

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

RESULTS HIGHLIGHTS

- 93.31% is the pass percentage of Commerce stream
- 93.03% is the pass percentage of Arts stream
- 91.03% is the pass percentage of Science stream
- 82.71% is the pass percentage of Vocational stream
- In all 17,686 regular students appeared, of which 16,030 cleared and 1,656 were placed in the 'Needs Improvement' category
- Of 8,462 boys, 7,505 cleared the exam
- Among 9,224 girls, 8,525 were successful

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 92.42%.

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placed in "Needs Improvement" category, irrespective of number of subjects with 'Needs Improvement' remark or who have withdrawn or remained absent for the examination.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 improve 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 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.

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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 assured 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

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,

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

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

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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Mumbai cops ask Kamra to appear on March 31

PTI, MUMBAI: The Mumbai Police on Thursday asked stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra to appear before it on March 31 in connection with the case against him for allegedly making derogatory remarks against Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

The case stems from Kamra's recent

show at the Habitat Comedy Club in Khar, where he performed a parody song targeting Eknath Shinde.

The act prompted a backlash from Shiv Sena supporters, who vandalised the club and the hotel in which it is located on Sunday night. Kamra (36) was booked by Khar police on a complaint by Shiv Sena MLA Murji Patel.

Kamra was asked to appear before police on Tuesday but he had sought seven days' time, the official said.

"In the second summons issued to him, Kunal Kamra has been asked to appear before police on March 31," the official informed.

Police had also arrested 12 Shiv Sainiks, including leader Rahool Kanhal, for vandalising the studio in which Kamra's show was filmed and the hotel in which it is located. They were granted bail hours after being held.

The Maharashtra Legislative Council has also admitted a breach of privilege notice against Kamra in connection to his alleged derogatory remarks against Shinde.

As per his Instagram bio, Kamra is currently in Pudukkottai.

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Columbia varsity let me down: Self-deported Indian student feels betrayed

AGENCY, NEW DELHI: Indian PhD student Ranjani Srinivasan, who self-deported herself to Canada after her student visa, was revoked on allegations of 'supporting Hamas', is feeling betrayed by Columbia University.

Srinivasan said she never expected her institution to let her down, but that is exactly what she feels it did, she revealed in an interview with Al Jazeera.

"I spent five years at Columbia, working - I don't know - maybe 100 hours a week sometimes. I never expected the institution to let me down. But it did," she said in the interview.

Srinivasan, who was pursuing her doctorate in public planning before the Donald Trump administration accused her of 'supporting Hamas' and revoked her visa that was renewed in December last year, is still hopeful the university will consider her appeal and reinstate her enrollment.

"I hope Columbia comes to its senses and re-enrolls me. All the requirements for my PhD are complete, and whatever is left, I don't even need to be in the US for. So I'm trying to appeal to Columbia to do that," she added.

Ranjani Srinivasan, a doctoral student at Columbia University in New York, first got an email from the United States consulate in Chennai on March 5, stating that her student visa had been revoked.

While the 37-year-old was still trying to make sense of it all, contacting her PhD group and the university authorities, ICE agents showed up at her door.

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

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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. Girish 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

manager of an appliance store in Panjim, said, "Compared to last year, around 20% increase in AC sales can be seen this year." He added that during the first week of March, sales proved impressive but there

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

was some kind of a dip during the second and third week of March. "People are waiting for Gudi Padva offers so that they can get ACs and other appliances at discounted rates," he said.

There is also a section of customers 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.

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