

CITIZENS PLEDGE TO SAVE OLD GOA'S HERITAGE

Protest against mall proposed at the world heritage site; agitators urge govt to stop the project; VP to issue a stop-work notice soon

Team Herald

OLD GOA: Calling upon the State government to listen to the people and stop the proposed mall project at the world heritage site near the Basilica of Bom Jesus, citizens from across the State on Sunday protested at Old Goa and pledged to sacrifice their lives to protect Goa from destruction.

Citizens comprising residents of Old Goa, members of Save Old Goa Action Committee (SOGAC), activists, environmentalists and others alleged that the mall is being developed by the Tourism Department in spite of the fact that construction cannot be permitted within 100 metres of the heritage site.

Addressing around 700 citizens, Jacqueline Fernandes, a member of the SOGAC said, "There were several trees, but now only a few are left. The notice board put up here mentions development for parking. My question to the government is that if only a parking facility is being developed here then why so many trees are being cut. When we noticed cannon balls, we realised that it is an archaeological site. We also want to ask, was the government sleeping when an illegal bungalow was constructed here?"



A massive gathering of people protest against the proposed mall project at Old Goa

"The panchayat will issue a stop-work notice to the authorities in the next two to three days. It is the panchayat's responsibility and we will do it. The government wants to impose this project on us despite people protesting against it. Similarly, a garbage treatment plant is coming up. The sentiments of people have to be respected. I would like to urge the government to take the people into confidence and then take decision with regards to the project"

— Ambar Amonkar, Se Old Goa panch member

"We need to wake up or else Goa will be destroyed. Government must listen to the voice of the people. We will not allow the destruction of Goa at any cost. We are ready to sacrifice our lives but will not allow the destruction of Goa. It takes years for the trees to grow"

— Avertino Miranda, environmentalist

"We need to be in fighter mode and be ready for a battle daily. Consistent fighting with a focus is very important. We will have to ensure that all the permissions given so far should be set aside"

— Swapnesh Sherlekar, activist

UPENDRA NAIK

rian, said, "Old Goa was the eighth best city in the world in the 16th Century. What is left in Old Goa today? Businesses are with outsiders. This heritage site needs to be protected. When the cannon balls have been found, the government should stop the construction activities and start excavation to ascertain if there are other articles of historical importance. We have to protect our history at whatever cost possible."

Fr Bolmax Pereira, an environmentalist, said, "Today's development is of need. They call it the development era. It is not that we do not want development, but there should not be falsehood in the name of development. 'Loot' is happening in the name of development and this has to be stopped. The current government is discriminating against people on the basis of religion. We have to remain alert."

SOGAC member Peter Viegas said that the meeting was called to show the people what is happening at the site.

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SUPER KINGS PAINT CHENNAI YELLOW



Chennai Super Kings' batters MS Dhoni and Rachin Ravindra celebrate their team's four-wicket win over Mumbai Indians during the IPL 2025 cricket match at MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai, on Sunday. Earlier, spinner Noor Ahmad's four-wicket haul restricted the Mumbai Indians to a below-par 155/9. Skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad struck 53 runs off 26 balls, while Ravindra remained unbeaten on 65 off 45 deliveries Full report on page 12

Hit by enforcement drive, Agonda locals to hold march in Canacona

Team Herald

MARGAO: Impacted by the High Court order with regards to sealing of "unauthorised" tourism establishments in Agonda, the locals will hold a silent march in Canacona on Monday, March 24, in a show of solidarity with the affected residents.

The protest march will commence at 10 am at the Canacona KTC bus stand, where participants intend to submit a memorandum to the Canacona Deputy Collector.

"This is not a protest against the government or its agencies. Our fight is against those whose actions have led to the sealing of shacks and other establishments, causing hardship to the local community"

—Agonda resident

authorised" tourism establishments in Agonda over the weekend, with plans to resume the operation on Monday. So far, 54 out of 67 structures were sealed on Thursday and Friday in compliance with the court directive. The remaining 13 establishments are slated to be sealed next week.

