



Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif speaks during the World Governments Summit in Dubai, United Arab Emirates



Venezuelan migrants deported from the United States arrive at Simon Bolivar International Airport in Maiquetia, Venezuela



PVV far-right party leader Geert Wilders speaks to the press ahead of the weekly question time and votes in the Lower House in The Hague



People seek medical care at a hospital in Wad Madani, which was retaken by the Sudanese army a month earlier, in Sudan's al-Jazira state

Pope warns Trump admin: Migrant deportations will end badly

PTI, ROME: Pope Francis issued a major rebuke Tuesday to the Trump administration's mass deportation of migrants, warning that the program to forcefully deport people purely because of their illegal status deprives them of their inherent dignity and will end badly.

Francis took the remarkable step of addressing the US migrant crackdown in a letter to US bishops who have criticised the expulsions as harming the most vulnerable.

History's first Latin American pope has long made caring for migrants a priority of his pontificate, demanding that countries welcome, protect, promote and integrate those fleeing conflicts, poverty and climate disasters. Francis has also said governments are expected to do so to the

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limits of their capacity.

In the letter, Francis said nations have the right to defend themselves and keep their communities safe from criminals.

That said, the act of deporting people who in many cases have left their own land for reasons of extreme poverty, insecurity, exploitation, persecution or serious deterioration of the environment, damages the dignity of many men and women, and of entire families,

and places them in a state of particular vulnerability and defenselessness, he wrote. Citing the biblical stories of migration, the people of Israel, the Book of Exodus and Jesus Christ's own experience, Francis affirmed the right of people to seek shelter and safety in other lands and said he was concerned with what is going on in the United States.

I have followed closely the major crisis that is taking place in the United States with the initiation of

a program of mass deportations, Francis wrote. The rightly formed conscience cannot fail to make a critical judgment and express its disagreement with any measure that tacitly or explicitly identifies the illegal status of some migrants with criminality.

It is one thing to develop a policy to regulate migration legally, it is another to expel people purely on the basis of their illegal status, he wrote. What is built on the basis of force, and not on the truth about the equal dignity of every human being, begins badly and will end badly, he said.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said last week that more than 8,000 people had been arrested in immigration enforcement actions since Trump took office Jan 20.

Lottery distributors not liable to pay service tax to Centre: SC

PTI, NEW DELHI: Lottery distributors are not liable to pay service tax to the Union government, the Supreme Court held on Tuesday while dismissing an appeal of the Centre on the issue.

A bench comprising Justices BV Nagarathna and NK Singh did not agree to the appeal of the Centre against the Sikkim High Court judgement.

Since there is no agency in the relationship, the respondents (lottery distributors) were not liable to pay service tax. However, the respondents will continue to pay the gambling tax levied by the state under Entry 62, List II of the Constitution, Justice Nagarathna said while pronouncing the verdict.

"Service tax is not leviable on the transactions between the purchaser of the lottery tickets and firm in

view of the aforesaid discussions, we find no merit in the appeals filed by the Union of India and others. Hence, these appeals are dismissed," the bench said.

Upholding the Sikkim High Court verdict, the top court said it is only the state government that can impose taxes on lotteries and not the Centre. The Centre had contended that it was entitled to impose service tax.

The top court said the high court was right in holding that the lottery comes within the expression "betting and gambling" which is part of Entry 62 of the state list of the Constitution and only the state can impose the tax.

The Centre had moved the top court in 2013. The high court judgement had come on a plea filed by lottery firm Future Gaming Solutions Pvt Ltd.

alloverindia

Odisha: Tribal girl gang-raped by 4 youths, accused detained

KORAPUT (ODISHA): A 14-year-old tribal girl was allegedly raped by four youths in Odisha's Koraput district, police said on Tuesday. The incident took place on Saturday night when the girl visited a Jatra or village theatre with her friends. As she came out of the venue to relieve herself, the four accused abducted her and took her to a nearby hillock, where they took turns to rape her, a police officer said. The girl's father said she returned home when the accused fled after committing the crime and shared her ordeal with her parents.

3 Bangladeshi women arrested in Meghalaya for illegally entering India

SHILLONG: Three women from Bangladesh were arrested in Meghalaya's East Khasi Hills district for illegally entering India, an official said on Tuesday. The women, hailing from Dhaka, were apprehended when they entered the country by illegally crossing the international border on Monday, the BSF official told PTI. The trio were taken into custody and handed over to police, officials said. During investigation, the women disclosed that they had entered India for employment, they added.

Arunachal: Trailer truck crashes into hill, two killed

ITANAGAR: Two persons were killed when a trailer truck crashed into a hill while navigating a sharp turn in Hollongi area near Itanagar, police said on Tuesday. The incident took place on NH 415 on Monday night, Capital Superintendent of Police (SP) Rohit Rajbir Singh said.

