

## ASI SLAMS BRAKES AT OLD GOA CONSTRUCTION SITE

### Cannonballs found during excavation led to decision



Cannonballs excavated at the construction site near the Basilica of Bom Jesus at Old Goa

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Archaeological Survey of India has slammed the brakes for now on the bulldozers that were clearing up the green cover near the Basilica of Bom Jesus at Old Goa for a construction project. The ASI decision came after old cannonballs were found at the spot during excavation work.

The stop-work order is being interpreted as a timely victory by the activists who were involved in two days of protests at the site, asserting that construction activity so close to the UNESCO World Heritage Site was against the law. They had also protested against the construction, which they claimed was for a mall, something the government

During the excavation process, cannonballs were discovered at the site. Consequently, the ASI instructed the

Department of Tourism to stop the work to allow proper documentation through photography, drawings and reports - Kishore Raghubans, Assistant Superintending Archaeologist, ASI

has subsequently denied. ASI had written to the Department of Tourism on Saturday itself asking them to stop work, stating that it will require time for detailed documentation of the excavated site.

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## P'yat 'clueless', but govt says permissions in place

Team Herald

PANJIM: The green, tree-lined plot of land that is at the centre of the tussle in Old Goa is throwing up questions about govt permissions that need to be resolved even as the ASI documents the historical artefacts found at the site.

On Monday, the Se Old Goa Village Panchayat said it was 'clueless' about the construction activity on the plot and activists demanded to see the official permission. Meanwhile, Town



Country Planning (TCP) and Forest Minister Vishwajit Rane initially said on Monday that no permission was granted for any structure at Old Goa apart from those for the facilitation centre and infrastructure work within church premises for the Ex-

"This is the only permission we have given with the permission of ASI. Activity cannot be allowed within 100 metres of the area. I notified the buffer zone when I became the minister," he said.

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There's no question of breaching the buffer zone. Old Goa is a heritage site, there's no question of anybody building any structure within 100 metres. Those who have cut down trees at the site will face action

- Vishwajit Rane, TCP and Forest Minister

We were told that no permission has been granted for structures at Old Goa. But NOC was given by the TCP Department to the Tourism Department on May 12, 2023. If it has been given then it should be revoked

- Venzy Viegas, AAP MLA

The panchayat has not been informed about the project nor has the panchayat given any clearance for it. We will send a letter to the Tourism Ministry and seek to know whether the construction is happening within the buffer zone because we are clueless about it

- Ambar Amonkar, acting Sarpanch of Se Old Goa Village Panchayat

Not only digging was carried out but some articles were taken away to unknown places. This is nothing but daylight robbery. Tourism Department must clarify where it had got permission from to carry out all these activities

- Peter Viegas, Coordinator of Save Old Goa Action Committee

## Schools unlikely to open on April 1

### Classes 1 to 5 will begin in June, while classes 6 to 10 and class 12 may start earlier

Team Herald

PANJIM: The school academic year in Goa is unlikely to begin on April 1, since the government is yet to comply with notifying an amendment to the rules under Section 29 of the Goa School Education Act.

Disposing of the writ petition filed by Manuel Sidney Antao and seven others on the matter on Monday, the High Court of Bombay at Goa noted the government's statement that a new rule would be notified this week, facilitating the start of the academic year for students in classes 1 to 5 in June, while classes 6 to 10 and class 12 would commence in the second week of April.

Advocate Vivek Rodrigues, counsel for the petitioners, confirmed that the High Court's order aligned with the statement made by Advocate General Devidas Pangam. Rodrigues emphasised that the government had failed to adhere to the mandatory requirements of Section 29 of the School Education Act, particularly regarding the notification of changes to the academic calendar.

The Court also observed that the draft notification

According to advocate Vivek Rodrigues, counsel for the petitioners, the government had failed to adhere to the mandatory requirements of Section 29 of the School Education Act, particularly regarding the notification of changes to the academic calendar

The Court observed that the draft notification for amending Rule 21 of the Goa Education Rules had initially provided an insufficient five-day window for objections and suggestions

Acknowledging this

shortcoming, Advocate General Pangam informed the Court that the deadline for submitting objections has now been extended until March 27, 2025

As of now, the Directorate of Education has received over 200 objections and suggestions to the draft amendment. Once these are considered, a final notification will be issued to amend the rules of the Goa School Education Act, after which the new academic year will be officially announced

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## Nagpur riots: House of 'mastermind' demolished

### HC slams administration for 'high-handedness'



PTI, NAGPUR: The two-storey residence of Fahim Khan, an alleged mastermind behind the communal violence in Nagpur on March 17, was flattened on Monday by local civic authorities which claimed that the house was constructed illegally.

