

Misleading ads: SC asks states, UTs to set up grievance redressal mechanism

PTI, NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the states and union territories to create a grievance redressal mechanism against misleading advertisements.

A bench of Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan said misleading advertisements could cause great harm to the society and it was essential to stop them and

save the ignorant masses.

The state governments, the court said, should create such mechanisms for members of the public to lodge complaints against objectionable ads prohibited under Drugs and Magic Remedies Act, 1954.

The 1954 act is more than 70 years old and there is no implementation in its true letter and spirit, it said.

The bench went on, "We direct the states governments to create proper grievance redressal mechanisms within a period of two months from today and give adequate publicity to the availability at frequent intervals." The mechanism could entail complaints being lodged on a toll-free number or through an email.

The top court directed the states to sensitise the police machinery on implementation of the provisions of 1954 act.

"We direct the states, UTs to appoint gazetted officers who are authorised to exercise powers under Section 8 of the Drugs and Magic Remedies Act for search, seizure, etc.," the bench said.

As soon as complaints were received through the grievance redressal mechanism or otherwise, the same would be immediately forwarded to the officer concerned for action, the court said.

The order also directed its registry to share the order copy with the National Legal Services Authority for sensitisation programs on the 1954 Act.

The Centre was directed to ensure creation of a dashboard for display of actions against misleading advertisements within three months.

Sarpanch Gawas expressed immense pride in Gaonkar's decision. "Today is a proud day for our village," he said.

"His actions set a shining example for all of us, showing that we can all contribute to society in meaningful ways. His library will undoubtedly inspire future generations."

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INSENSITIVE, INHUMAN: SC STAYS ALLAHABAD HC'S RAPE RULING

The top court took suo motu cognisance of the matter after "We the Women of India" collective wrote to Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna.

"Until further orders, there shall be stay to the observations made by the judge in paragraphs 21, 24 and 26 of the order dated March 17, 2025," the bench held.

The staying of the high court's observations would mean the same cannot be used in any judicial proceeding to seek relief by the present set of accused or others.

The high court's verdict held that the attempt to rape of a woman was not made out against the accused and they were liable to be summoned for the lesser offence of assault or use of criminal force to woman with intent to disrobe her.

"There is no allegation that the accused tried to commit penetrative sexual assault against the victim," the HC further said.

Justice Ram Manohar Narayan Mishra also said, "On facts of the case a prima facie charge attempt to rape is not made out against the accused Pawan and Akash and instead they are liable to be summoned for a minor charge of Section 354(b) IPC, ie, assault or abuse of a woman with intent to disrobe or compelling her to be naked..."

Referring to the high court's observations, solicitor general Tushar Mehta said, "This is one judgement I take a very serious exception."

Attorney general R Venkataramani also appeared in the matter.

"It is a very serious matter," Justice Gavai said, "exhibiting total insensitivity on the part of the judge."

The bench added, "We are sorry to use such harsh words against the judge."

Mehta said the chief justice of the high court was the master of the roster there and it was advisable that some steps were taken.

"We are at pains to say that some of the observations made in the impugned order and particularly in paragraphs 21, 24 and 26 depict a total lack of insensitivity on the part of the author of the judgment," the bench said.

The top court said it was not as if the judgment was dictated in the spur of the moment in the court.

It noted the high court had reserved its verdict on November 13, 2024, and after almost four months, the judgment was pronounced.

"It is thus clear that the judge has authored the judgment after due application of mind," it said.

The top court issued notices to the Centre, Uttar Pradesh government and the parties before the high court in the matter seeking their responses in the suo motu proceeding.

"The registrar concerned of the this court is directed to forthwith communicate this order to the registrar general of the High Court of judicature at Allahabad, who shall place the same immediately before the Chief Justice of the High Court of judicature at Allahabad, who is requested to look into the matter and take such steps as deemed fit and proper," the bench said.

It posted the matter for hearing on April 15. During the hearing, one of the advocates appearing in the matter said they moved a plea against the high court order.

The bench said the plea would be heard along with the suo motu proceedings.

Another lawyer said they would file an application on behalf of the survivor's mother.

The accused had challenged the summoning order of a special judge in Kasganj under Section 376 (rape) of the IPC, among other sections.

It came on record that an application was moved before the court of special judge, POCSO Act, alleging that on November 10, 2021, she (informant) was returning from her sister-in-law's home along with her 14-year-old daughter and Pawan, Akash and Ashok, who hailed from the same village, met her on the way and offered a lift to her daughter.

