

Goans wake up before it's too late: Activists vow to protect Goa

Send a clear message to govt that they are united; say their activism is for country, State & people; slam the State for throwing Rama behind bars; Kankonkar walks out of Colvale jail

Team Herald

PANJIM: Condemning the arrest of social activist Rama Kankonkar for his remarks against Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, activists from across Goa, in a show of unity, vowed to protect the State and called upon Goans to wake up against the government for "misusing" its powers before it is too late.

Speaking to mediapersons after Rama's release from the Central Jail, Colvale, the activists resented the ruling government move to suppress the activist's voice by throwing him behind bars.

Activist Narayan Naik said, "We have come here to support Kankonkar and condemn his arrest. Rama is fighting for the rights of Sancoale residents, who have not risen up yet. They fear that the amount of Rs 2,000 or Rs 3,000 will stop if they speak against the government. We have come forward because it is our duty to show the government what is wrong."

Another activist from Sancoale Peter D'Souza said, "This is the law and



Social activist Rama Kankonkar is garlanded by an activist following the former's release from Central Jail, Colvale

"I had taken a decision to fast until death because I did not have any options. There have been many cases filed against me so that I remain busy in court matters. This is done to suppress my voice. I am fed up with this. So, the only option I had was to surrender before the judiciary. I had decided to remain in jail as long as the judiciary would have decided"
- Rama Kankonkar, after his release from Colvale jail

"This is the law and order of the government. The system has failed. The Pramod Sawant-led government is misusing its powers. I want to tell the Goans that they must wake up now. If they do not, it will be too late"

- Peter D'Souza, activist from Sancoale

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- Tanoj Adwalpalkar, another activist

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Tanoj Adwalpalkar said, "We activists are one and we do not have any caste or creed. Our activism is for the

country, State and our people. However, some people are feeling the pinch due to our activism and that is why the government has resorted to harassing the activists. But this is just the beginning. These types of harassment will continue in future, but we want to tell the government that we all the activists are united and will remain so."

Rama Kankonkar alleged that police were pressured to detain him and all the activists will retaliate against the government.

He said, "I took a decision, stood by it and will continue to do so. There is a god and he is watching. The government tried to bend me, but it could not. I remained firm like a pillar. I had taken a decision to fast until death because I did not have any options. There have been many cases filed against me so that I remain busy in court matters. This is done to suppress my voice. I am fed up with this. So, the only option I had was to surrender before the judiciary. I had decided to remain in jail as long as the judiciary would have decided."

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Biden admin funded \$18 million to help India with its polls, claims Trump

Argues New Delhi doesn't need this money

PTI, WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump

has claimed that the Biden administration allocated USD 18 million in funding to India to help with its elections, arguing that the country doesn't need this money.

His remarks during a speech at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) on Saturday after he repeatedly attacked the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for allocating USD 21 million in funding to India for "voter turnout".

In his speech, Trump also accused India of taking advantage of the US.

"18 million dollars for helping India with its elections. Why the hell? Why don't we just go to old paper ballots, and let them help us with their elections, right?"

PM, EAM MUST ANSWER WHY GOVT IS SILENT DESPITE TRUMP 'INSULTING' INDIA: CONG

PTI, NEW DELHI: Amid the USAID funding row, the Congress on Sunday accused the BJP of indulging in "anti-national work" by spreading "fake news from America" and asserted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will also have to answer as to why the government is silent when US President Donald Trump and Elon Musk are "insulting" India repeatedly. The BJP has rejected all such allegations of the Congress and called Rahul Gandhi a "traitor", accusing him of colluding with foreign forces in his bid to weaken India. Congress general secretary in-charge Jairam Ramesh said, "BJP is a procession of liars and illiterates. The news about USD 21 million, on which the BJP and their bootlickers were jumping on, turned out to be fake. The USD 21 million in 2022 was not for 'voter turnout' in India, but for Bangladesh."

"Elon Musk made a fake claim, Trump got confused between Dhaka and Delhi. Amit Malviya spread the lie further, then the rest of BJP's bootlickers seized on it," he charged.

Voter ID. Wouldn't that be nice? We're giving money to India for elections. They don't need money," he said.

"They take advantage of us pretty good. One of the

highest tariff nations in the world..We have a 200 per cent (tariffs) there and then we're giving them a lot of money to help them with their election," Trump said.