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IN CONG-AAP FACE-OFF, OPPN IS THE BIG LOSER

"Pre-poll alliances and seat sharing is mainly decided by the High Command and only fine-tuning is done by taking the local leaders into confidence," he said.

South Goa District Congress Committee president Savio D'Silva said, "What is the point of having a truck with AAP when its leaders are accusing Rahul Gandhi and calling him corrupt. We can have an alliance where we need to defeat BJP, but definitely not in Salcete taluka, which has always been Congress bastion. After the Delhi debacle, AAP wants to survive with Congress support in Goa. We will not allow it to happen."

Stating that he was not answerable to the utterances by the Benaulim Block Congress Committee, AAP State president Adv Amit Palekar opined that statement on alliances should come from the Congress State president and AICC Goa desk in-charge.

"Benaulim Block Congress leaders are saying they don't want an alliance and I would see it as indiscipline and misconduct. When Congress wanted an alliance during Lok Sabha polls, we withdrew our candidate and supported the Congress. It was almost 25 years ago when Congress last won the Benaulim seat. We are competent enough to fight elections single-handedly, but we have to understand that alliance is the aspiration of people of Goa to defeat BJP. Consolidation of votes is important in elections, and it happens when there is an alliance."

He said, "Let Congress tell us that they don't want an alliance. We are not begging for an alliance, but split of votes will help the BJP and therefore the alliance is in the interest of Goa."

Adv Palekar further informed that the AAP is not dejected by the Delhi Assembly results. "Our party executive met in Panjim on Monday, and we will start the process to build our cadre. We have to recoup and prepare for the upcoming Zilla Panchayat (ZP) elections," he said.

AAP's Velim MLA Cruz Silva said, "We have seen the results of Lok Sabha polls after going for alliance and results of Haryana and Delhi elections after contesting separately. People of Goa want alliance to defeat BJP and Congress has to seriously think about it. Our party work is going on and we are prepared to fight elections on our own strength. But people of Goa are waiting for an alliance to defeat BJP?"

TROUBLE MOUNTS FOR ALLAHBADIA, MUMBAI CYBER CELL FILES FIR

The controversy was raised in Parliament by Shiv Sena MP Naresh Mhaske, demanding stricter regulation of social media content.

In response, Allahbadia apologised, calling his comments a lapse in judgment, but the backlash continues. YouTube has since blocked the controversial episode. Prominent figures, including singer B Praak, canceled appearances on Allahbadia's podcast, while some celebrities have criticized the incident, calling for responsible use of social media.

SMART CITY BUSES FORGOT THE DISABLED, ELDERLY AND WOMEN

Commuters and activists questioned why seats for these categories are not reserved when the buses are being run with government funding, using taxpayers' money. Prakash W Kamat, Member, Goa State Advisory Board on Disability, "All public buses must have seats reserved for women, senior citizens, and persons with disabilities. There can't be exceptions. At present these buses are highly underutilised, which has not been highlighted. No bus can deny a seat to a person with a disability."

"For persons with disabilities, smart cards need to be accepted for free travel in such buses. Such persons have a multi-purpose unique disability identity (UDID) card, issued by the Centre. While they possess this card, why are they forced to make another card for using these buses? To avail this smart card, one is compelled to visit the KTC office and a considerable amount of time is wasted. KTC should mandatorily accept the UDID card," he said.

Activist Cecille Rodrigues said, "I think it is very important that designated seats should be reserved for women, senior citizens and persons with disabilities. When the buses are full to their capacity, with senior citizens left standing, the youth do not vacate the seats for such persons including pregnant women. I fail to understand how these buses got approved without seat reservations as several elders and persons with disabilities travel in these buses to the local markets," she demanded.

Disability Rights Association of Goa (DRAG) president Avelino de Sa said, "The buses have ramps, but the bus drivers do not use these ramps for persons with disabilities.

The seats should be reserved for persons with disabilities. There is a provision for smart cards, but what about those who do not possess them? Does it mean that those who do not have smart cards cannot avail the bus service?"

It is pertinent to note that KTCL, which currently runs 48 e-buses around Panjim, were launched in phases. Six buses were flagged off last year. IPSCDL has funded 22 EVs, while the other 26 have been procured from the funds allotted by the Centre under Goa@60.

UNTAPPED DEEP-SEA FISHING GROUNDS OFF GOA-KERALA COAST

Several elasmobranch species like Sicklefin chimaera, Pygmy ribbontail catshark, and Bramble shark were found in healthy numbers, further underscoring the area's biodiversity. This breakthrough, funded under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), promises to expand India's fishing industry while reducing pressure on overexploited coastal fisheries.