They allegedly stopped their motorbike on the way to her village and grabbed her breasts.

Akash was accused of dragging her and trying to take her beneath the culvert while pulling the drawstrings of her lowers.

The high court said the alleged actions of the accused Pawan and Akash was "not sufficient to draw an inference that the accused persons had determined to commit rape" on the survivor as "apart from these facts no other act was attributed to them to further their alleged desire to commit rape on the victim."

4 missing US soldiers in Lithuania found dead: NATO Chief

AP, WARSAW: NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte said Wednesday that four US soldiers who went missing while training in Lithuania have died, but that he did not yet know the details.

A US official would say only that the four soldiers were involved in a training accident. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, would not comment on the status of the soldiers.

Rutte said during a trip to Warsaw that he had received word of the deaths of the four soldiers and that his thoughts were with their families and with the United States.

"This is still early news

so we do not know the details. This is really terrible news and our thoughts are with the families and loved ones," Rutte told reporters in Warsaw.

A statement from US Army Europe and Africa public affairs in Wiesbaden, Germany said the soldiers were conducting scheduled tactical training at the time.

Lithuanian public broadcaster LRT reported that four US soldiers and vehicle were reported missing Tuesday afternoon during an exercise at the General Silvestras Zaukauskas training ground in Pabrade, a town located less than 10 kilometres from the border with Belarus.

Plethora of lies, disappointing: Oppn slams Punjab budget

PTI, CHANDIGARH: The opposition in Punjab on Wednesday slammed the state budget presented by Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema in the assembly, calling it "a plethora of lies" and said it "disappointed" all sections of the society.

The Congress, BJP, and the Shiromani Akali Dal targeted the Bhagwant Mann government for not announcing Rs 1,000 per month for women which

was one of the key poll promises of the AAP before coming to power in the state.

Finance Minister Cheema presented a Rs 2.36 lakh crore budget for 2025-26, focusing on tackling the drug menace, extending health insurance cover to all families, doubling the annual insurance cover to Rs 10 lakh and launching a 'Rangla Punjab Vikas' scheme for holistic development.

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BUDGET WOOS INDUSTRY WITH SOPS AND SUPPORT

The CM presented the budget with Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) at current price for the financial year 2025-26 being projected at Rs 1,38,624.84 crore with growth of 14.27 per cent and per capita income projected to be Rs 9.69 lakh with growth of 13.2 per cent.

The estimated receipts for the financial year 2025-26 are projected at Rs 27,993.97 crore showing a rise of 13.02 per cent over revenue estimates for 2024-25. The total gross expenditure is estimated to be Rs 28,162 crore of which Rs 20,299 crores is towards revenue expenditure and Rs 7,863 crore towards capital expenditure.

He, however, announced that in the financial year 2025-26, there is heavy repayment of principal amount of Rs 1,504 crore of Open Market Borrowings done ten years earlier which is an additional Rs 704 crore rise from the repayment of Rs 800 crore done in FY 2024-25.

The CM said, "This year we have borrowed only Rs 1,050 crore as on date from the open market as against the limit of Rs 4,500 crore. Fiscal Deficit for financial year 2025-26 is estimated to be Rs 2,826.44 crore which is well within the limits prescribed by the 15th Finance

Commission."

The Chief Minister announced that Dindi Utsav from Margao and Shree Lairai Jatra at Shirgao will be celebrated as State festivals.

Sawant announced that all the government vacancies would be filled through Staff Selection Commission on fast track basis and the budget has also earmarked Rs 15 crore for Goa Public Service Commission.

He announced extension of CM Fellowship scheme to the Goans working in research and development in private companies. He announced that to promote Goan security guards in the private sector, the scope of GHRDC will be expanded to cater to the private sector and such guards will be paid remuneration at par with GHRDC rates with contribution from the government.

He said, "For all tourism-related infrastructure, my government will provide support such as electricity, water and sewerage connections through a single window mechanism. To promote the tourism infrastructure in the hotel and medical tourism sector, I propose to provide a tax holiday in the form of 50% rebate on State GST, exemption of stamp duty and registration, waiver of other processing charges to investors who set up hotels or hospitals that are at least three-star or above in the hinterland talukas of Bicholim, Sanguem, Canacona, Quepem, Dharbandora, Ponda and Sattari."

He announced that six wildlife sanctuaries - namely Bondla, Bhagwan Mahavir, Cotigao, Mhadei, Netravali and Salim Ali Wildlife Sanctuary - will be promoted for nature trails, eco-tourism activities and cottages.