Distressed Anjunks seek solace from HC

Expect the Court to appoint Noise Monitoring Committee

AUGUSTO RODRIGUES

OZRAN, VAGATOR: With only a week left for the Class X Board exams to commence and with most units within Anjuna Panchayat jurisdiction blasting music till early morning, the distressed residents expect some solace from the High Court of Bombay at Goa, hearing the Contempt Petition 12 of 2023, to appoint the Noise Monitoring Committee.

After having rejected the names of Nyron Dias and Rohan Gadekar suggested by the government, due to conflict of interest, Amicus Curiae Nigel da Costa Frias recommended the names of Janie Crasto, Jeremy Ferreira and Dominic Pereira.

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Traffic police conducting midnight checks at Anjuna junction

"My son's Class X exams start on March 1 and it is sad that music can be heard till early morning. There seems to be no respite even during days of examination. Despite putting up with all the noise during the study holidays, we didn't expect them to carry on"

- Priya Mendonca, whose son is appearing for the exams

"I have been registering complaints on 112 for the last so many months to no use. It is obvious that the authorities are conspiring with people who have scant regard for Supreme Court directives and it is therefore essential that the High Court set up the noise Monitoring Committee soon"

-Desmond D'Souza, local

Pope Francis in critical condition, tests show early kidney failure

AP, ROME: Pope Francis remained in critical condition Sunday and blood tests show early kidney failure but he remains alert and "well-oriented," and attended Mass, the Vatican said, as the 88-year-old pontiff battles pneumonia and a complex lung infection.



In a late update, the Vatican said Francis hadn't had any more respiratory crises since Saturday night, but was still receiving high flows of supplemental oxygen.

Some blood tests showed "initial, mild, kidney failure," but doctors said it was under control. The decreased platelet count, necessary for clotting that was first detected Saturday was stable.

"The complexity of the clinical picture, and the necessary wait for drug therapies to provide some feedback, dictate that the prognosis remains reserved," the doctors concluded.

Earlier, On Saturday, Francis suffered a prolonged asthmatic respiratory crisis that required "high flows" of oxygen to help him breathe through a nasal tube.

KING KOHLI'S MAJESTIC BRILLIANCE



Virat Kohli, left, and Axar Patel celebrate after winning the ODI cricket match of the ICC Champions Trophy between India and Pakistan, at Dubai International Cricket Stadium, in Dubai, UAE, on Sunday

Assagao's Badem locals manually pump water to meet daily needs

For them, water treatment plant is still a distant dream; locals claim wells are drying up due to illegal digging of borewells by builders; blame WRD for lacking mechanism to check this menace

ERWIN FONSECA

ASSAGAO: Exactly a year ago, the foundation for a water treatment plant at Sonarkhet, Assagao, was laid by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, assuring the residents of Anjuna, Assagao and Siolim that within a few months water scarcity issue would be a thing of the past. However, the project, which is yet to become a reality, has worsened the situation in Assagao's Badem ward with the villagers forced to depend on the old manual hand pumps to fetch water.

When summer is at its peak, the people are compelled to undergo further hardship as there is a beeline to fetch water at the site.

The chief minister had also assured that once the plant is commissioned, those residing in the areas located at the tail end of the pipeline were also assured that they would receive improved water supply, but this assurance has fallen flat.

The demand of the residents in



"Last February, the roads were dug up for laying water pipelines and still now these are being dug up again for the same reason. In fact part of the hotmixed road in Assagao was also dug up. This is a complete joke being played by the PWD and that too when the Chief Minister is handling this portfolio"

-Hanumant Naik, Assagao Sarpanch

"We have always been seeking accountability with regards to laying pipelines, water supply timings with the PWD but there seems to be some lack of transparency in PWD projects and people are always kept in the dark. I have been persistently raising this issue at gram sabhas, but even Sarpanch is helpless because the department is just not bothered"

-Owen Braganza, activist from Assagao

Badem for regular water supply reaching its completion. will remain a distant dream with no signs of the treatment plant

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MAX. TEMP 34.5 °C
MIN. TEMP 25.5 °C

idharudhar



Sturdy chairs replacing broken seats!

With profound sadness CAMILSONS GROUP

Mourns the loss of its visionary founder. A pillar of strength and inspiration, his legacy will continue to guide and motivate us



Mr. Camilo Fernandes (CAMILSON)

We pay tribute to our beloved and revered leader, forever grateful for his profound impact on our lives. His guidance and inspiration have touched the hearts of our Director and team, shaping us into who we are today. May his memory continue to inspire us to strive for greatness.