"This significant discovery highlights the dedication of FSI to explore untapped deep-sea resources," said Dr Sreenath K R, Director General of FSI.

Dr S Ramachandran, Zonal Director of FSI's Mormugao base, emphasised the importance of deep-sea resources as coastal fisheries face growing threats from overfishing, habitat degradation and climate change. "Deep-sea fisheries provide a crucial alternative for sustaining India's fishing sector and ensuring long-term food security," he noted.

The expedition's success is credited to a team of dedicated scientists, including Dr Nashad M, Shri Shiva A, Ashik P, Venkatesh Saroj, and Chief Engineer Joseph Ignatious. The Goa-based team, led by Dr H D Pradeep, Dr M K Sinha and Raju S Nagpure, also played a key role in the mission.

Future research will focus on evaluating fish populations, understanding the complex marine environment, and developing sustainable management strategies for these newly discovered fishing grounds.

TRUMP HALTS FOREIGN BRIBERY LAW USED AGAINST ADANI IN US

This was concealed from the US banks and investors from whom the Adani group raised billions of dollars for the project, the prosecutors had alleged last year citing FCPA that allows pursuing foreign corruption allegations if they involve certain links to American investors or markets. The pause and the review is being seen as a relief to the Adani Group but it remains to be seen what stand the DoJ takes after the six month review period.

The order that Trump signed asked "the Attorney General to review guidelines and policies governing investigations and enforcement actions under the FCPA" in 180 days.

"During the review period, the Attorney General shall cease initiation of any new FCPA investigations or enforcement actions, unless the Attorney General determines that an individual exception should be made," it said.

Also it sought "review in detail all existing FCPA investigations or enforcement actions and take appropriate action with respect to such matters to restore proper bounds on FCPA enforcement and preserve Presidential foreign policy prerogatives".

FCPA investigations and enforcement actions initiated or continued after the revised guidelines or policies are issued "shall be governed by such guidelines or policies; and must be specifically authorized by the Attorney General".

After the revised guidelines or policies are issued, the Attorney General shall determine whether additional actions, including remedial measures with respect to inappropriate past FCPA investigations and enforcement actions, are warranted and shall take any such appropriate actions or, if Presidential action is required, recommend such actions to the President, it added.

Last year, the DoJ had charged a former executive at renewable energy firm Azure, which was at the heart of a case accusing Adani of perpetrating a bribery scheme. The DoJ also brought a criminal indictment.

TRANCE FEST NIGHTMARE AT DREAM BEACH TURTLE SITE

Wildlife officials are concerned over the disruption caused to the turtles' nesting process. According to Atmaram Gauns, the Range Forest Officer, Wildlife, the department is closely monitoring the situation. "We have been made aware of the event and are keeping an eye on the situation. The arrival of such heavy equipment at night could disturb the turtles, especially since some have already returned without nesting," Gauns said.

"I have observed turtle tracks during my morning walks, and when the turtle guards are notified, they often find that

the turtles have left without nesting," shared Ramesh Naik, a member of the Anjuna-Caisua Biodiversity Board.

According to the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) 2019 Notification, sea turtle nesting beaches are classified as Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESA) and are categorised as CRZ1. Local resident Javish Moniz has actively campaigned for Dream Beach to be officially declared a turtle nesting site, citing the significant number of Olive Ridley turtles that have come ashore in recent years. In a letter to the Range Forest Officer in March 2024, Moniz had placed this request, which he repeated in a second letter on February 10 this year. "Since this endangered species faces a threat to their reproduction, I request you to take this seriously and notify the beach, or a part of it, for nesting purposes, along with a dedicated team from the Forest Department for patrolling of the beach."

Research from the Centre for Environment Education (CEE) also supports the need for protection, noting that sea turtles often return to their natal beaches to lay eggs. "Genetic studies have confirmed that such return migrations do occur in several sea turtle populations," the CEE study states.

Kedar Naik, Director of Tourism, emphasised that no permission had been granted for any events on Dream Beach. "No requests for any festivals or parties have been submitted to us," he confirmed. A senior Forest Department official, speaking on condition of anonymity, added, "We will not allow such an event to happen, and if we become aware of any violations, we will take appropriate action." The festival is reportedly organised by Mumbai resident Karan Manvantra, but attempts to reach him for comments were unsuccessful.

INSTA TEEN ACCOUNTS WITH MORE SUPERVISION IN INDIA

The company added that since some young users may misrepresent their age, additional verification steps will be required in certain situations, say, when someone attempts to create an account with an adult birth date.

