to the locals, the location of a tower in a densely populated area poses significant health risks to the nearby inhabitants. They further added that despite multiple complaints filed with various authorities, including the local panchayat, no action has been initiated till date.

The controversy has deepened after Varca deputy sarpanch Solan Furtado confirmed to the media and the locals, that no official No Objection Certificate (NOC) or permission was granted by the local body for the tower's installation.

However, the building owner main-

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fully complies with all necessary guidelines.

In response to the situation, the Salcete Block Development Officer (BDO) has directed the panchayat to take appropriate action based on residents' complaints. The panchayat has subsequently requested the building owner to produce any existing permissions for the tower's installation.

The matter is scheduled for discussion at an upcoming panchayat meeting on February 11, with plans to address it further during the next gram sabha meeting.

Residents have suggested that if the company lacks proper NOCs or permissions, the panchayat should consider disconnecting power and other utilities to the tower installation.

## Activists slam cops for failing to protect Anjuna family from goons

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** Activists have slammed Goa police for failing to take action against goons and bouncers who allegedly threw the Sinari family out of their house recently. Speaking to reporters at Azad Maidan in the city, Mariano Ferrao said, "It appears that the police do not have powers, and only 'goondaraj' and 'bouncerraj' are prevailing in the state."

"Police should have intervened in the matter and not allowed goons to take the law into their own hands. It proves that the law and order situation in the state has collapsed," Ferrao added.

Activist Xencor Polgi said, "First we saw goondaraj in Assagao and now in Anjuna. The Chief Minister should issue a circular stating that bouncers will be sent to everybody's houses to vacate them. It is clear that Goa police are not capable of protecting the state. So welcome to 'Jungalraj'. Goa has become a forest, and only those who have goons can stay here."

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