

## Ramzan to begin from Sunday in India

PTI, NEW DELHI: Ramzan will begin on Sunday in India as the crescent moon marking the start of the fasting month was not sighted anywhere in the country on Friday.

Delhi-NCR was cloudy since morning, due to which the moon was not visible here.

# Avalanche buries BRO camp in Uttarkhand: 33 workers rescued, 22 still trapped

PTI, DEHRADUN: Thirty-three of a total of 55 BRO workers trapped under an avalanche in the high-altitude village of Mana in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district have been rescued, with concerns over the safety of the remaining 22 mounting as night fell on the snowbound slopes and the rescue efforts came to a temporary halt.

Updating the information on the rescue operations here, Uttarakhand's Disaster Management Secretary Vinod Kumar Suman said 33 trapped labourers have been rescued and 22 remain to be traced amid adverse weather conditions.

Correcting the information shared earlier, Suman said it was subsequently found out that two of the 57 labourers feared trapped in the avalanche at the Border Roads Organisation (BRO)



Rescue operation underway after BRO labourers got trapped under an avalanche, in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand

camp were on leave and the actual number of workers trapped was 55.

While 33 of them have been rescued, 22 are yet to be traced, he added.

According to a list released by the Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority, the trapped labourers are from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh,

Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir, among other states. The list has 10 labourers' names, without mentioning the states they belong to. Suman agreed that the task is challenging as there is seven feet of snow near the avalanche site. However, more than 65 personnel are



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engaged in the rescue operations, he added.

The snowslide, which buried the BRO camp between Mana and Badrinath, rolled down early on Friday morning. Multiple teams battled through the tough terrain, heavy snow and icy temperatures to reach the trapped labourers. They initially pulled

located three kilometres from Badrinath, Mana is the last village on the India-Tibet border at a height of 3,200 metres. Visuals from Mana showed rescuers trudging through high piles of snow in a grim landscape bathed in white.

The rescue operations were stopped in view of the bad weather and the impending danger of more avalanches in Mana. Two mild avalanches had followed the main one.

The avalanche hit between 5:30 am and 6 am, burying the workers inside eight containers and a shed, the Army said. Its swift response teams, comprising more than 100 personnel from the Ixex Brigade, specially trained for high-altitude rescue operations, were immediately mobilised. The teams included doctors and ambulances.

**DEATH**

**NILO S. J. (Levino) VIEGAS**  
(Ex - Salgaocar)  
(OREL, ASSOLNA)

BORN: 12/11/1943 DIED: 26/02/2025  
Son of late Chagas & late Marelina Viegas. Beloved husband of Sophia Viegas. Loving father/ father-in-law of Collin/Fatima Viegas. Affectionate grandfather of Vanya, Aaron, Jayden. Brother/ Brother-in-law late Victor/Maria Viegas, Sylvia/late Zacarias Rebello, late Maura/late Nelson Colaco. Doting uncle of Zacavio/ Cheryl, Sajida/Aquino & Nelra/Dinesh.

Funeral Cortege will leave his residence (Tomorrow) **Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2025 at Regina Martyrum Church, Assolna** for Eucharistic Celebration at 4:00 pm followed by burial

RELATIVES, NEIGHBOURS & FRIENDS KINDLY ACCEPT THIS AS THE ONLY INTIMATION

**RETURNED TO THE LORD**

**MARIA DIAS**  
Malwara - Agassaim

Wife of Late Zeferino Afonso.  
Loving Mother / Mother-in-law of Raimundo / Sebastian, Late Luis / Sofia, Aurora / Andre Antonio, Jeronimo / Brigida, Bernandina / Agnelo, Carmelina / Late Santana, Domic, Cleto / Eulanda. Dearest Grandmother of Rolan, Shane, Pranoy, Lenzel, Melloni / Glynsan, Jerico, Malkiel, Audrey / Monroe, Oliver, Elizabeth, Electra / Pankaj, Cain / Priyanza, Dolrich, Presley, Alison, Ashley, Lorenzo. Great Grandmother of Isaac & Asher.

