

People's fast bears fruit, quarrying halted near Tillari

Khanyale locals withdraw fast after Sindhudurg Collector's directive; Goan environmentalist wants Maha to issue a permanent stoppage order

Team Herald

BICHOLIM: Khanyale villagers withdrew their week-long hunger strike following Sindhudurg District Collector Anil Patil's directive stopping operations of stone quarries and crushing units as well as transportation near the Tillari Dam, until further orders.

The directive is in response to the protests by Khanyale villagers over illegal mining activities in the area.

Approximately, seven such units were operational in the ecologically-sensitive region using limited period minor mineral mining permits. The decision has been taken following discussion with the officials which pointed out that the mining activities can have detrimental impact on the

Tiger sighted in camera trap tech at Khanyale

PANJIM: A tiger has been sighted in camera trap technique at Shinrage, Khanyale in Dodamarg, thereby reiterating the presence of eight tigers in the Mangeli and Amboli regions of Maharashtra. According to information available, a male tiger "T-40" was spotted in the camera trap laid by the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve and the Sawantwadi Forest Division under the guidance of conservation biologist Girish Punjabi. Confirming the presence of tigers in Mangeli and Amboli wildlife corridor across the Goa border, environmentalist Rajendra Kerkar said, "Presence of eight tigers in the Mangeli and Amboli regions have already been proved. A male tiger was recently captured in the camera trap technique at Shirange, Khanyale in Dodamarg taluka and the officials of the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve and Sawantwadi forest division are closely monitoring the happenings."

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Tillari Dam as well as water in the village, states the order issued by the Collector

dated March 11, 2025. The villagers from Khanyale were protesting

"I commend the villagers for their efforts in putting an end to the illegal mining units and quarrying operations in close proximity to the Tillari Dam. The Maharashtra government should issue a permanent stoppage order for such illegal activities in the area – **Rajendra Kerkar, renowned Goan environmentalist**

"We have withdrawn our hunger strike after the Sindhudurg Collector issued the order," Vasant Naik, a villager, spearheading the protest against illegal quarrying and crushing units, on Thursday, told **O Herald**.

– Vasant Naik, Khanyale villager

against illegal mining units and quarrying operations in close proximity to the Tillari Dam.

"We have withdrawn our hunger strike after the Sindhudurg Collector issued the order," Vasant Naik, a villager, spearheading the protest against illegal quarrying and crushing units, on Thursday, told **O Herald**.

"I commend the villagers for their efforts in putting

an end to the illegal mining units and quarrying operations in close proximity to the Tillari Dam. The Maharashtra government should issue a permanent stoppage order for such illegal activities in the area," renowned Goan environmentalist Rajendra Kerkar said.

The Tillari Dam, situated in Maharashtra, is a joint project with Goa and plays a crucial role in supplying water to both States.

Holi picnic turns tragic, two drown in Usgao-Ganjam river

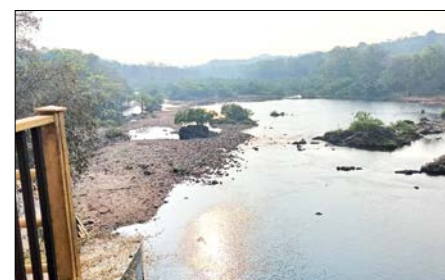
Prakash Hadpad & Sharnappa Hadpad from K'taka declared brought dead at Piliem Dharbandora PHC

Team Herald

PONDA: Holi festivities turned tragic when two youth on a picnic drowned in Usgao-Ganjam river.

The two deceased identified as Prakash Shankarappa Hadpad and Sharnappa Sangappa Hadpad, both aged 20, natives of Karnataka, were residing at Khadpabandh.

According to available information, the incident occurred at around 3.30 pm when



The Usgao-Ganjam river where the two youth got drowned

a group of 40 including family members and friends had gone for a picnic to Usgao Ganjam river to beat the scorching heat on the occasion of the festival of colours.

Besides the group there were some locals bathing in the river, who suddenly noticed Prakash and Sharnappa drowning and rushed to help them.

