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Panjim I **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025** I PRICE ₹10.00 I AIR SURCHARGE ₹10 I REG. NO. G2/RNP/GOA/101/2021-23 I PAGES 14 I **GOA'S LARGEST CIRCULATED NEWSPAPER**

CONG REACTS TO ATISHI, SAYS ALLIANCE TALK PREMATURE

Leaders say final call on coalition is high command's; AAP state chief feels Goans want alliance, but Cong 'must put house in order'

Team Herald

PANJIM: A day after Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Atishi declared that the party would fight elections in Goa on its own, State Congress leaders played down the significance of her statement, saying that any call on an Opposition alliance would be taken by the party high command.

Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) president Amit Patkar said, "I don't know in what context she (Atishi) was speaking – about Delhi and the country, or only about Goa. However, I believe it is premature at this moment to discuss the alliance, as there are still two years left for the Assembly elections. The decision regarding the alliance will be made by the High Command and I am sure they will come up with the right decision. Additionally, the AAP Goa President (Amit Palekar) recently issued statements regarding the alliance that differed from what we are hearing from Atishi. Therefore, it is best that the Goa AAP President also clarifies their stance on this."

> **"I believe it is premature at this moment to discuss the alliance, as there are still two years left for the Assembly elections. The decision regarding the alliance will be made by the High Command and I am sure they will come up with the right decision**
> **– Amit Patkar,** *Congress Goa chief*

> **"I am still saying that the people of Goa want an alliance but there has to be a strong trust between the alliance partners. There has to be trust-building not just in our minds but also in the minds of the people**
> **– Amit Palekar,** *AAP Goa chief*

Palekar, however, asserted that first Congress has to put its "house in order" before any talk of an alliance can happen. "I am still saying that the people of Goa want an alliance but there has to be a strong trust between the alliance partners. There has to be trust-building not just in our minds but also in the minds of the people. Rahul Gandhi recently mentioned that people in Congress were working for BJP. Unless there is trust, why will people repose their faith in a party that has given its MLAs to the BJP? Today, of the 33 BJP MLAs in Goa, 31 were originally in the Congress," the AAP Goa President said.

After the debacle in the Delhi elections, Palekar had spoken in favour of a pre-poll alliance with the Congress. But his statement was opposed by Congress brass Salcete taluka, particularly from Benaulim and Velim constituencies.

AAP and the Congress fought the 2024 Lok Sabha polls as partners of the INDIA Bloc, a factor that helped the Grand Old Party retain the South Goa Lok Sabha Seat. Some weeks later, Congress extended its support to AAP, helping the party win the Benaulim Zilla Panchayat (ZP).

All India Congress Committee (AICC) Goa desk incharge Manikrao Thakare said, "I have no idea about her (Atishi) statement. Some AAP leaders were expected to meet me but I could not meet them. Different statements (about alliance) are being made but they are not official statements."

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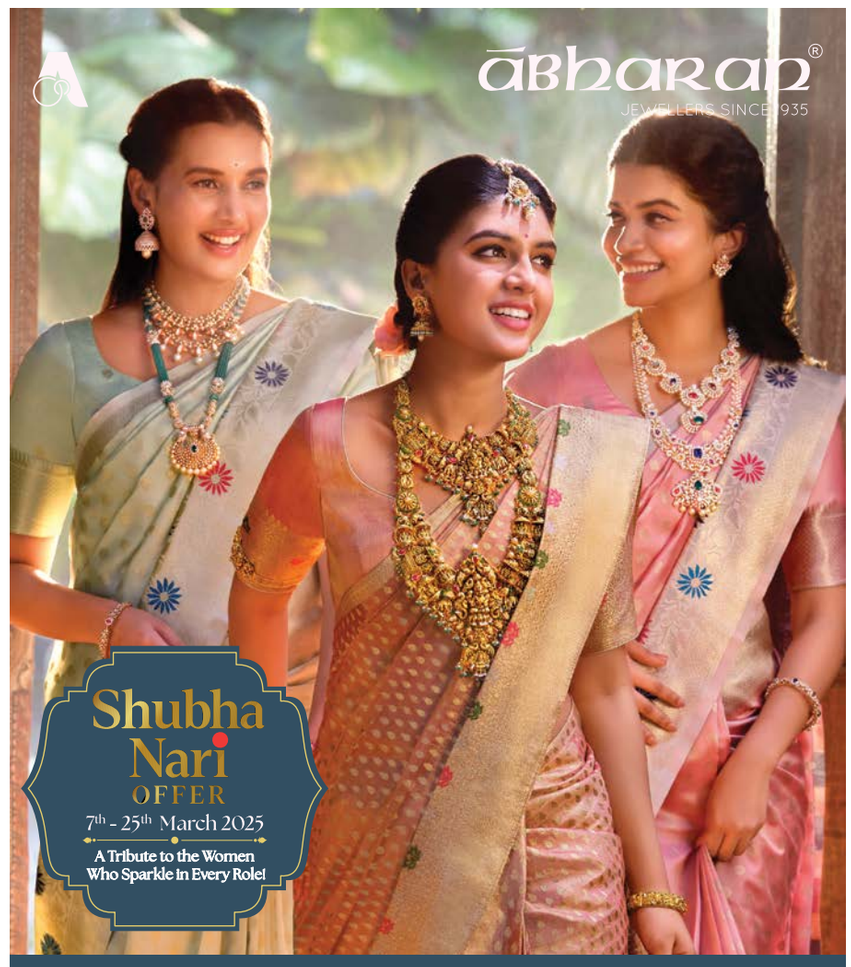

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HOLI-DAY RUSH

PTI

Passengers aboard an overcrowded train amid rush ahead of the Holi festival, in Patna, Tuesday

Khapreshwar temple to be at two locations

Team Herald

PANJIM: The dispute over the relocation of the Khapreshwar temple seems to have been resolved, with the government deciding to instal 'Dev Khapreshwar' at two locations.