Funeral cortege will leave her residence on Saturday (Today) 1st March, 2025 to St Lawrence Church, Agassaim, Goa at 4:00 pm, for Eucharistic Celebration, followed by burial. <https://youtube.com/live/SsAxAD7WLS7?feature=share>

Relatives and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

CREATIVE MASS - 9744592979

**Lord I Am Coming Home**

**Santana Armida Cardoso**  
(Shaline)

NEW AMBELIM - ASSOLNA

Beloved Wife of late Gabriel M. Cardozo  
Loving Mother/Mother-in-law of Anthony (N/TONY)/Dyana, Cybil/late Ricardo, Cina/Elton  
Caring Grandmother of Adnoi, Adnoc, Adoia, Frenz, Shannon, Rosevon, Elric & Claire.

Eucharistic Celebration will be held on **Sunday, 2nd March 2025 at 10:30 am at Our Lady Of Lourdes Chapel Ambelim**, followed by burial at **Our Lady Queen of Martyr's Church Assolna**.

Relatives, neighbours and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation

Rebello Publicity & Funeral Services Margao 9822383992

## FROM PAGE 1

### BAJRANG DAL MENACE AT UDAY BHEMBRE'S DOOR

They also accused him of downplaying the atrocities committed by Portuguese rulers during the colonial era.

While Bhembre listened to their criticism and taunts, his wife attempted to reason with them, stating that they did not have to agree with his views but that his opinions were not intended to offend any religion, as they were making it out to be.

Meanwhile, alert citizens of Margao rushed to Bhembre's residence after learning of the incident. Bhembre's family members also arrived at the scene.

These citizens stood between Bhembre and the group, directly engaging with Dessai and his associates. They questioned the group's decision to arrive at the home of an 86-year-old man after 9 pm with such a large group and asked them to come at a more appropriate time with a smaller group, preferably after informing Bhembre in advance. The citizens urged the group to leave the premises and return the next day if they wished to continue the dialogue. They also defended Bhembre's background and contributions. After some more back and forth between the two groups, the crowd dispersed. The Bajrang Dal men also burned Bhembre's effigy.

Speaking to the media later, Bhembre, who was surrounded by friends, family and well-wishers who had grown in number outside his residence, said, "I was sitting down for dinner when I heard the doorbell ring. When I went to answer it, one person said he had come to talk about a case. As I don't practice law now, and told him to come inside and speak. He said there were others with him too, and I said, 'Bring them inside as well.' Then he said, 'No, you come out of the gate and talk to us, as more are gathered there.'" Bhembre recounted.

"As I started to go out, I could see that a crowd had gathered and realised they had some intention of asking me to come out of my gate to talk to them. So I said, 'I will stand here only' (outside the main door of his house) and 'I'll speak to you all from here,'" he added.

"More than a two-way discussion, it was a 'bhaashan' (lecture). Two of them were lecturing me over my comments on Shivaji. They did not give me space or time to respond, and in such discussions, one should be allowed to respond," he explained further.

"They said I have no right to even mention Shivaji's name. Now, I am a citizen of India, and under the Constitution, I know my rights. I also consider Shivaji a hero. They, or no one else, can tell me whether I have the right to speak on Shivaji or not. But anyway, I could not speak much to them. Their heads seemed to be filled with what they wanted to question me about. They left

afterward," Bhembre added.

He also countered some of the points made by the Bajrang Dal group.

"They think I took out my anger on the Chief Minister by making that video. I told them that I have made many such videos on history and have even written books on the same. I was presenting history, and there was a reference to the CM as he is the one who spoke on this topic. Had there been anyone else, I would have mentioned that person's name too," Bhembre explained.

"I wanted to tell them that I have also written books about the Cuncolim freedom struggle and the history they were talking about. They were asking me why I don't speak against the Portuguese or on other religions. Again, I write about history and present facts. Whether it is right or wrong, I present the facts as they are, and that is all I have done. I have nothing personal against the Chief Minister and never made it out to be such a case," Bhembre added.

Bhembre expressed strong gratitude for the late-night show of support at his residence. He added that this incident would not change his way of thinking and reiterated that he felt he had done nothing wrong.

### MLA CONFRONTS ELECTRICITY DEPT OVER CLOSING PATHWAYS

He pointed out that the department had previously kept four traditional pathways open, only to suddenly block them without warning.