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Edu Dept notifies draft rules for starting academic year

Classes VI to X & XII to begin from April

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Directorate of Education released the draft rules for commencing the new academic year for Classes VI to X and Class XII from April this year, with

one week break between the end of year and the beginning of the new academic year for these classes.

As per the notification, the academic year for Class I to V and Class IX shall ordinarily commence from

June and end in April.

"The academic year for Classes VI to X and Class XII shall ordinarily commence from April and shall end in March," it stated.

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Cabinet reshuffle likely within a fortnight: Speaker

Team Herald

PANJIM: Speaker of the Goa Legislative Assembly Ramesh Tawadkar, on Friday, hinted at a possible Cabinet reshuffle, which he said could take place within a fortnight.

Speaking to mediapersons, he said the government will not take much time for the reshuffling exercise, which will be sorted out within the next 15 days.

"It would not take much time and it will be clear who will be in and who will be out. Names of Nileshe Cabral, Digambar Kamat, Sankalp Amonkar, Delilah Lobo and Michael Lobo are cropping up. But I think the issue will be sorted soon," he said.

In the first week of this month, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) General Secretary (Organisation) B L Santosh had met Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and other State party leaders. The one-on-one meetings with the Chief Minister, BJP MLAs and ministers were held at a hotel in the capital

"It would not take much time and it will be clear who will be in and who will be out. Names of Nileshe Cabral, Digambar Kamat, Sankalp Amonkar, Delilah Lobo and Michael Lobo are cropping up. But I think the issue will be sorted soon – **Ramesh Tawadkar, Speaker of the Goa Legislative Assembly**



city. Though the Chief Minister had refused to divulge anything, it was speculated that the Sawant-led government might undergo a reshuffle.

Earlier, Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament Sadanand Shet Tanavade hinted at a possible cabinet reshuffle this year.

"I feel you would be able to witness a cabinet reshuffle in 2025," he had said while speaking to mediapersons at Altinho-Panjim, in January this year.

FESTIVE REVELRY

UPENDRA NAIK



People participate in Holi celebration at Azad Maidan, Panjim on Friday. The festival was celebrated across the State with a splash of colours and camaraderie

UN report accuses Israel of sexual violence against Palestinians

AP, GENEVA: United Nations-backed human rights experts on Thursday accused Israel of "the systematic use of sexual, reproductive and other gender-based violence" in its war with Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

The allegations came in one of the most extensive reports of its kind on the issue since Hamas' October 7, 2023 attack on southern Israel ignited the war.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu lashed out at the Human Rights Council, a UN-backed body that commissioned the team of independent experts, as an "anti-Israel circus" that "has long been exposed as an anti-emitic, rotten, terrorist-supporting, and irrelevant body". His statement did not address the findings themselves.

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4 Goans to don India colours at AFC Beach Soccer C'ship in Thailand

Pratik Kankonkar, Nehal Parab, Latish Kunkolkar & Satish Naik to make their int'l debut as part of the 12-member squad

Team Herald

MARGAO: In a proud moment for Goa and Goans, four players from the State have been selected to represent India at the upcoming AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup Thailand 2025.

Pratik Kankonkar, Nehal Parab, Latish Kunkolkar and Satish Naik will make their international debut as part of the 12-member national squad.

The team, coached by Mohd Faizal Bin Sood of Malaysia, will compete in Group A alongside hosts Thailand, Kuwait, and Lebanon. India will open their campaign against Thailand on March 20, followed by matches against Kuwait on



(From left to right): Nehal Parab, Pratik Kankonkar, Satish Naik and Latish Kunkolkar

March 22 and Lebanon on March 24 in Pattaya. The squad is scheduled to depart from Rajkot on March 16, arrive in Pattaya on March 17.

These selections come

after a rigorous selection process that began in October with 75 players from 12 States attending a national camp in Porbandar, Gujarat. The list was

"We have been playing beach football for many years, but there were no recognised tournaments in the format. The breakthrough came in January 2023 when the All India Football Federation organised the first-ever beach football tournament in Surat, Gujarat

– **Nehal Parab, one of the Goan players selected to represent India**

narrowed to 25 players in February before the final 12-member squad was announced.

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