For health sector, the Chief Minister said, "The emergency and trauma care will be strengthened by procuring additional 108 Ambulances to save the lives of patients during the critical golden hour."

He also proposed to establish day-care cancer centers in both the district hospitals and upgrade the manpower and facilities of Chicalim, Ponda and Canacona hospitals and special provision of Rs 5 crore each has been made for upgradation of both the district hospitals in the State.

He also proposed to give interest rebate on working capital to cashew industries who are into processing of Goan cashews. He said a dedicated corridor to the electronics manufacturing cluster will also be constructed to boost connectivity.

Sawant announced that in order to provide necessary infrastructure support to fishermen, all the jetties in the State will be upgraded along with maintenance of hygiene and fish processing utilities.

He also said that there are various legal dues of small loans of Rs 5,000 and 10,000 extended by Goa SC OBC Corporation since 1998 and in order to settle this issue once and for all, waiver will be provided for all such loans extended to various beneficiaries.

The Chief Minister announced that the government will implement unified pension scheme for government servants for financial year 2025-26.

He also said that Rs 2,100 crore has been earmarked for the school education while Rs 19 crore for CM CARES scheme to teach coding and robotics in the schools. All the labs in the schools would be upgraded, he said.

Sawant announced allocation of Rs 248 crore for the Griha Adhar scheme and Rs 50 crore for the Ladli Laxmi scheme. Under these schemes, beneficiaries will receive financial assistance directly into their bank accounts on the 10th of every month. Additionally, the Chief Minister declared a Rs 1,000 increment in the existing salary of Anganwadi workers.

OLD GOA PROJECT: NO NOC GIVEN, SAYS CHURCH

The Archdiocese particularly flagged concerns over the Arsenal site, where the parking facility was planned.

It was suggested that the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) should conduct a survey to identify and demarcate potential ruins and remains. The Church also recommended that any parking facility be designed with removable and permeable materials to safeguard underlying archaeology and facilitate groundwater absorption.

Despite modifications by the Goa Tourism Development Corporation Ltd (GTDC), which scaled down the Heritage Interpretation Centre from a ground-plus-two structure to a lower-ground-plus-ground-floor design, the Church remained unconvinced. Fr D'Costa stated that during a meeting on June 29, 2022, he had explicitly conveyed the Church's serious reservations and objections to the project. Nevertheless, on September 14, 2022, GTDC sought an NOC from the Archdiocese for the scheme's implementation. Since the Church's advisors were not satisfied with the building's massing, façade, and relevance, the NOC was not granted.

The Archdiocese has now firmly reiterated that, contrary to recent reports, it has not provided its approval for the PRASAD scheme's implementation and execution. The Church remains steadfast in its commitment to preserving the sanctity and heritage of Old Goa and ensuring that any proposed developments align with its values and concerns.

SCHOOL TEACHER LEADS BY EXAMPLE, TURNS FAMILY BAR INTO LIBRARY

"I could not, in good conscience, continue selling liquor. It was then that I decided to transform my family's bar into a library, a place where wisdom can be shared."

Gaonkar, who also runs Yash Production as a foray into the arts, expressed that his work in the arts inspired him to give back to society in a more profound way. He recognised that more needed to be done to help guide the younger generation and encourage positive change.

Namedev Naik, a close friend and classmate of Gaonkar, spoke highly of his contributions to society, noting that he has always been driven by a desire to make a positive impact. "Uday has always been someone who thinks of the greater good. By closing down his bar, he has gifted the community a place of learning and growth," said Prof Naik.



DEATH LUMEN DSOUZA

(Praias Vaddo Anjuna)
Born 14-07-1936
Died 24-03-2025

Beloved mother / mother in law of **Susan/Agnelo** (Canada), **Sandra & Sharon/Leyland** (Dubai)
Affectionate grandmother of Agnetha, Kenneth & Calvin.
Passed away peacefully.

Funeral cortege will leave at 9:45 am from Residence Friday 28 March 2025 to St Anthony's chapel, Praias Vaddo Anjuna for Eucharistic celebration at 10 am followed by burial to St Michael church.

