

## IN THIRSTY SALIGAO, LEAKING PIPES LET WATER GO TO WASTE

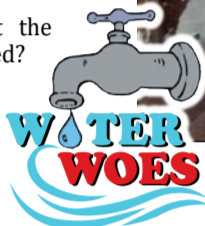
Locals claim PWD cites manpower crunch to not address their problems

Team Herald

PANJIM: The water crisis gripping several parts of Goa even before summer is here is particularly painful for the residents of Pilerne, Reis Magos, and Verem in the Saligao constituency – not only are they facing severe water shortage, to make matters worse, leaking PWD pipes are leading to precious potable water getting wasted.

But why can't the pipes be repaired? Locals allege that even after repeated requests, PWD officials haven't helped, citing a shortage of manpower and leaving the residents to look for a solution on their own.

Leaked pipelines apart, issues like irregular and scanty



water supply that is often muddy, contaminated and unfit for drinking also dog the localities.

Krishna Dabholkar, a resident of Verem, expressed his frustration, saying, "We do not get proper water

supply. It just trickles from the taps. We are a family of five, but water doesn't reach us. We do not need much, but even the small amount of water we require is not provided.

Cont on Pg 11 >>



PICS: UPENDRA NAIK

The government promises 24/7 water supply and the slogan 'har ghar nai har ghar jal' but it is all untrue. Commercial complexes have ample resources to hire water tankers, but we, the poor, cannot afford such luxuries. The local MLA had visited last year after a pipeline break, but it took months for repairs to be made

– Cajitan Fernandes, resident of Marra, Pilerne

## USAID funding row: Congress, BJP go to war

BJP allages Rahul colluding with foreign forces, Cong demands an apology

PTI, NEW DELHI: A political row erupted Friday after a media report claimed USD 21 million aid by USAID was meant for Bangladesh and not India, with the Congress demanding an apology from the BJP and the ruling party accusing Rahul Gandhi of colluding with foreign forces to weaken India.

The Congress alleged that the BJP's narrative was aimed at diverting attention from its own use of foreign funds to 'destabilise' past governments led by it. It also demanded the government come out with a white paper on the USAID funding as well as funding by other such agencies in India.

The BJP dismissed as 'cover up' the media report that the USD 21 million fund was for Bangladesh and not India and called Rahul Gandhi a "traitor". Both the parties held

press conferences to accuse each other of weakening the governments in India by using foreign funds.

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, meanwhile, termed the USAID funding as "deeply troubling" that has led to concerns over foreign interference in India's internal affairs.

Asked about the issue at the weekly MEA briefing, he said relevant departments and authorities are looking into the information put out by the American administration regarding certain US activities and funding. "We have seen information that has been put out by the US administration regarding certain US activities and funding. These are obviously very deeply troubling," Jaiswal said.

Cont on Pg 11 >>

## Indian-origin Kash Patel to take over as FBI director

PTI, NEW YORK: New FBI director Kash Patel has vowed to 'rebuild' trust in the bureau as he becomes the first Indian-American to lead the country's premier law enforcement agency after being confirmed by the US Senate.



Patel traces his roots to Bhadrav village in Gujarat's Anand district, from where his family migrated to Uganda 70 to 80 years ago.

The Republican-led Senate narrowly voted to confirm 44-year-old Patel on Thursday. The Senate voted 51 to 49 to confirm Patel. Two Republicans, Susan Collins and Lisa Murkowski, voted against his confirmation. The nomination faced intense scrutiny from Democrats on Capitol Hill who have warned that Patel is poised to use the position to seek retribution against Trump's perceived political enemies.

In his hearings, Patel also denied keeping a list of 'deep state' enemies, while playing down controversial past remarks he had made such as referring to law enforcement officials who investigated Trump as 'criminal gangsters'.

Cont on Pg 11 >>

## Alliance-wary AAP plans ahead for ZP polls

Team Herald

PANJIM: The earthquake that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) faced in the Delhi elections has led to tremors that are being felt by the party unit in Goa, where the party has two legislators in the 40-member Assembly. However, the party's senior leadership seemed to admit that chances of a grand Opposition alliance were fading, though that door was not fully shut yet.

Aware that the jolt in Delhi may jeopardise the

The people of Goa are in favour of an alliance, but the leaders of some parties seem to be singing a different tune. Therefore, we are preparing independently. Our groundwork for the 2027 Assembly elections has begun

– Amit Palekar, AAP State President

party's future in Goa, AAP national executive member Durgesh Pathak and Goa in-charge Deepak Singla visited the state earlier this week to assess the party's organisational efforts and conduct one-on-one meetings with state office-bearers, apart from taking stock

of progress across all 40 constituencies.