The operation, which involved bulldozers and a heavy police presence assisted by drones, also saw the removal of an illegally

constructed balcony at the house of another accused, Yusuf Sheikh, in the Mahal area where the riots occurred.

Just hours after the demolition began in the morning, the Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court intervened, issuing a stay on the demolitions and criticising the administration for its "high-handedness."

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### A TENSE 2025 IN MAHARASHTRA

823 communal unrest incidents reported since January 2025.

Nandurbar, Pune (Rural), Ratnagiri, Sangli, Beed and Satara districts saw disturbances

Criminal Cases: January (156 cases); February (99 cases) and mid March (78 cases)

Notable Incidents: Nagpur violence triggered by protests from Bajrang Dal and VHP; Rajapur incident where Holi procession allegedly damaged a mosque gate

4,856 religious crimes in 2024: Cognisable (170 incidents); non-cognisable (3,106 incidents) and religious insult (371 incidents)

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## STRAYS ON A MISSION



A young woman with her pet participates in the third edition of 'Snowtales Lahaul' marathon, organised by the animal rescue organisation 'Manali Strays', in Lahaul and Spiti district, on Monday

## KUNAL KAMRA ROW

### 12 held for ransacking Mumbai show venue get bail

PTI, MUMBAI: Police on Monday arrested Shiv Sena functionary Rahul Kanal and 11 others for ransacking the venue at a Mumbai hotel where stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra made the controversial 'traitor' jibe against Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

Hours later, a magistrate's court granted bail to all of them.

Meanwhile, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday sought Kunal Kamra's apology for 'insulting' Deputy CM Eknath Shinde. Slamming Kamra's remarks against Shinde, Fadnavis asserted that 'urban Naxals' and 'Left liberals' supporting such acts will be taught a lesson.

During his performance at the Habitat Comedy Club at the Unicontinental hotel in Khar area, Kamra had referred to Shinde, who heads the Shiv Sena, as a 'traitor' and went on to sing a parody of him.

Enraged over the comments, Shiv Sena workers led by Kanal ransacked the venue of Kamra's show on Sunday.

The Khar police have identified 19 people and named them in the FIR filed in connection with the incident. Also, 15 to 20 persons involved in the ransacking of the venue remain unidentified.

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MAX. TEMP 33.6 °C  
MIN. TEMP 24 °C

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Your missing file complaint was just filed here, it's missing too.

## Water crisis: Dam bursts in Assembly, MLAs train guns on government over supply

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Goa government frequently claims that providing water to all sections of society is a top priority. However, it is evident that this remains nothing more than an unfulfilled promise. The severity of the problem became clear when Taleigao BJP MLA Jennifer Monserrate participated in the Assembly debate on Monday. She highlighted the acute water shortage faced by her constituency, noting that areas like Sailem Bhat, Aivao, Eugene Morod, Borbhat, Odxel, Oitiyang and parts of Dona Paula have been severely affected. She em-

phased that, despite being an important hub of Panjim, the region suffers because it lies at the tail end of the distribution line. Monserrate urged the government to immediately address the issue.

Fatorada MLA Vijai Sardesai, who, along with many other legislators - Carlos Ferreira, Venzy Viegas, Yuri Alemao, Cruz Silva and Alton

FEBRUARY 19, 2025

Forget 4 hours, parts of Taleigao get water for only 60 minutes!

FEBRUARY 22, 2025

IN THIRSTY SALIGAO, LEAKING PIPES LET WATER GO TO WASTE

FEBRUARY 20, 2025

Taps trickle & die in parched Porvorim



Locals rely on wells and pay for water tankers after road work ruined water pipelines

outlining the government's efforts to ensure a minimum of four hours of water supply per day.

However, this promise rings hollow to those who are aware of the various issues plaguing the state's water supply. As reported in a recent edition of O Herald, many parts of Taleigao receive water for no more than 60 minutes daily.

O Herald has continuously spotlighted Goa's worsening water crisis, exposing the underlying problems caused by both human negligence and unchecked development.

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## Centre notifies 24% hike in salaries for MPs

PTI, NEW DELHI: The Centre on Monday notified a 24% hike in the salaries of members of Parliament with effect from April 1, 2023, on the basis of the Cost Inflation Index, taking their monthly salaries to Rs 1.24 lakh besides certain allowances and perks.

A notification issued by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs also increased the daily allowances for sitting members and pension and additional pension for every year of service in excess of five years for former members.

However, some parliamentarians appeared dissatisfied with the salary hike.

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