The announcement comes amid concerns globally and, indeed in India about harmful effects of social media on teens and young impressionable minds. Last month, the Indian government released the draft Digital Personal Data Protection Rules that propose to make parent's verifiable consent and identification mandatory for creation of child's user account on online or social media platforms.

"We're expanding Instagram Teen Accounts to India to ensure built-in protections for teens and reassure parents of their teen's safe experience. Teens are automatically placed in the highest safety settings, with ways to prevent age misrepresentation and sensitive content restrictions to create a secure and age-appropriate online space," Meta said.

Parents can approve changes for teens under 16, monitor recent contacts, set screen time limits, and restrict app use during certain hours, it further said.

Teen accounts are designed to create a more secure and age-appropriate space for teens online. With built-in protections, Teen Accounts limit unwanted interactions, enhance privacy settings, and provide parents with greater oversight, ensuring a safer social media experience for young users.

"In an era where digital interactions shape young minds, ensuring their safety online has never been more critical," it said. The social media giant admitted that parents, educators, and policymakers alike have voiced concerns over issues like cyberbullying, exposure to harmful content, and privacy risks.

"Instagram's new Teen Accounts address these concerns by automatically placing all teens in the highest safety settings, empowering them with better tools to navigate the digital world securely," it said.

Natasha Jog, Director, Public Policy India at Instagram said creating a safer and more responsible digital environment is a top priority at Meta.

"With the expansion of Instagram Teen Accounts to India, we are strengthening protections, enhancing content controls, and empowering parents, while ensuring a safer experience for teens," Jog said.

According to the company, Teen account protections are specifically designed to tackle key concerns parents have, such as who their teens interact with online, the type of content they are exposed to, and how they manage their time on the platform.

These safeguards are enabled by default, and for users under 16, any adjustments to make settings less restrictive would require parental nod.

For instance, by default, teen accounts are set to private, meaning they must approve new followers, and non-followers cannot view or interact with their content. This applies to all users under 16 (both existing and new) and those under 18 when signing up.

MORE OBITS ON PG 12

DEATH
BONIFACIO (Bonny) GOMES
Born: 14/12/1976 Died: 11/02/2025 (Fall Vaddo - Arrossim, Cansaulim)
Beloved son of late Jose Remedios / Idalini (Aida) Gomes, most loving brother /brother-in-law of Albert / Rose, Roy / Avina, Regiton (Regi), affectionate uncle of Reezler, Raizel and Aeden, nephew of Carafina / late Martin Pereira (Betabatom), Dorina / late Menino Santana Gomes (Nuvem).
Expired suddenly on 11th February 2025.
Funeral cortege will leave his residence Fall Vaddo - Arrossim, Cansaulim on 12th February 2025 at 3:45 pm for Eucharistic celebration at 4:00pm at St. Thomas Church, Cansaulim, followed by burial.
Family and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.
Rebello Publicity & Funeral Services Margao 9822383992

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY
In Loving Memory of
MARIA MAGDALENA RODRIGUES E CARDOZO
Majorda / Betalbatim
We can no longer, see you with our eyes or touch you with our hands but we will forever feel you in our hearts. O Lord, please keep her safe in your loving arms.
There will be Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved Mother, on Thursday, (Tomorrow), 13th February 2025, at 7.45 a.m., at Our Lady of Remedios Church, Betalbatim; followed by prayers and blessing of the grave. Offered by her sorrowful Children and Grandchildren.
RELATIVES & FRIENDS KINDLY ACCEPT THIS AS THE ONLY INTIMATION.

ONE YEAR IN THE ARMS OF THE LORD
MARCEL FERNANDES
(Bairo Premeiro)
There will be an Eucharistic celebration for the soul of our beloved Marcel on 13th February 2025 at 4.00 p.m. at the Church of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Assolna followed by prayers at the grave.
Fondly remembered and deeply missed by his wife: Carolina, Children: Felix/Mary, Prakash/Renny, Lily/Edmund, Sila/Minguel, Fr. Milagres & Grandchildren.
Relatives & Friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

A Loving Farewell
"I Am The Resurrection And The Life, Whoever Believes In Me Will Live, Even Though He Dies"
John 11:25
Dr. Lynda Perrier
(Porvorim)
Born: 22-11-1952 Died: 11-02-2025
Beloved wife of Trevor Stephen Perrier. Mother/mother-in-law of Sandra/Wilbur De Sousa, Shane/Marloe Perrier. Grandmother of Kimberly & Kylie De Sousa. Loving sister of Kevin/Maria, Lewellyn/Maureen Miranda.
Funeral Mass will be held on Thursday, 13th Feb 2025 at 4:00 p.m at Holy Family Church, Porvorim followed by the burial.
Relatives & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.
CONTACT: 9827136397