Relatives and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.
Patrick Advt. & Funeral Services Moira - 95521224431/9892929164

FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Pretiosa D'Silva

Alto-Porvorim
1st JULY 1944 - 23rd MARCH 2025



Beloved Wife of Peter D'Silva (Late).
Mother/Mother-in-law of Annette / Matthew, Sylvia / Stephen, Cassandra / Clifford, Xavier / Andrea, Jude / Malisa.
Grandmother of Yannah, Enya, Charlotte, Isaac, Daniel, Elijah & Emilia.
Sister/Sister-in-law of Paul (Late) / Eudina, Gonsalvo / Florence, Cajetan / Lizia, Johnny / Annie, Celine (Late) / Carlos, Luis Paul / Delfina, Joyce / Joe, Ermelinda / Matthew.
Aunty to loving nephews and nieces.

Her mortal remains will be received at the Holy Family Church, Porvorim on 28th March 2025 from 3:30pm, followed by a Eucharistic celebration at 4:00pm and burial.

Kindly no condolence visits.
Relatives and Friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

RETURNED TO THE LORD



BORN
05/12/1935



DIED
26/03/2025

ROQUE ZEFERINO DA SILVA (JEFFREY)

CTNL WESTERN RAILWAYS (Retd.)
CANSAULIM / RAJKOT / ASSOLNA

Son of late Camilo Da Silva / late Chagarina Da Silva
Son-in-law of late Luis Caetano D'Souza/late Joanita D'Souza
Loving Husband of late Maria Yvonne Da Silva
Loving Father/Father-in-law of Olive, Christina/Werner Rodrigues
Loving Grandfather of Kiara
Brother/Brother-in-law of late Msgr. Carmo Da Silva, late Graciano/late Olive, late Patrocinio/late Yolanda, late Violante, late Calisto/Noemia, late Zelia/late Lazarro, late Pio, late Achilleus, late Nonaldo, Fausta/late Migdonne, late Ivo/Maria (Mecla)
Brother-in-law of Alan/Anita, Melinda/Rodney, Ray/Sabrina.

Funeral cortege will leave his Assolna residence on Friday, 28th March 2025 at 8:45 am for Eucharistic Celebration at St. Thomas Church, CANSAULIM at 10:00 am followed by burial at Regina Martyrum Church Cemetery, ASSOLNA.

Relatives, neighbours & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.
Rebello Publicity & Funeral Services Margao 9822383992

7 DAYS REMEMBRANCE

In everloving memory of
VIVI LIVI VIEGAS E LOPES
DANDEAVADDO-CHINCHINIM



There will be an Eucharistic celebration on 28th March 2025 (FRIDAY) at 8:00am at Our Lady of Hope Church, Chinchinim followed by prayers at her grave offered by her children Kewin/Lourina, Kenneth/Jomila & grandchildren.

Relatives, friends & neighbours kindly accept this as the only intimation.
BCDKIES 9822129657

THIRD DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In Everloving Memory of
MARIA FERNANDA BOULET RIBEIRO
(St. Tomé - Panjim)



"You are missed each and everyday, for you were someone special who meant more than words can say."

There will be a Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved FERNANDA on Friday, 28th March, 2025 (TOMORROW) at 4 pm at Santa Inez Church, Panjim, followed by prayers and blessing at the grave, offered by her sorrowful family.

Relatives and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.
Confidant9881711706Panjim

MEMORIAL MASS

In Everloving Memory of
Joaquina Carmelina Fernandes e Furtado
(Annie Furtado)
Mapusa, Goa



"To our dearest mother, with profound love, In every heartbeat, your presence we've found For all the days you held us near."

Your love, a river, constant & true, Guiding us in all we do. For every sacrifice, every care, For moments shared, beyond compare.

In laughter & in moments serene, In every joy, in every dream, Your love has been our guiding light, Through the darkest hours & starlit nights."

There will be an Eucharistic celebration for the soul of our beloved mother offered by her family, on Friday, 28th March 2025 at 8:00a.m. at St. Jerome's Church, Mapusa followed by prayers & blessing of the grave.

Acknowledgement

We, the bereaved Furtado family, would like to express our gratitude & deep appreciation to the Archbishop Filipe Neri Cardinal Ferrao, Auxiliary Bishop Rev. Simao Fernandes, Priests, Religious, relatives, neighbours, friends & all who attended the funeral, offered masses & floral tributes, expressed their condolences personally as well as telephonically & shared in our grief. Our heartfelt gratitude also to the Staff of Vision & Remanso Hospital & caregivers who took care of our mother during her illness. We regret our inability to thank each one individually. God Bless you all.

Relatives, neighbors & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.
GOANRITES 9822136397