

## Maha MLA's son flashes gun during street brawl

### Abu Farhan Azmi and others booked for altercation in Candolim; he was carrying licenced firearm

Team Herald

**CALANGUTE:** A roadside disagreement near a supermarket at Candolim on Monday night escalated into a brawl, with one of the involved parties whipping out a gun and allegedly threatening people, leading to a case being filed by the police later.

The man was later identified as Abu Farhan Azmi, the son of Samajwadi Party's Maharashtra MLA Abu Asim Azmi and the husband of Bollywood actor Ayesha Takia.

Calangute Police said that they rushed to the spot after receiving information about a fight between two groups at Newton's supermarket in Candolim just after 11 pm on Monday.

According to sources, the fight erupted due to a minor accident between Azmi's SUV and the two persons Joseph and Zeon Fernandes on a two-wheeler. The fight soon escalated and a mob of locals allegedly manhandled Azmi, a restaurateur and entrepreneur, who immediately

**HUBBY, SON CURSED FOR BEING M' RASHTRIANS: AYESHA TAKIA**

Breaking her silence on the incident involving her husband, Azmi's wife Ayesha Takia, a former Bollywood actor, on Tuesday, posted on social media: "My husband and son were bullied and scared for their lives as local Goans threatened them. The hatred for Maharashtrians has reached unbelievable heights in Goa, as they reportedly cursed my



husband and son for being from Maharashtra. Even the police were roughed up. We have video proof and evidence with CCTV footage." She further stated that Farhan was the one who called the police for help, but the police ended up filing a complaint against him instead.

took out his licenced pistol and threatened them.

The police said the rival groups initially refused to come to the police station. However after more police personnel rushed to the spot, both the parties were brought to the police station.

"Both parties were given the opportunity to file complaints, but they refused to do so. As per protocol, they were sent

for medical examination at North Goa District Hospital, Mapusa, but they refused to undergo the medical test," the police said.

"Abu Farhan Azmi produced a valid arms licence, issued by the authority concerned, along with a permit to carry the firearm in Goa. Since the individuals involved were fighting in a public place, disturbing public peace

and causing affray, a State-initiated complaint was filed and a case has been registered under Section 194 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023," the police said.

"The accused persons, namely Zeon Fernandes, Joseph Fernandes, Abu Farhan Azmi, Sham, and others have been served with notices under Section 35 of BNSS," the police said.

## KING'S SPECIAL



A measured 84-run knock by run machine Virat Kohli steered India into their fifth Champions Trophy final with a clinical four-wicket win over an under-strength Australia in the first semi-final clash in Dubai on Tuesday

## Ministers are busy counting money, says former Goa mantri

### Pandurang Madkaikar says he paid Rs 15-20 lakh to a minister he refuses to name

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** Former Transport Minister Pandurang Madkaikar on Tuesday accused the State government of widespread corruption, alleging that Ministers are focused on "counting money" rather than addressing the issues facing the State. His remarks came after a

meeting with BJP national general secretary B L Santosh, who is currently visiting Goa.

Madkaikar described the situation as "rampant loot," rather than mere corruption. "It's not corruption; it's loot, rampant loot. In the name of corruption, loot is happening. The cash-for-government jobs

scam is just another example of this loot. Every Minister is busy grabbing money," he told the media after his meeting with Santosh. He went on to recount an alleged personal experience, claiming he had to pay Rs 15-20 lakh to a minister for completing routine work.

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## US temporarily suspends military aid to Ukraine

**PTI, NEW YORK:** US President Donald Trump has temporarily suspended, with immediate effect, the delivery of all American military aid to Ukraine, just days after an unprecedented showdown with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in the Oval Office.

A report in The New York Times quoted a senior administration official as saying that Trump temporarily suspended the delivery of all US military aid to Ukraine and that the order takes effect immediately, affecting "more than \$1 billion in arms and ammunition in the pipeline and on order."

The report said Trump's decision to halt military aid "resulted from a series of meetings" at the White House between the US leader and his senior national security aides.

The official said "the order would be in effect until" Trump determined that Ukraine had demonstrated a commitment to peace negotiations with Russia.

The order also pauses "hundreds of millions of dollars in aid through the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative, which provides funds that Kyiv can use only to buy new military hardware directly from US defence companies."

According to the US State Department, Washington has till date provided USD 65.9 billion in military assistance.

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## Smart City chaos: Dumped debris disrupts water supply

### Rubble from St Inez demolition discarded in Mala, breaks water pipeline, no supply for four days

FEBRUARY 10, 2025

## Smart City blunder in Bhatlem, gas leak disaster averted

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** The disruption caused by Smart City works continue unabated in the Capital. A couple of weeks after their digging led to a gas pipeline being cut in Bhatlem, disrupting lives of residents and commercial establishments, Smart City workers have now allegedly broken a water pipeline in Mala by dumping construction debris and leaving the area without water for four days.