Reiterating their stance on collaboration with like-minded parties to challenge the BJP, AAP State President Amit Palekar said: "The people of Goa are in favour of an alliance, but the leaders of some parties

seem to be singing a different tune. Therefore, we are preparing independently. Our groundwork for the 2027 Assembly elections has begun, and when the time comes, we will consider alliances," he said.

Alliance or no, Palekar made it clear that preparations for the Zilla Panchayat (ZP) elections have already begun. "We have tasked party leaders with forming booth committees in all 40 constituencies, and local observers have been appointed to oversee the work," he said.

Siddesh Bhagat, Vice President of AAP's National Youth Wing and chief spokesperson, said that AAP's long-term goal is to stay connected with Goa's people. "Elections come and go, but we are here to address the real issues faced by the people of Goa."

## HISTORY IN MOTION



Participants during the 21 Gun Salute Vintage Car rally, at Kartavya Path in New Delhi, on Friday

## Pope not out of danger: Medical team

AP, ROME: Pope Francis' condition isn't life-threatening, but he's not out of danger, his medical team said Friday, as the 88-year-old pontiff marked his first week in a hospital with pneumonia on top of chronic bronchitis.

Francis' doctors delivered their first in-person update on the pope's condition, saying that he will remain hospitalised at least all of next week.

The pope is receiving occasional supplements of oxygen and is responding to strengthened drug therapy for pneumonia, doctors said.

## Dowry demand not needed to invoke cruelty charge against husbands: SC

PTI, NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has said dowry demand was not a prerequisite to constitute the offence of cruelty under section 498A of the IPC introduced in 1983 to protect married women from the husband and in-laws.

A bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath and Prasanna B Varale on December 12, 2024 said the essence of Section 498A IPC lay in the act of cruelty itself and a dowry demand was not necessary to invoke the provision against errant husbands and in-laws.

"Therefore, either form of cruelty, independent of a dowry demand, is sufficient



to attract the provisions of Section 498A IPC and make the offence punishable under the law," said the bench. The top court said it was clear that an unlawful demand for dowry was not a prerequisite element to

constitute "cruelty" under Section 498A IPC.

"It suffices that the conduct falls within either of the two broad categories outlined in clauses (a) or (b) of the provision, namely, wilful conduct likely to cause

**SUPREME COURT RULING**  
● Reaffirms that Section 498A was introduced in 1983 to protect women from cruelty, not just dowry-related offenses, hence does not require a dowry demand to be proven  
● The focus is on cruelty itself, which can be physical or mental harm to the woman  
● Andhra Pradesh HC Order that quashed an FIR due to the absence of a dowry demand set aside

grave injury or mental harm (clause a), or harassment intended to coerce the woman or her family to meet any unlawful demand (clause b)," added the bench.

Cont on Pg 11 >>

## RETURN TO THE LORD

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only son, so that everyone who believes in Him, may not perish but have Eternal life."

## TOME HILITOR DE OLIVEIRA

PROPRIETOR:  
OLIVEIRA FISHERIES/  
SHANE AQUAHOLIC /  
SHISHA TRADERS /  
SHISHA CONSTRUCTION  
& SOCIAL WORKER

(Bondir / Alto Santa Cruz)

Born: 15/06/1969

Died: 21/02/2025

Son/Son-in-law of Late Silvestre/Carmina, Late Pio/Joanita.  
Beloved Husband of Jennifer De Oliveira (Sarpanch, V. P. Santa Cruz),  
Loving Father/Father-in-law of Shiny (Z.P. Santa Cruz Constituency) / Ralsten, Shane, Sania.  
Loving Brother/Brother-in-law of Late Nelson/Edna, Gema (Teacher, St. Elizabeth High School, Pomburpa) / Agnelo, Judy/John (Doha), Joyous/Ivy (UK)  
Uncle of Nelly, Allister, Glenn, Lloyd, Johan, Jarrett & Jordan

Passed away peacefully on 21st February, 2025.

Funeral Cortège will leave the residence (Alto St Cruz) on Sunday, 23rd February 2025 at 3.30 p.m. for Eucharistic Celebration at Holy Cross Church, Santa Cruz, followed by burial.

