

Attempts to instil fear amongst people reminiscent of Hitler's tactics: Politicos

Call upon people to rise against oppression & suppression

Team Herald

PANJIM: Criticising the alleged high-handedness of the government through Goa Police by arresting activist Rama Kankonkar, politicians cutting across party lines came out in full support of the activist, claiming that attempts to instil fear amongst people by silencing dissent are reminiscent of Hitler's tactics.

Former Advocate General and Congress MLA Carlos Alvares Ferreira said, "The registration of an FIR against Rama Kankonkar is illegal and a clear misuse of police powers. Such attempts at censorship of activists and attempts to instil fear amongst people is reminiscent of Hitler's tactics of silencing dissent. Freedom of speech is the bedrock of democracy."

Aam Aadmi Party president Amit



Palekar said, "Rama Kankonkar's arrest is a violation of Article 19 of the Constitution of India, which gives Freedom of Speech in democracy. It is unfortunate that someone, who has been the voice

of the Scheduled Tribes of Goa, has been arrested in this manner. This is nothing, but an attempt to scuttle the voice of Bahujan Samaj. It's time that people of Goa rise against this oppression and suppression."

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—Amit Palekar

Taps in Panjim's market area run dry for last five days

Team Herald

PANJIM: The residents of General Bernardo Guedes Road near Geeta Bakery extending beyond the Panjim market are without water for the last five days.

The ongoing Smart City works damaged the pipeline which is yet to be repaired and restore water supply.

The residents are also unable to take any water tankers as the entire road has been dug up for the second time in the last six months

The residents have complained that they are facing the trauma of being without water in the sweltering heat.

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As part of phase-II, the Imagine Panaji Smart City Development Limited has undertaken road works on the General Bernardo Guedes road from Geeta Bakery to Dayanand Bhandarkar Road Junction, near Inox Multiplex, a distance of 535 metres. The work is likely to be completed by February 28.

When contacted, PWD assistant engineer Sarita Shirodkar said that the pipeline has been repaired and water was released on Saturday. "We will check it on Sunday," she said.

NEP circular upsets teachers

Say it fails to mention about academic terms, instructional days

Team Herald

PANJIM: The All Goa Secondary School Teachers Association (AGSSTA) has stated that the government's circular on National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 doesn't mention about the academic terms and also does not mention the number of school going days and the number of instructional days for the students.

"The NEP 2020 is the best thing as it is child centric and aims to bring about the holistic development of the student. It stresses the need to rationalise and reduce the content to make learning an enjoyable experience and not based on rote learning," AGSSTA president Savio Suraj Victoria said adding that the circular instead had increased both, the content and the annual compulsory classroom instruction hours to 1,200 contrary to the 1,045 annual hours for secondary stage and 955 annual hours suggested by NCF-SE 2023 prepared as guide for implementing NEP 2020.

The RTE Act 2009 also states 1,000 instructional hours. It has thus increased the burden of the students instead of reducing it, he said.

"The circular states only about the compulsory classroom instructional hours and does not provide for the additional enrichment programme which is essential for holistic development of the child

—AGSSTA

"The circular states only about the compulsory classroom instructional hours and does not provide for the additional enrichment programme which is essential for holistic development of the child," says AGSSTA

It instead denies students the right to choose the activities of his/her choice as no school is equipped to provide all the options the child may want. It instead forces the child to take vocational courses which are only available in the school as he/she is forced to attend compulsory classroom instruction in April when student was free to attend the courses/activities/coaching camps of his/her choice wherever student wanted sometimes even outside the State or country which the present system provided for.

The circular doesn't mention about the academic terms and also does not mention the number of school going days and the number of instructional days for the students.

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 Shri. Doma Fernandes President Shri. Remy Fernandes Secretary Shri. Francisco (Gha) Treasurer Shri. Franco Fernandes Org./Sports Secretary

Mulgao villagers to discuss mining issues today

Team Herald

BICHOLIM: The Mulgao Nagrik Kruti Samiti (MNKS) has convened a meeting of villagers at Granddevikelbai temple premises at 4 pm on Sunday, February 23, to explain them about the preventive measures to be taken by the mining company before the onset of monsoon.

MNKS president Vasant Gad said that the purpose of the meeting is to inform the villagers about the measures taken by the State administration in the village.

He said that a committee

will be appointed to keep a watch on the activities of the mining company and the next plan of action will be decided after Mahashivratri.

Meanwhile, Vedanta Sesa Goa stated that it is fully geared up on monsoon preparedness and is committed to safe and responsible mining.

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Cyber Crime Police bust nationwide fake hotel website racket

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Cyber Crime Police have arrested a suspect and exposed a pan-India fake hotel website racket that defrauded customers under the guise of well-known hotels in Goa, Puri (Odisha), Shillong, and Meghalaya.

The investigation commenced after the Cyber Crime Police Station registered a case based on a complaint from the General Manager of a beach resort in Salcete.

Upon tracing the fraudulent websites, police identified the suspect as Lalit Khare (25), a resident of Morena, Madhya Pradesh. Investigations revealed that Khare had not only created the fake website but had also made payments to the hosting service for its establishment.

A Crime Branch team apprehended the suspect from Madhya Pradesh. During interrogation, police uncovered seven additional fraudulent hotel websites created by him—four targeting hotels in Goa, two in Odisha,

and one in Meghalaya.

Further inquiries led the police to Firoz Ahmad from Guna, Madhya Pradesh, who was found to be connected to the accused, having made payments for the creation of fake hotel websites. Ahmad was served a notice under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and his interrogation directed the investigation towards Mewat, Rajasthan.

Police have seized a laptop and a mobile phone from the accused. According to officials, these fake websites were designed using real hotel names and images, and were linked to Google listings.

When potential customers searched online for these hotels, they were redirected to fraudulent websites. A WhatsApp contact number was provided on these fake sites, where the scammer impersonated hotel staff and tricked victims into transferring money into designated bank accounts, thereby committing fraud under the pretext of hotel bookings.

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SAMBA SQUARE
1ST - 4TH MAR 5.30 PM ONWARDS
FLOAT PARADE
DAY 1: 1st March 4:00pm onwards from SANTA MONICA JETTY
DAY 1 - 1ST MARCH, SAT
GRAVITY TRUE BLUE RAAGAS 2 RICHES MC SAVIO
DAY 2 - 2ND MARCH, SUN
NEON BROTHERS IN ARMS ALCATRAZZ 24K MC JESSICA MC ALDRIN
DAY 3 - 3RD MARCH, MON
DOUBLE R FOREFRONT TIDAL WAVE MC JEFFERY
DAY 4 - 4TH MARCH, TUE
TRILOGY BLUE WAVES CRIMSON TIDE BLACK IN WHITE MC DORIS MC UPDESH
PANAJI CITY, NEAR PANAJI CHURCH
Panaji Carnival Parade 2025 - Float entry forms must be collected from the CCP office and submitted by 26th Feb 2025. A representative from each float must attend the Screening Committee Meeting at CCP on 26th Feb at 4 PM.