Porvorim, MLA and Minister Rohan Khaunte confirmed this decision following a meeting held at the Chief Minister's residence to address the disagreement between two local groups.

Khaunte announced that a dome will be constructed at the original site of the Khapreshwar temple. Simultaneously, a new Khapreshwar temple will be built near the Alcon showroom in Socorro, where an idol of 'Dev Khapreshwar' will be ceremoniously installed. The government has assured full support for both projects.

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Pope no longer in imminent danger: Doctors

AP, ROME: Pope Francis participated remotely in theVatican's spiritual retreat Tuesday after getting good news from his doctors: They upgraded his prognosis and say he is no longer in imminent danger of death as a result of the double pneumonia that has kept him hospitalised for nearly a month in the longest and gravest threat to his 12-year papacy.

The 88-year-old pope isn't out of the woods yet, however. Doctors are still cautious and have decided to keep him hospitalised for several more days to receive treatment, not to mention a period of rehabilitation he will likely need.

But the doctors said he remains stable and has consolidated improvements in recent days, according to blood tests and his good response to treatment. Francis, who has chronic lung disease, is still using supplemental oxygen during the day and a ventilation mask at night to help him breathe.

In an early update Tuesday, the Vatican said Francis was resuming his physical and respiratory physiotherapy after a quiet night.

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Rs 1,500 cr 'siphoned off' from trust that runs Lilavati Hospital

PTI, MUMBAI: The charitable trust that runs Mumbai's well-known Lilavati Hospital on Tuesday alleged that funds to the tune of over Rs 1,500 crore were misappropriated by its former trustees and other related individuals.

The Lilavati Kirtilal Mehta Medical Trust (LKMMT) has lodged separate complaints with the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and at the Bandra Police Station in this regard. It has also claimed black magic was performed in the hospital premises by erstwhile trustees and related individuals.

The complaints allege the misappropriation, uncovered during a forensic audit of Lilavati Hospital's financial records, has impacted the trust's operations and healthcare services provided by the leading private medical facility located in upscale Bandra area.

"We filed complaints which translated into FIRs due to the orders of the Bandra Magistrate Court. More than three FIRs have been filed against the former trustees and other related individuals. A fourth proceeding against these individuals is now pending before the Learned Magistrate which is based on our complaint filed in the Bandra Police Station for black magic and occult practices," LKMMT Permanent Resident Trustee Prashant Mehta told reporters.

> **"The gross misconduct and financial misappropriation uncovered during forensic audit is not just a betrayal of the trust placed in the alleged and fraudulent former trustees, but a direct threat to the very mission of our hospital**
> **– Prashant Mehta,** *LKMMT Permanent Resident Trustee*

The Bandra Magistrate Court has ordered an inquiry against these very individuals, he added.

"We are committed to upholding the integrity of the Lilavati Kirtilal Mehta Medical Trust and ensuring that funds meant for healthcare services are used solely for the benefit of patients who rely on us daily.

"The gross misconduct and financial misappropriation uncovered during forensic audit is not just a betrayal of the trust placed in the alleged and fraudulent former trustees, but a direct threat to the very mission of our hospital," Mehta maintained.

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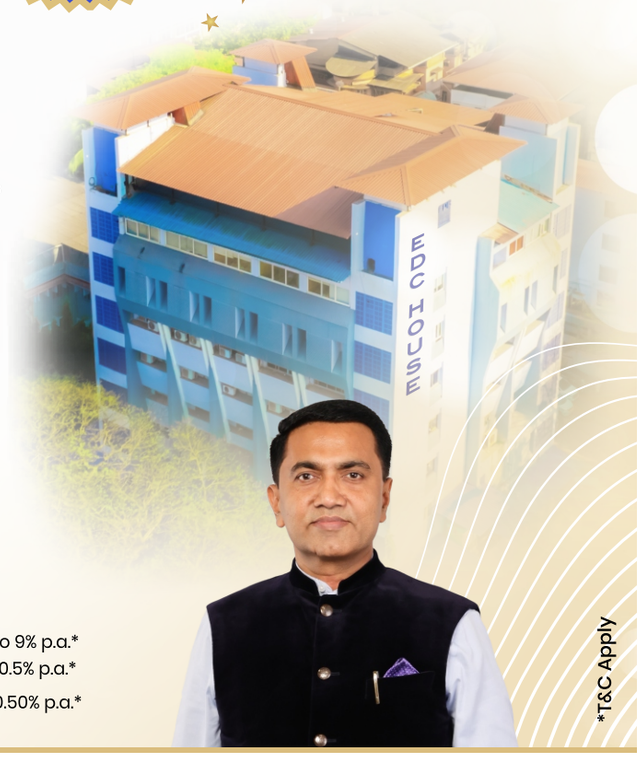

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