

ARTEFACTS NOT FOUND, COPS PROBE OLD GOA ACTIVISTS INSTEAD

Tourism Dept files police complaint against protestors, blaming them for spreading 'rumours, misinformation'

Team Herald

PANJIM: A shroud of mystery hangs over the artefacts that were allegedly carted off from the controversial excavation site in Old Goa, but instead of tracking them, police have now started investigating a complaint against the activists who have been relentlessly protesting against the 'unauthorised activity' at the site. The police action came after the Department of Tourism filed a complaint against the activists for spreading, what they claimed, were 'rumours and misinformation' about the project under the central Pilgrimage Revjuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) Scheme. In his complaint, Deputy Director of Tourism Dhiraj Wagle has asked the Old Goa police to investigate and take action against those spreading these 'rumours'. Ironically, it is only after the activists highlighted that the excavation had thrown up old cannon balls at the site

■ The police action follows a Department of Tourism complaint against the activists for spreading, what they claimed, were 'rumours and misinformation' about the project under the central PRASAD Scheme. ■ The activists have been demanding inquiry into the alleged theft of materials from the excavation site till it was stopped by the ASI on March 22. ■ In his complaint, Deputy Director of Tourism Dhiraj Wagle has asked the Old Goa police to investigate and take action against those spreading these 'rumours'. ■ Over the past week, two stakeholders in

POLICE HEAT ON CRUSADERS



Canonballs at the excavation site

that the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) stepped in and work was stopped. Over the past week, two stakeholders in the area - the Se Old Goa Village Panchayat and the Church - have voiced their concerns. While the panchayat said it was 'clueless' about the work, the Church clarified that it had reservations about certain

aspects of the construction and had not given its no-objection certificate (NOC). The activists have also been demanding inquiry into the alleged theft of materials from the excavation site till it was stopped by the ASI on March 22. The Se Old Goa Village Panchayat on Friday decided to hold a joint inspection

of the site with the officials of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Town and Country Planning (TCP) Department, National Monument Authority (NMA) and the Department of Tourism and then take a decision based on the suggestions received in the gram sabha.

Cont on Pg 5 >>

TIME STOPS FOR NO ONE



HERALD PIC

SMART CITY DEADLINE
2 DAYS TO GO

Concrete pavers are yet to be laid at the intersection from Café Bhosle to Mascarenhas building and from Barberia Real to Municipal garden, in Panjim. Far from complete, the work undertaken by Imagine Panaji Smart City Development Limited appears to be on track to miss yet another deadline, and this time the March 31 deadline set by the High Court to complete all Smart City related work

Interim anticipatory bail for Kamra

PTI, CHENNAI: The Madras High Court on Friday granted interim anticipatory bail to comedian Kunal Kamra, who is facing the heat over his jokes on Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

The court granted Kamra the relief on the condition that he should execute a bond to the satisfaction of the judicial magistrate at Vanur in Villupuram district in Tamil Nadu.

Justice Sunder Mohan also issued notice to 2nd Respondent (R2-Khar Police) and posted the matter to April 7.

Kamra had submitted he moved to Tamil Nadu from Mumbai in 2021 and has been 'ordinarily a resident of this State since then' and that he feared arrest by Mumbai Police.

The judge noted the petitioner, who is residing in Villupuram district, apprehends arrest in the case registered on the file of R-2 against him.

Cont on Pg 5 >>

FREE SPEECH CAN'T BE JUDGED AS PER STANDARDS OF INSECURE PERSONS: SC

Police officers being citizens are bound to uphold the rights. When offence under Section 196 BNS, it cannot be judged as per the standards of weak minds or those who always perceive every criticism as an attack on them. This has to be judged on the point of courageous minds - Supreme Court

by courageous minds," the Court held.

The Court further stated that Section 173(3) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) should be followed to protect fundamental rights. This provision requires police officers to conduct a preliminary inquiry before proceeding with an investigation in cases involving cognizable offences punishable by three to seven years in prison. Emphasizing the role of constitution-

al courts in safeguarding rights, the Bench reminded police officers that they are duty-bound to uphold citizens' freedoms.

The bench said words of a poem recited in the background of a clip uploaded by Congress MP Imran Pratapgarhi did not promote disharmony or hatred but encouraged people to desist from resorting to violence and face injustice with love.

Cont on Pg 5 >>

Centre tells States to ramp up heat-health measures

AGENCY, NEW DELHI: As temperatures climb swiftly across India, ushering in an intense summer and the looming threat of prolonged heat waves, the Centre has stepped in with urgent directives to States, emphasising preparedness to tackle heatstroke and related illnesses.

Delhi is already reeling, with the mercury hitting a scorching 40.5 degrees Celsius on Wednesday, placing it among the country's hottest cities, according to India Meteorological Department (IMD) data.

In a letter, Union Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava urged all State governments to rigorously evaluate their health-care systems in response to the escalating heat.

Cont on Pg 5 >>

It's official: Classes to begin on April 7

Class VI to X and XII on April 7, Class I to V in June

Team Herald

PANJIM: The State government on Friday issued a notification announcing that the academic year will commence on April 7 for Class VI to X and Class XII.

There will be a one-week break between the end of the current academic year and the start of the new session for these classes. In contrast, the academic year for Classes I to V and Class XI will begin in June.

