

GIRLS OUTSMART BOYS IN HSSC RESULTS AGAIN

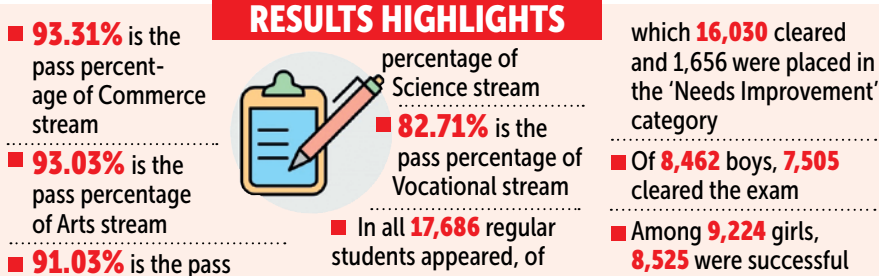
Overall pass percentage is 90.64, which is 5% up from last year; girls at 92.42% and boys at 88.69%; Commerce has the highest pass percentage

Team Herald

PORVORIM: The trend of girls outperforming boys continued at the Goa Board's Higher Secondary School Certificate Examination (HSSCE), which registered an overall pass percentage of 90.64%, an increase of five per cent compared to last year. Girls achieved a pass percentage of 92.42%, while 88.69% of boys achieved success.

Announcing the results, Goa Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education (GBSHSE) chairman Bhagirath Shetye said Commerce had a pass percentage of 93.31%, followed by Arts (93.03%), Science (91.03%) and Vocational (82.71%).

In all 17,686 regular students appeared, of which 16,030 cleared and 1,656



were placed in the "Needs Improvement" category, while the results of three were reserved.

He said of 8,462 boys, 7,505 cleared the examination, registering a pass percentage of 88.69%, while of 9,224 girl students, 8,525 were successful with a pass percentage of 92.64 %.

Giving details of the various streams, he said in Arts, of 4,068 students, 3,703 passed, while the result of one was reserved

with 365 placed in "Needs Improvement" category. In Commerce, of 5,085 students, 4,745 passed and 340 were put in the "Needs Improvement" category. In Science, 6,086 students appeared, 5,558 passed, the result of one was reserved, while 528 placed in the "Needs Improvement" category.

In vocational, 2,447 students appeared, 2,024 passed, the result of one was reserved, while 423

were put in the "Needs Improvement" category.

He informed that the supplementary examination will be conducted by the Board for those candidates who are placed in "Needs Improvement" category, irrespective of number of subjects with 'Needs Improvement' remark or who have withdrawn or remained absent for the examination.

The chairman said candidates who desire to im-

prove their marks in one or more subjects may also appear for supplementary examination under improvement of marks scheme.

Shetye said out of 138 private candidates, 37 cleared the exam, of 47 ITI candidates, 37 were successful, while of 811 repeat- er candidates, 441 passed.

Of 198 Divyang candidates, 166 passed, registering a passing percentage of 83.84 %.

He said of 3,066 candidates, who availed sports merit marks, 126 were successful.

He announced that the tentative date for supplementary exam is April 21, 2025 and the tentative date for annual HSSC examination 2026 is February 10 and added that a detailed timetable will be notified shortly.

After HC order, govt lens on illegal structures along highways

Notices soon to illegal establishments along National and State Highways

Team Herald

PANJIM: The State government has initiated the process of issuing notices to roadside commercial establishments operating in illegal temporary or permanent structures within 15-metre setback of National and State Highways, directing them to shift/relocate within 15 days.

"This action is in compliance with the order of the High Court of Bombay at Goa dated March 6," said Chief Minister Pramod Sawant after chairing a High-Powered Committee meeting at Porvorim on Thursday.

Ministers Aleixo Sequeira, Atanasio 'Babush' Monserrate and Rohan Khaunte, along with Advocate General Devidas Pangam, secretaries to the government and other officials were present.

Sawant said, "Government is not issuing these orders on its own. They are being issued in compliance with High Court orders. Notices will be issued to the roadside commercial establishments asking them

CRACKING DOWN

■ CM says govt is issuing these orders in compliance with HC directives and notices will be issued to roadside commercial establishments asking them to shift or relocate them

■ Says that citizens can dial 100 (police) to report illegal structures,

to shift or relocate them."

He warned that stern instructions have been issued to prevent any new illegal constructions on government and Comunidade land or along roadsides.

He said that citizens can dial 100 (police) to report illegal structures, and officials such as Deputy Collectors, Talathis, Panchayat Secretaries and police have been directed to initiate action and directly inform the court about violations and the action taken.

Regarding houses and constructions on government and comunidade land, Sawant said, "The government has initiated a study. While irregular structures may be regularised, illegal

and Deputy Collectors, Talathis, VP Secys and police directed to initiate action and inform the court about violations and action taken

■ Discloses govt will appoint a legal firm to study the HC order and related laws to frame new rules and regulations to give relief to people

constructions will not be permitted."

The Chief Minister disclosed that the government is considering taking a policy decision or enacting a new legislation before the next Assembly session to provide major relief to irregular structures across the State.

"Along with Advocate General Devidas Pangam, the government will appoint a legal firm to study the High Court order and related laws to frame new rules and regulations to give relief to people as promised in the Legislative Assembly," Sawant informed.

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US Embassy says it has zero tolerance for fraud, cancels 2K visa appointments made by bots in India

PTI, NEW DELHI: The US Embassy in India has said its consular team is 'cancelling' about 2,000 visa appointments made by 'bots', while asserting it has 'zero tolerance' for agents and fixers who violate its scheduling policies.

The embassy informed this in a notice shared in a post on X on Wednesday.

A senior US official also confirmed the development.