Amonkar also challenged Shetye to file a police complaint, asserting that he would not let the pathways be closed. "The area has turned into a jungle with snakes and other reptiles. There is no proof that people come here to drink. I have personally requested the Electricity Department multiple times to clear the bushes, but they have done nothing. I had to get them cleared at my own expense," he said.

He denied that locals had obstructed the department's efforts to take the electrical cables and claimed that the cables had been lying unused for over 15 years. He maintained that the true issue was the department's attempt to block the two traditional pathways by erecting a compound wall.

Shetye, in response, defended his actions, explaining that he was authorised by the Electricity Department's chief engineer to close the two pathways and wanted to remove the unused cables, but had faced resistance from locals. "This is government property and I have been told to close the two pathways. Why are you creating a problem and not letting me remove the cables? Who will pay the Rs 10,000 of the bulldozer hired to carry out the work?" he asked the MLA.

Electricity Department Chief Engineer Stephen Fernandes called for an amicable solution. Fernandes said that both Amonkar and Shetye were partially correct, and the sensitive issue required careful handling. "It is our property and the stand taken by Shetye is correct. But we need to check if people with homes in the area will have an alternate access route once the pathways are closed. Being an MLA, there is nothing wrong that he (Amonkar) went there. At the same time, Shetye was doing his duty. We need to find a balanced resolution."

### VERDICT IN K'TAKA ILLEGAL MINING 'SCAM' LINKED TO GOA MINISTER ON MARCH 4

The judge then adjourned the judgment to Tuesday, March 4.

During the previous hearing, counsel for two of the accused clarified matters regarding permits and related documents. They also cited statements made by witness B R Venugopal during cross-examination, asserting that his admissions validated the iron ore supply transaction.

However, on February 25, the court dismissed their arguments following the submission by the Special Public Prosecutor of the Karnataka Lokayukta's Special Investigation Team (SIT).

The scam involves 16 accused, including a mining firm owned by one of them from Hosapete, Ballari, Karnataka. Among those implicated is a Cabinet Minister from Goa, who allegedly conspired to illegally transport nearly 17 metric tonnes (MT) of iron ore from the lease area of M/S S B Minerals at the Vyasankere plot and other mines.

### TIMES HAVE CHANGED AND SO HAS GOA'S CARNIVAL

Interestingly, and perhaps something that today's readers, not those who lived in the 1960s, would find a little bit surprising, the same advertisement announced that Carnival Sunday's masquerade ball at Clube Nacional would have the then Lt Governor K R Damle as the guest and that the ball would start at 10pm, the precise hour at which today the music has to stop. Times have indeed changed.

The Panjim clubs distributed the four days of Carnival among themselves so that there would be no overlapping. Advertisements in O Heraldo of 1961 endorse this as while Clube Nacional had programmes on Carnival Sunday and Tuesday, Clube Vasco da Gama hosted Carnival parties on Saturday and Monday, and the latter advertisement clearly mentions a dress code that if not carnivalesque, would

have to be formal.

As it is obvious, it was the clubs that dominated the Carnival festivities in Panjim and it can be gathered that the clubs in Margao would be doing the same there. Today, the clubs play a secondary role in the Carnival programmes and the government, through the Tourism Department is the main organiser. But, if in the mid-1960s the government was still to latch on to the possibilities of Carnival as a festival to promote tourism, and it was the clubs that were doing their bit for their members, there were also voices seeking the revival of the Carnival of old and to involve the government in Carnival celebrations.

Yet, what was the Carnival of old? And today, when we hear of similar calls for the Carnival of old, what date are we looking at? It is indeed surprising that six decades back, when King Momo was still a novelty in Carnival, there were people who were already seeking to revive the Carnival of old.

