

CLASS IX STUDENTS WILL GET 2 YEARS TO CLEAR THE EXAMS IF THEY FAIL

Goa Board announces fresh framework, drops grace marks; SCERT to set questions for Classes VI to VIII

Team Herald

PANJIM: With the senior school academic year set to roll out on April 7, Goa Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Chairman Bhagirath Shetye clarified on Saturday that Class IX students won't be detained even if they fail the exams once the results are declared on April 29.

Under the National Education Policy-2020 (NEP), these students will be Allowed To Keep Terms (ATKT) and will get the chance to clear the exams within two years.

Further on, the Board also rolled out a compensation



Director of Education Shailesh Zingde (2nd from R) addresses mediapersons at SCERT, Porvorim, regarding the starting of the new academic year in the presence of Goa Board Chairman Bhagirath Shetye and Director of SCERT Meghana Shetgaonkar

NEW FRAMEWORK FOR SENIOR STUDENTS

Class IX students won't be detained from Class X even if they fail the exams once the results are declared

Under the National Education Policy (NEP), these students will be Allowed To Keep Terms (ATKT) and will get the chance to clear the exams within two years

The Board has also rolled out a compensation scheme, under which a Class IX student who fails in two subjects will still be promoted to Class X if he/she scored 65% or more in two subjects and 50% and above in two more

The Board is doing away with the system of grace marks from the 2026 session

Question papers for Classes VI to VIII will be set by the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT). However, the answer scripts will be checked by the schools

Among the other major changes that Shetye announced was the decision to give the task of setting question papers for Classes VI to VIII to the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT). However, the job of checking the answer scripts will still rest with the schools.

Director of Education Shailesh Zingde addressed the concerns surrounding the recently announced start of schools in April. The department revealed that it had received 4,047 objections and suggestions regarding the draft notification about schools starting the academic year in April.

Zingde said many of these objections were similar, with individual concerns being raised by numerous stakeholders.

One of the main concerns raised was the temperature in April. The State-appointed steering committee highlighted that academic years for CBSE and ICSE schools in the State traditionally begin in April, with remedial classes also taking place during this time.

Zingde emphasised that classes would be held from 8 am to 11.30 am to take into account the hot weather in April.

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Cabinet rejig after discussing with high command: CM

Team Herald

PANJIM: Stating that a cabinet reshuffle will take place in consultation with party's high command, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant claimed that his cabinet ministers are performing well but emphasised that if at all, anyone is dropped, it should be seen as political compulsion.

"We may have to accommodate one or two persons. It is a political strategy and a political compulsion from the point of view of winning the elections," Sawant said in an interview to a local TV channel.

He said that any decision regarding cabinet reshuffle would be made in consultation with the party high command, emphasising that if anyone is dropped, it should not be seen as a reflection of their performance, but rather a political necessity.

Furthermore, Sawant announced the formation of a steering committee, headed by him, to oversee decisions regarding the approval or rejection of mega projects in the State.

Favouring the formulation of a new Regional Plan for Goa from planning perspective, the chief minister said he would discuss it with his cabinet before taking a final decision.

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Trump formalises plans to shut down USAID

AFP, WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump's administration announced plans to effectively close the US international development agency USAID, formalising widely-criticised plans to dramatically cut

foreign aid spending. "Today, the Department of State and the USAID have notified Congress on their intent to undertake a reorganisation that would involve realigning certain USAID functions to the De-

partment by July 1, 2025," US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said in a statement. The Department, he said, also plans on "discontinuing the remaining USAID functions that do not align with Administration priorities."

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INSURMOUNTABLE TASK?



Time's ticking for the Imagine Panaji Smart City Development Limited (IPSCDL) to meet the March 31 deadline set by the High Court. With just a day to go, it appears to be a near impossible task for the special purpose vehicle to complete the Smart City works on time and provide the much-needed relief to the city residents. O Heraldo found heavy earthmoving machinery engaged in dumping debris near Rua Heliodoro Salgado in the city

179 kg beef transported from Delhi seized at Vasco

Team Herald

VASCO: In a significant operation, the Vasco Railway Police on Saturday seized 179 kg of beef being "illegally" transported from Delhi to Goa via the Goa Express train ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr which will be celebrated on March 31.

The beef, which was packed in boxes, was confiscated from the parcel section of Vasco Railway Station.

Jabber Noosahmed Sidnur, a 33-year-old resident of Aquem-Margão, has been detained by the railway police for questioning.

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Myanmar's earthquake death toll crosses 1,600

More bodies recovered, over 3k injured; 139 missing

AP, BANGKOK: Myanmar's ruling military said Saturday on State television that the confirmed death toll from a devastating 7.7 magnitude earthquake rose to 1,644, as more bodies were pulled from the rubble of the scores of buildings that collapsed when it struck near the country's second-largest city.

The new total is a sharp rise compared to the 1,002 total announced just hours earlier, underlining the difficulty of confirming casualties over a widespread region and the likelihood that the numbers will continue to grow from Friday's quake.

The number of injured increased to 3,408, while the missing figure rose to 139.

Rescue efforts are underway especially in the major stricken cities of Mandalay, the country's



Rescuers search for survivors trapped in the collapsed Sky Villa Condominium building in Mandalay on Saturday

FULL COVERAGE ON PG 7 >>

No. 2 city, and Naypyitaw, the capital. But even though teams and equipment have been flown in from other nations, they are hindered by the airports in those cities being damaged and apparently unfit to land planes.

Myanmar, also known as

Burma, is in the throes of a prolonged civil war, which is already responsible for a humanitarian crisis. It makes movement around the country both difficult and dangerous, complicating relief efforts and raising fears that the death toll could still rise precipitously.

Rescue efforts are underway especially in the major stricken cities of Mandalay, the country's No. 2 city, and Naypyitaw, the capital. But even though teams and equipment have been flown in from other nations, they are hindered by the airports in those cities being damaged and apparently unfit to land planes

The earthquake struck midday Friday with an epicentre not far from Mandalay, followed by several aftershocks, including one measuring 6.4. It sent buildings in many areas toppling to the ground, buckled roads, caused bridges to collapse and burst a dam.



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