The two-day break on Saturday and Sunday was due to official holidays, offering a brief interlude in the enforcement drive.

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Curfew lifted in Nagpur: Maha CM

PTI, NAGPUR: Curfew has been lifted in Nagpur as the situation in the city is completely peaceful, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said on Sunday.

The CM was speaking to the media in the Pimpri Chinchwad area of Pune where he attended an event organised by the non-profit Paani Foundation.

"The situation in Nagpur is completely peaceful. There is no tension anywhere. People of all religions are living together peacefully. Hence, the curfew has been lifted," said Fadnavis, who is a legislator from the city.

Officials said earlier in the day that curfew had been lifted from the remaining four areas of Nagpur, six days after violence rocked the city.

Following the violence on March 17, curfew was imposed in Kotwali, Ganeshpeth, Tehsil, Lakadganj, Pachpaoli, Shanti Nagar, Sakardara, Nandanvan, Imambada, Yashodhara Nagar and Kapil Nagar police station areas.

Mobs went on a rampage in central Nagpur on Monday night amid rumours that a 'chadar' with holy inscriptions was burnt during protests led by VHP and Bajrang Dal demanding the removal of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb's tomb located in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar district.

Curfew was lifted from localities within the jurisdictions of Nandanvan and Kapil Nagar police stations on March 20.

CASH ROW: Second stage of inquiry to decide fate of Delhi HC Judge

PTI, NEW DELHI: With Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna constituting a three-member panel to probe the discovery of "four to five semi-burnt sacks" of Indian currency notes after a fire incident at the residence of Delhi High Court judge Yashwant Varma, the in-house procedure has entered the crucial second-stage. The findings will decide the fate of the judge.

The fire incident at the storeroom of the official residence of Justice Varma on March 14 in posh Lutyens' Delhi locality purportedly led to the discovery of the cash by firefighters and police personnel.

The CJI constituted the three-member panel after the Delhi High Court Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya in his report dated March 21, made public on Saturday evening, called for a "deeper probe" into the allegations.

The three-member inquiry committee formed by the CJI consists of Justices Sheel Nagu (Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court), G S Sandhawalia (Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court) and Karnataka High Court judge Anu Sivaraman.

However, no timeline has been fixed for the inquiry committee to conclude the probe.

In 2014, while dealing with a case of alleged sexual harassment of a subordinate court judge in Madhya Pradesh at the behest of a sitting judge of the high court, the top court laid down the in-house procedure meant to probe the allegations against a judge of the constitutional courts.

It said in the first stage of the in-house procedure, the prima facie veracity of the allegations contained in the complaint is ascertained.

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Budget session begins today

Team Herald

PANJIM: The three-day budget session of the State Legislative Assembly begins on Monday, March 24.

According to Mohan Gaonkar, Joint Secretary, Goa Legislative Assembly, 180 starred questions and 548 unstarred questions have been received for the session which will conclude on March 26.

The first day of the session will start with Question Hour and will have Zero Hour, congratulatory motions, obituary references, presentation of business advisory report followed by discussion on the Governor's address.

Second day too will have Question Hour, Zero Hour, calling attention and discussion on the Governor's address.

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Indian-origin man, daughter killed in US store shooting

Pradipkumar Patel & his daughter shot dead by gunman George Frazier Devon Wharton

PTI, NEW YORK: A 56-year-old Indian-origin man and his 24-year-old daughter were shot dead at a convenience store in the US state of Virginia and police have arrested one person in connection with the shooting, according to media reports.

Pradipkumar Patel and his daughter were working at the store on Lankford Highway in Accomack County when the shooting incident happened. Accomack County is located on the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

The Accomack County Sheriff's office said deputies were called to the scene shortly after 5:30 am

DOUBLE MURDER

■ The Accomack County Sheriff's office said deputies were called to the scene after reports of a shooting victim, Shore Daily News reported

■ Pradipkumar Patel was pronounced dead at the scene, while his daughter was shifted to the Sentara Norfolk General Hospital, where she succumbed, it said



■ Accomack County Sheriffs said George Frazier Devon Wharton, 44, of Onancock, has been arrested

■ The motive for the shooting was not yet revealed

on March 20 on reports of a shooting victim, Shore Daily News reported.