"Consular Team India is cancelling about 2000 visa appointments made by bots. We have zero tolerance for agents and fixers that violate our scheduling policies," the embassy wrote on the social media platform.

The notice shared in the post underlined that the team has "identified bad actors" who made about 2,000 visa appointments that "violated our scheduling policies".

"Effective immediately, we are cancelling these appointments and suspending the associated accounts' scheduling privileges," it said.

"We will continue our anti-fraud efforts. We have zero tolerance for fraud," the notice says.

There is a very high demand for the US visas, both among students and tourists, besides travelers in other categories.

In 2023, the US Mission in India had processed a record 1.4 million visas overall.

The American universities attract a large number of Indian students, and the US consular team in India had in 2023 issued over 1,40,000 student visas – more than in any other country.

Bar leaders meet CJI against Justice Varma's transfer

PTI, NEW DELHI: Leaders of six High Court bar associations on Thursday met Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna and sought withdrawal of the recommendation to transfer Delhi High Court judge Yashwant Varma to the Allahabad High Court.

Soon after the meeting, Allahabad High Court Bar Association (AHCBA) president Anil Tiwari said the CJI had as-

sured them of considering the demands.

However, the CJI did not promise anything, said sources privy to the development.

The representatives of six High Court bar associations met the CJI and four collegium members, Justices B R Gavai, Surya Kant, Abhay S Oka and Vikram Nath.

They raised several demands, including setting in motion

criminal action over the cash discovery from the judge's official home.

"The five members (of the collegium) listened to us carefully and told us in a positive way 'each and every point raised by you in writing will be considered by us strictly within the premises of law,'" Tiwari said.

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LIVING THE THRILL

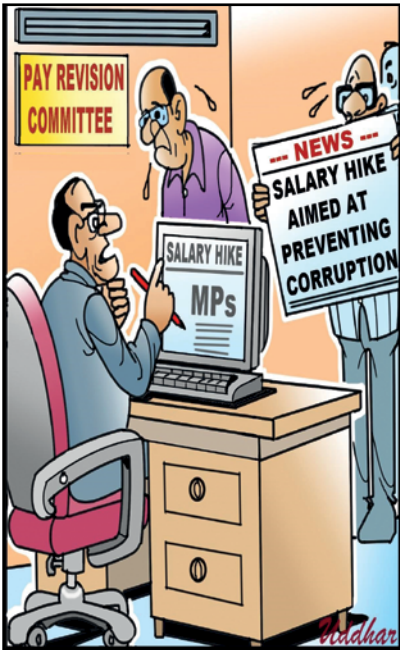


Tourists engage in rafting over the rapids of the Beas river, at Manali, in Kullu district, Himachal Pradesh, Thursday

Mercury rises, AC sales skyrocket in Goa

MAX. TEMP 34°C
MIN. TEMP 24.6°C

idharudhar



Forget the performers, get the list of corrupt MPs first!

ELSA ANGEL ROSE

PANJIM: Conversations in Goa surround the weather these days, and mostly for the wrong reasons. The heat is truly on and what makes it nearly unbearable is the sweltering humidity. One natural, almost inevitable fallout has been the steady increase in AC sales. Most appliance store managers report an increase of sales to the tune of 15-20% during this summer season, when compared with their sales figures last year.

"A 50-50 ratio can be seen on the sales of new and replacement ACs," said Kaushik Talaulikar, owner of an electrical appliance store in Panjim. A combination of record sales and rising costs has turned the air conditioning market into one of the hottest sectors in the consumer durables field.

According to Melvin D'Souza, sales executive at an electronics store in Mapusa, AC becomes the backbone of the showroom during summer. "We sell around 200-300 units during summer.

INDIA'S AC BOOM: INSIGHTS & IMPACT

■ **40-50%** year-on-year growth in room AC sales summer 2024

■ **130-150 million** new room ACs in India by 2035

■ **180 GW** of peak power demand driven by ACs by 2035 – nearly **30%** of projected demand

■ **10-15 million** new ACs are added annually in India

■ **Rs 2.2 lakh crore** can be saved in 10 years by doubling energy efficiency of ACs

(Figures from a study by the India Energy and Climate Center (IECC) at the University of California in Berkeley)

Often, we receive bulk orders for ACs from resort owners," he said. The AC season starts from the first week of March and lasts till mid-June, said another salesperson at an appliance store.

Garish Kouthanker, marketing



During summer, ACs become the backbone of the showroom display. We also receive bulk orders for ACs from resort owners

– Melvin D'Souza, salesperson at an electronics store in Mapusa

GOA IS NOT FAR BEHIND!

According to electronics showrooms in Goa:

■ **10-20%** increase in AC sales in 2025 over last year

■ **1-1.5 ton** ACs see the highest sales, with 0.8 ton ACs the next favourite size

■ March 1st week saw big sales, but there has been a slight dip since then. April, May and October are other months when AC sales pick up

tomers who prefer coolers to ACs because they come cheaper. "Unfortunately, coolers are not very effective in Goa because of the humidity but customers who cannot afford ACs are opting for them," said Kaushik Talaulikar. According to him, besides the current season, October is also another month when the sales of ACs and coolers pick up significantly.

The maximum demand in Goa is for 1-ton and 1.5-ton ACs. "These days, we mostly have nuclear families and lack of space is another factor," said Garish Kouthanker. The sales of even smaller ACs with latest technology – 0.8-ton inverter ACs – are expected to take off, according to the marketing executives.

While the rising heat what that contributes to an increase in sales, attractive offers, discounts and EMI options provided by appliance showrooms are driving middle class people to opt for ACs. "In future, air conditioners will become as common as fans," predicted a manager of an appliance store.

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US homeland security secretary Kristi Noem accused her of being a "terrorist sympathiser" in a post on X.

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