

AAP will fight alone in Goa, asserts Atishi

How can Cong be a like-minded party when 80 per cent of its MLAs defect, asks senior leader on a visit to State

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COLVA: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will go it alone in Goa. That was the clear message from Delhi Leader of the Opposition Atishi during her day-long visit to Goa on Monday.

According to the senior party leader, AAP's plan to go solo is not only for the upcoming Zilla Panchayat (ZP) polls and the municipal council elections, but also for the 2027 Assembly elections.

"Aam Aadmi Party is gearing up to contest on its own. We will contest the ZP elections on our own, as also the municipal elections. Even for the Goa Assembly polls, AAP is preparing to fight alone," Atishi, who was in Goa to inaugurate the South Goa party office, told **O Herald** in an exclusive interview at Colva.

With this announcement, the path ahead for the Opposition parties in the State has got even more tortuous.

"What does alliance with the Congress mean?" Atishi shot back, when asked



about the GOP, with whom AAP had an understanding for the Lok Sabha elections and also for the ZP bypolls Benaulim in 2024. "Last Assembly elections (2022) they won 11 seats and eight of their MLAs joined the BJP. How can anyone trust the Congress?"

"People are talking of coming together of like-minded parties. Who are you like minded with? 80 per cent of their MLAs leave and this is happening for the second time," Atishi pointed out, ruling out any discussion, for now, on consolidation of Opposi-

tion votes for the 2027 State elections.

Atishi alleged that the BJP had not fulfilled its Delhi elections promise of providing Rs 2,500 per month to the women of Delhi. "The Prime Minister had assured Delhi voters that on the International Women's Day (March 8), all women will get the first instalment in their bank account. Forget the first instalment, even the registration for the scheme has even not started. It goes to show that it was a false promise," she claimed, adding that AAP

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- Atishi, AAP leader

had shown that it can run a government that delivers.

The senior party leader was in Goa to inaugurate AAP's second office in the State, in South Goa on Monday evening, in a clear indication that the party is gearing up for the upcoming elections. Atishi also reiterated that the party has been working hard, strengthening its grassroots organisation level. She also praised the work being done by the AAP's two MLAs Benaulim Zilla Panchayat (ZP) members, AAP Goa President and other office bearers in the State.

RICHARD IN HIGH GEAR



US actor Richard Gere (second from left) takes part in a demonstration to commemorate the March 10, 1959 Tibetan Uprising, in The Hague, on Monday. Richard Gere is the president of the International Campaign for Tibet, an organisation that seeks to promote the human rights and democracy of the Tibetan people

Assagao residents face off with WRD, PWD over mega housing project

Team Herald

ASSAGAO: Tensions ran high in Assagao on Monday when local residents, led by Siolim MLA Delilah Lobo and Assagao Sarpanch Hanumant Naik, confronted engineers from the Public Works Department (PWD) and the Water Resources Department (WRD) over the approval granted for a controversial mega project in Ward II of the

Village Panchayat.

The project, which involves the construction of a luxury housing complex, has faced significant opposition from the local community due to its location in an area with thick vegetation. A central concern is the proposed construction of a culvert over the main Assagao Nullah, a vital watercourse in the village.

the project developers to go to the Bardez BDO, who upheld the panchayat's refusal

MEGA TROUBLE

- Locals are opposing a luxury housing project due to its location in an area with thick vegetation
- A central concern is the proposed construction of a culvert over the main Assagao Nullah, a vital watercourse in the village
- The village panchayat had initially rejected the approval for the culvert, prompting

- The matter was subsequently brought before the Director of Panchayats, where approval was granted
- The local panchayat has strongly objected to this decision, and the case is now pending in the High Court

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Vanuatu PM cancels Lalit Modi's passport



'Beautiful ocean in a beautiful country': Lalit Modi posts from Vanuatu as PM Napat orders cancellation of his passport

PTI, PORT VILA: Vanuatu Prime Minister Jotham Napat on Monday directed the Citizenship Commission to cancel the passport issued to former Indian Premier League (IPL) founder Lalit Modi, saying that the fugitive was attempting to avoid his extradition.

On March 7, Modi filed an application with the Indian high commission in London to surrender his Indian passport. He is known to have acquired citizenship of Vanuatu. He left India in 2010 and is said to have been living in London.

An official media release by the Republic of Vanuatu quoted the PM, "I have instructed the Citizenship Commission to cancel the Vanuatu passport issued to Lalit Modi following recent revelations in international media."

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Usgao locals vow to gherao PWD Min if water woes not sorted

Armed with utensils, residents launch fifth gagar morcha to PWD office at Daag-Ponda

Team Herald

PONDA: Fed up with the prolonged water scarcity, the residents of Usgao, armed with empty utensils, launched their fifth gagar morcha to the Public Works Department (PWD) office at Daag-Ponda and warned the officials that they would gherao the PWD Minister if they didn't receive regular water supply within eight days.