The debris had been picked up from St Inez, where a reportedly unauthorised restaurant was demolished a few days ago. According to residents, this debris was then picked up and allegedly dumped by Smart City contractors in Mala, damaging the water pipeline and



Workers carry out repair works of the water pipeline which was damaged at Mala, Panjim on account of the debris allegedly dumped by contractors engaged in the Smart City works. Water supply was disrupted, affecting the residents of Mala, Neugri Nagar, Fontainhas and Sao Tome

affecting the supply in Mala, Neugri Nagar, and Fontainhas.

They have expressed frustration over the prolonged disruption in water supply.

**"We haven't had water for four days. We've heard there's a leak in the pipeline, but it hasn't been fixed even after we complained to the PWD"**

Cont on Pg 11 >> - Jovito Lopes, local resident

## SC stays recruitment of Gujarat judges

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Tuesday stayed the recruitment process for the post of Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) and civil judge (junior division) in Gujarat.

A bench of Justices B R Gavai and Augustine George Masih expressed displeasure over the Gujarat High Court "hurriedly" going ahead with the recruitment process when the apex court was hearing a matter over prescribing the qualifications for JMFC and civil judge (junior division).

"When this court is seized of the issue, we do not appreciate the necessity to rush through the selection process, inasmuch as the outcome of the said judgment would have a direct bearing on the qualification to be prescribed for JMFC and civil judge (junior division)," the bench said.

The question whether a specific number of years should be prescribed as a minimum qualification for enabling a candidate to apply for the post of JMFC and civil judge (junior division) was pending before a three-judge bench of the apex court. The bench said the three-judge bench had elaborately heard the matter and contentions of all the states aside from the High Courts and reserved the matter for judgment.

"We stay the proceedings initiated by the High Court for recruitment to the post of JMFC and civil judge (junior division)," it added.

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## Ex-SEBI chief gets four-week relief from HC

**PTI, MUMBAI:** The Bombay High Court on Tuesday stayed for four weeks a special court's order directing FIR against former Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch and five other officials for alleged stock market fraud and regulatory violations, noting it was passed mechanically.

A single bench of Justice Shivkumar Dige said the special court order of March 1 also did not attribute any specific role to the accused in the matter.

"After hearing all the parties concerned and after going through the order of the special court, it appears that the order is passed mechanically without going into details and without attributing any specific role to the applicants (Buch and others)," Justice Dige said.

"Hence, the order is stayed till next date. Four weeks time is given to the

complainant in the case (Sapan Shrivastava) to file his affidavit in reply to the petitions," the court said.

The HC's judgment came on petitions filed by Buch, three current whole-time SEBI directors Ashwani Bhatia, Ananth Narayan G and Kamlesh Chandra Varshney, BSE's Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Sundararaman Ramamurthy and its former chairman and public interest director Pramod Agarwal.

The pleas sought quashing of the order passed by the special court directing the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) to register an FIR against them pertaining to certain allegations of fraud committed in 1994.

The pleas said the order was illegal and arbitrary. The special court had passed the order on the complaint filed by Sapan Shrivastava.

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MAX. TEMP 34.2 °C  
MIN. TEMP 24.5 °C

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Recliners are useless for us, with sessions curtailed!

## ANOTHER 'FAILED' TRANSLOCATION

## Is it R.I.P. for Panjim's 200-yr-old banyan tree?

### Translocated twice at Campal, age-old banyan tree's trunk rendered 'dead', says expert; new shoots will take decades to grow back

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** Despite vehement protests by environmentalists, the 200-year-old banyan tree, which was felled for the ongoing Smart City works at St Inez and translocated twice at the premises of football ground at Campal, in April last year, is nearing its end with its trunk rendered almost 'dead'.

However, a ray of hope has emerged as new spouts are coming out from tree's roots, indicating the beginning of new life. However, it will be decades before the shoots grow - if at all - to give the tree its



The near 'dead' trunk of the translocated banyan tree



New shoots have come out from tree's roots

majestic presence back. Landscape expert Daniel D'Souza said, "This banyan tree was brought in good faith from St Inez to

was becoming a political issue I was brought here. I have not taken a single rupee for the work I have done. I have done it as my passion."

"Today, I regret to say that this tree is dead. Please make it loud and clear, this tree is dead. Let me also tell you that Smart City never planted this tree over here. They also did not know that there could be waterlogging in this area due to heavy rainfall. This experience should be used to translocate trees to higher ground

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**"Today, I regret to say that this tree is dead. Please make it loud and clear, this tree is dead. Let me also tell you that Smart City never planted this tree over here. They also did not know that there could be waterlogging in this area due to heavy rainfall. This experience should be used to translocate trees to higher ground"**

- Daniel D'Souza, landscape expert

**"The entire exercise shows that the government is not sensitive towards the environment to protect the trees which are huge, old and biodiversity hotspots for birds, insects and reptiles. We are losing all the natural heritage in the State. The government is trying to kill the goose that lays golden eggs"**

- Avertino Miranda, environmentalist and founder of Goa Green