When they arrived, deputies discovered an unresponsive man suffering from apparent gunshot

wounds, it said. While searching the building, deputies found a woman suffering from apparent gunshot wounds as well.

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Pope back home after 5-week hospital stay for life-threatening double pneumonia

The Pontiff was seen wearing nasal tubes for supplemental oxygen as the motorcade entered Perugino gate entrance to the Vatican City

AP, VATICAN CITY: A weak and frail Pope Francis has returned home to the Vatican from the hospital after surviving a five-week, life-threatening double pneumonia.

The motorcade carrying the 88-year-old pope entered the Perugino gate entrance to Vatican City, and Francis was seen wearing the nasal tubes to give him supplemental oxygen.

During the trip home from the Gemelli hospital, Francis took a slight detour to bring him to the St Mary Major Basilica, where his favourite icon of the Madonna is located and where he always goes to pray after a foreign visit. But it wasn't clear if he got out of the car, a white Fiat 500.

The Argentine pope, who has chronic lung disease and had part of one lung removed as a



Pope Francis waves as he leaves the Gemelli hospital

young man, was admitted to Gemelli on February 14 after a bout of bronchitis worsened.

Doctors later diagnosed a complex bacterial, viral and fungal respiratory tract infection and soon thereafter, pneumonia in both lungs. His 38-day stay was the longest of his 12-year papacy and the second longest

AFP

PONTIFF CALLS FOR 'IMMEDIATE' END TO ISRAELI STRIKES ON GAZA

AFP, VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis called Sunday for an "immediate" end to Israeli strikes on the Gaza Strip, and for the resumption of dialogue for the release of hostages and a "definitive ceasefire". "I am saddened by the resumption of the intense Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip, with so many deaths and injuries," Francis wrote in his Angelus prayer, which was published Sunday. "I ask that the weapons be silenced immediately and that the courage be found to resume dialogue so that all the hostages can be freed and a definitive ceasefire reached," said Francis. "The humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip is once again very serious and requires the urgent commitment of the conflicting parties and the international community," he said.

in recent papal history, and had raised the prospect of a papal resignation or funeral.

A weak and frail Pope Francis left the hospital Sunday after surviving a five-week,

life-threatening bout of pneumonia, giving a thumbs up to an adoring crowd and taking a detour to go pray at a Rome-area church before returning home to the Vatican.

Sushant Singh Rajput death: CBI files two closure reports

PTI, NEW DELHI: The CBI has filed two separate closure reports related to the death of Sushant Singh Rajput, one in the abatement to suicide case filed by his father, and another by the actor's rumoured girlfriend Rhea Chakraborty against his sisters, officials said.

The CBI submitted its findings on Rajput's father K K Singh's complaint in a closure report before a special court in Patna, while the closure report in the second case was submitted before a special court in Mumbai.

The courts will now decide whether to accept the report or order further probe by the agency, the officials quoted above said.

Chakraborty's advocate Satish Maneshinde hailed the closure report and thanked the CBI for "having thoroughly investigated every aspect of the case from all angles".

Rajput was found hanging from the ceiling of his apartment in suburban Bandra in Mumbai on June 14, 2020. His postmortem conducted at Cooper Hospital had concluded that the actor died due to asphyxia.

The CBI investigated the two separate cases -- filed by K K Singh with Patna Police accusing Chakraborty of abatement to suicide and siphoning off Rs 15 crore from the actor's accounts; and the second filed by Chakraborty in Bandra accusing Rajput's sisters of giving medicines to him on the basis of bogus prescription issued by a Delhi doctor.

MAX. TEMP 34.4 °C
MIN. TEMP 23.0 °C

idharudhar



It's safe to rob him; he can't call the police.