Led by panch member Manisha Us-



Usgao residents launch another gagar morcha to the Public Works Department (PWD) office at Daag-Ponda

gaonkar, the locals gheraoed PWD AE Kashinath Saraf.

Usgaonkar informed the AE that earlier on four occa-

sions they had visited the PWD office to complain about the water scarcity.

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X suffers multiple outages globally

AGENCIES, NEW DELHI: Social media platform X (previously known as Twitter) suffered multiple outages globally on Monday, leaving thousands of users unable to use the Elon Musk-owned app. Outages were reported from several countries including the US, the UK and India.

The disruption, reported first by users in India around 3.10 pm IST, lasted around 30 minutes. The micro-blogging site did not offer any explanation about the outage, whose cause remains unknown. The last significant outage happened in August 2024, when a majority of the users experienced problems while trying to use the app.

Elon Musk acquired X in 2022 for \$44 billion, in a move that was dubbed as risky at the time but one that paid off eventually.

Clogged toilets force A-I flight to return to Chicago

PTI, NEW DELHI: Days after its Delhi-bound aircraft returned to Chicago due to unserviceable lavatories, Air India on Monday said its probe found that polythene bags, rags and clothes had been flushed down and were stuck in the plumbing.

On March 6, AI126 from Chicago to Delhi returned to the US city after being airborne for more than 10 hours and on that day, the airline said the air return was due to a technical issue.

The same day, a source aware of the development told PTI that the aircraft had to return, as many of the lavatories

- Toilets were blocked with polythene bags, rags and clothes, said Air India
- Eight out of 12 toilets became unserviceable due to blockages.
- The aircraft returned to Chicago after being airborne for over 10 hours
- Decision to return was for passenger comfort and safety

were clogged. In a detailed statement on the return of AI126, Air India on Monday revealed the reason for the same.

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Indian-origin drug lord wanted by FBI arrested in Punjab



Punjab Police take away Shehnaz Singh alias Shawn Bhinder after his arrest in Tarn Taran, on Monday

PTI, CHANDIGARH: Punjab police on Monday said it has arrested an Indian-origin transnational drug lord, wanted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in connection with one of the largest narcotics seizures in the US, in Ludhiana.

Shehnaz Singh, also known as Shawn Bhinder, had been operating under the guise of a transportation business in Canada since 2014 and allegedly facilitated the movement of drugs from Colombia to the US and Canada via Mexico, the police said.

After a crackdown by the FBI, Bhinder, a native of village Mandiala in Batala who had been residing in Brampton in Canada, managed to give a slip to the FBI sleuths and clandestinely landed in India, DGP Gaurav Yadav said adding that the Punjab Police successfully tracked and arrested him from the jurisdiction of Ludhiana.

He was wanted by the FBI in one of the largest drug seizures in the US on February 26, where the agency had arrested six of his associates and seized 391 kg methamphetamine, 109 kg cocaine, four sophisticated weapons and vehicles from their possession.

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Benfica surprises Goa-born superfan Carolina Miranda on her 100th birthday

A video message on behalf of the club from Portuguese midfielder Renato Sanches to Carolina was shown at a special gathering of family and friends in Portugal

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MARGAO: In a touching gesture which went viral amongst football lovers in Goa, the football club Benfica surprised one of their loyal fans, Goa-born Carolina Miranda, on her 100th birthday with a personalised video message.

The surprise celebration, shared on Benfica's official social media pages, featured an individual video message on behalf of the club from

Portuguese midfielder Renato Sanches to Miranda, who was born in Panjim, on March 8, 1925 and once worked as an English teacher at Lyceum, Altinho.

The birthday tribute was shown during a special gathering organised by her daughter Margarida aka 'Bai', at Restaurante Muchaxo in Guincho, Portugal, where around 60 relatives and friends had gathered for



(Above) Carolina Miranda at the screening of the birthday tribute to her by midfielder Renato Sanches (left) on behalf of the Benfica Football Club

TON-UP CELEBRATION

- The surprise celebration, shared on Benfica's official social media pages, featured a video message on behalf of the club from Portuguese midfielder Renato Sanches
- The tribute was shown during a special gathering organised by Carolina's daughter Margarida at Restaurante Muchaxo in Guincho, Portugal,

where 60 relatives and friends had gathered for lunch

- Family members travelled from Europe, America and Asia to attend the celebration
- Carolina and her guests sang the Benfica Club anthem
- After the cutting of the cake, mando and dulpod songs were performed by mezzo-soprano Carolina Figueiredo

continents to attend Carolina's celebration, including Europe, America, and Asia — represented by Fatima Miranda Figueiredo who travelled from Margao. "Carolina is always busy learning, which has kept her mind absolutely alert," says Figueiredo, an octogenarian.

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MAX. TEMP 34.4 °C
MIN. TEMP 24.8 °C

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My flight arrived on time, but the bus is delayed by hours!