In January 1966, Vasco Alvares, himself one of Goa's Carnival stalwarts and a long-time president of Clube Nacional that put Carnival on the Goa map, wrote in O Heraldo seeking the revival of the Carnival of old. In brief, here's what he said, "And speaking of Carnival it is not that of the clubs that should be revived but yes, the Carnival of assaltos, where masked groups in the spirit of fun went singing house to house setting aside enmities, politics; the Carnival of brincos populares that represent the comic and humouristic art of the people; the Carnival of the Gauda community of Salcete with their 'romotas', music that represents joy; the Carnival of fantoches of Fontainhas; the Carnival of suicides of Mapusa; even the Carnival of the battle of the cartuchos de farinha where the people put their all in the fight, seeking to be the winner but the battle was not of blood and enmity, the winner and the loser would embrace and laugh, and finally the Carnival that lives in the spirit of the people."

Alvares concludes his article calling on the municipalities, tourism office (it was not a department at that time) and other private cultural organisations to revive what is traditional and regional (not just Carnival), "within a regionalism that would be accepted as the cultural heritage of the nation".

The Goa Carnival today is listed as a State festival and the government, via the Tourism Department, the main financier and organiser of the float parade, and the other related celebrations. With government patronage, Carnival's popularity grew to become one of Goa's biggest tourism attractions, after of course the beaches, the churches and the temples.

A quick flashback here. After the first King Momo of 1965, a year later in 1966 the bullock cart was replaced by an open jeep and in 1967, the government stepped in forming a committee to organise the parade. Incidentally, in what today would be completely unacceptable and would under no circumstances be allowed, in 1967 a cigarette company distributed cigarette packets to people on Carnival and this was reported in the newspapers. This, perhaps was the beginning of the excesses that led to the abrupt halt of the Carnival float parade in the 1980s, before it was revived with rules and restrictions governing it and grow to what it is today.

So, with money budgeted by the government, six decades from 1965, the King Momo is selected by inviting applications from interested individuals and he does not come on a bullock cart but on top of a vibrantly and colourfully decorated six-wheeler, accompanied by a bevy of young women, live music by a band that is blasted out loud, and an entourage of dancers on the street. All this is followed by a string of floats in different categories, each competing for a prize and showcasing their best talent - artistic, music and dance.

Timoteo Fernandes, Vasco Alvares and the others who spearheaded the Carnival in the 1960s and 1970s could not have envisaged what course the festival would take. Today, Carnival has little of the 1960s, perhaps only the King Momo being the common factor and coincidentally in its 60th year, the King Momo just happens to be a nephew of Goa's first King Momo.

### ACCUSED SENT TO 12-DAY POLICE CUSTODY

The operation was carried out with the help of drones and sniffer dogs around midnight on Thursday in Shirur tehsil of Pune district.

He was formally arrested and produced before the Pune Sessions Court amid heavy police security.

The police submitted a remand application to the court and sought Gade's custody for 14 days.

They told the court the accused engaged the 26-year-old victim in conversation at the Swargate terminus on Tuesday morning, calling her 'didi' (sister) and took her to an empty 'Shiv Shahi' bus parked in the depot premises and raped her.

Gade, who faces half a dozen criminal cases in Pune and Ahilyanagar districts, is clearly seen in the CCTV footage of the bus terminus on the day of the incident, according to the police.

The data of the mobile phone he was using was yet to be recovered, they informed the court.

The police stated that out of the half a dozen cases registered against Gade, women are complainants in five of them.

**"Where words fail, music speaks, Play on.."**

**Prof. Mathew Anthony Mendes**  
LTCL; LRSM

Precious Husband of Jennifer Mendes.  
Beloved Father/Father-in-Law of Schubert/Samantha, Sonatina and Schön.  
Adorable Grandfather of Serah and Samuel.  
Brother/Brother-in-Law of Tessie/late Francis, Francis/Sabrina and Bosco/Sandra.

The mortal remains of Prof. Mathew Mendes will be brought to his residence "The Orchard", Court Street, Altinho, Mapusa at 2.00 p.m. to pay last respects.

The funeral cortege will leave his residence at **3.30 p.m. on Saturday, 01st March, 2025 (TODAY)** to **St. Jerome's Church, Mapusa** for the Eucharistic Celebration at 4.00 p.m. followed by burial.

**NO CONDOLENCE VISITS PLEASE**

*Let's Celebrate the life of Prof. Mathew Mendes...*

Empathy Ambassadors 9022290801 / 7558653211