The announcement comes in the face of a rising tide of complaints about the shifting of the academic year to April from June, with thousands lodging their objections with the Directorate of Education. The points of concern for parents have been the children's need for a

proper break between two academic years and the oppressive summer heat of April.

As per the notification, all classes will observe a summer vacation of five weeks, starting May 1. A three-week break will be observed in October or November, which will coincide with the Diwali Festival.

The notification also specifies that the Director of Education may declare a one-week break for the Ganesh festival. However, any loss of working days due to this break will be compensated by reducing discretionary holidays proportionally. Furthermore, a Christmas vacation will be scheduled from December 24 to January 2.

Cont on Pg 5 >>

Putin for interim govt in Ukraine

AP, MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin proposed Friday to put Ukraine under external governance under the UN aegis as part of efforts to reach a peaceful settlement.

Cont on Pg 5 >>

Quake kills 150 in Myanmar, Thailand

AP, BANGKOK: A powerful earthquake rocked Myanmar and neighbouring Thailand on Friday, destroying buildings, a bridge and a dam. At least 144 people were killed in Myanmar, where photos and video from two hard-hit cities showed extensive damage. At least 10 died in the Thai capital, where a high-rise under construction collapsed.

The full extent of death, injury and destruction was not immediately clear - particularly in Myanmar, one of the world's poorest countries. It is embroiled in a civil war, and information is tightly controlled.

Cont on Pg 5 >>



A combo of three images taken from a viral social media video shows the moments before a building collapsed during the earthquake in Bangkok, Thailand, on Friday

Israel strikes Beirut

AP, BEIRUT (LEBANON): Israel on Friday launched an attack on the Lebanese capital, Beirut, for the first time since a ceasefire ended the latest Israel-Hezbollah war in November.

Associated Press reporters in Beirut heard a loud boom and witnessed smoke rising from the area in Beirut's southern suburbs that Israel's military had vowed to strike.

The attack was the first strike on Beirut since a ceasefire took hold on November 27, 2024 between Israel and the Hezbollah militant group, although Israel has struck targets in southern Lebanon almost daily since then.

After the strike, Israel's army said it attacked a Hezbollah drone storage facility in the area of Dahiyeh, which it called a key Hezbollah stronghold. Israel said Hezbollah uses civilians as human shields and said it issued advanced warning for people to leave.

The area struck is a residential and commercial area and is close to at least two schools.

The strike came after Israel's army urgently warned people to evacuate parts of a Beirut suburb, vowing to retaliate against strikes which it said were launched from Lebanon into northern Israel.

Israel's Defence Minister Israel Katz said Friday that if there was no peace in Israel's northern communities, there would be no peace in Beirut either.

Cont on Pg 5 >>

MAX. TEMP 34.3 °C
MIN. TEMP 24.4 °C

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Comedy is all yours, but the script is ours.

Eurico da Silva, a veritable pillar of justice

He will be remembered for his dedication to the law and integrity in his dealings

ALEXANDRE MONIZ BARBOSA

The news of the passing of Justice Eurico Santana da Silva firmed up the belief that the era that produced Goan men and women who resolutely stood by the values of honesty, integrity and their unwavering commitment to justice is ending. This was reaffirmed by the posts that popped up through the day, posts penned by his colleagues in the legal fraternity who had only superlatives with which to describe him.

One such post stated that Justice da Silva was known for 'discipline, decorum and a display of decent conduct' throughout his tenure, while another remembered him for his



EURICO DA SILVA
10-05-33 to 28-03-25

unwavering integrity, unimpeachable character, exceptional legal acumen', and for being a 'shining exemplar of the noble

profession'.

There will be nobody who would dispute any of what was written about him, surely not those who knew the Justice in the courts and definitely not those who knew him personally.

To a large number of Goans, the name of Eurico da Silva is associated by the prefix Justice, for he ended his long legal career as a judge of the High Court of Bombay, but one has to remember that he also held a number of positions before and after that.

Having studied law during the colonial period, Justice da Silva obtained a degree in Law and post graduated in Historical and Juridical Sciences from the Faculty of Law, University of

Coimbra, Portugal. His first appointment as judge was before Liberation, in 1957, beginning a career in the judiciary that would last 38 years.

In 1964, after Liberation, he was promoted as Civil Judge, Senior Division and Judicial Magistrate First Class. From there his professional rise came quite regularly, getting appointed as Chief Judicial Magistrate in 1974, and Additional Sessions Judge, the same year. In 1980 he was appointed Additional District and Sessions Judge and a year later as District and Sessions Judge. He was elevated to the Bench of the Bombay High Court as Additional Judge in 1990 and posted as Permanent Judge at the Panaji Bench of the same High Court. In 1991 he

was appointed as Puisne Judge of the Bombay High Court and retired in 1995.

During this period he also served in various positions. As One Man Commission of Inquiry he probed the irregularities by officers functioning as Custodians of Evacuee Property, and was also member of the University Court of the Goa University as a nominee of the Governor and member of the Indian Society of Human Rights, Nagpur. Following retirement, he was also appointed Chairman of the State Police Complaints Authority apart from being a resident of the Goa State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission.

Cont on Pg 5 >>

