

# Cong seeks law for SC, ST & OBC quota in private, non-minority educational institutions

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** The Congress on Monday demanded that the government bring in a legislation for SC, ST and OBC quota in private, non-minority educational institutions in the country.

In a statement, Congress general secretary, communications, Jairam Ramesh noted that the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth, and Sports had recommended a new legislation to implement Article 15(5).

Article 15(5) allows the state to make special provisions by law for the advancement of socially

and educationally backward classes, Scheduled Castes, and Scheduled Tribes, including reservation in educational institutions, both public and private, except for minority educational institutions.

Ramesh said the Congress had during the last Lok Sabha polls committed itself to bringing legislation to implement Article 15(5) of the Constitution in private educational institutions.

"In its 364th Report on the Demand for Grants for the Department of Higher Education, the Parliamentary Standing Committee

on Education, Women, Children, Youth, and Sports also recommended a new legislation to implement Article 15(5) as well. The Indian National Congress reiterates this demand," Ramesh said.

The Constitution (Ninety-third Amendment) Act, 2005 took effect from January 20, 2006 and this amendment introduced Article 15(5) in the Constitution.

"Nothing in this article or sub-clause (g) of clause (1) of Article 19 shall prevent any special provision, by law, for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes

of citizens or for the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes insofar as such special provisions relate to their admission to educational institutions, including private educational institutions, whether aided or unaided by the State, other than the minority educational institutions referred to in clause (1) of Article 30," it reads.

Explaining the chronology of legislation to implement Article 15 (5), Ramesh said the Central Educational Institutions (Reservations in Admission) Act, 2006 was passed in Parliament and reservations for scheduled castes,

scheduled tribes and socially and educationally backward classes of citizens in central educational institutions introduced with effect from January 3, 2007.

Citing the case of Ashoka Kumar Thakur versus Union of India on April 10, 2008, he said by a 2-0 margin Article 15(5) is held Constitutionally valid only for state-run and state-aided institutions and reservations in private unaided institutions left open to be decided in the appropriate course.

In the IMA versus Union of India May 12, 2011, he

said, by 2-0 margin, Article 15 (5) is upheld for private unaided non-minority educational institutions.

Citing another case, Ramesh said, "Prmati Educational and Cultural Trust versus Union of India Jan 29, 2014. By 5-0 margin Article 15(5) is, for the first time, upheld as it is explicitly.

"This means reservations for scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and socially and educationally backward classes of citizens in private educational institutions is also constitutionally permissible," he added.

## Gunshots fired in Kathua during search for terrorists, night cordon laid

**PTI, JAMMU:** A police team came under fire from terrorists in a combing operation in Kathua district Monday night, sources said. The operation was underway in the Panjirthi area of the Ramkote belt. In the wake of the violent encounter, a night cordon has been laid to ensure that the three terrorists trapped in the forest do not escape, sources said.

Earlier in the day, Deputy Inspector General Shiv Kumar Sharma said the operation will continue until the last terrorist is neutralised, as he urged the people living near the border to report any suspicious activities.

"The operation is ongoing, and as long as there is even one terrorist left, the Jammu and Kashmir Police

will persevere in its mission. Our force is dedicated to eradicating terrorism and ensuring the safety of Jammu and Kashmir," Sharma told reporters in Reasi.

Security forces have intensified their search for the three, bolstered by aerial surveillance and sniffer dogs. Six people were detained after receiving fresh reports of suspected movement involving three individuals believed to be terrorists who had escaped after an encounter in Kathua, officials said.

In a confrontation with the terrorists last Thursday, two terrorists and four policemen were killed, while three others, including a deputy superintendent of police, were injured.

## Eight months on, landslide-hit Mundakkai, Chooralmala remain ghost towns

**PTI, WAYANAD:** Suhara Joseph, 56, was taking a respite from the scorching heat under the shade of a shop in Chooralmala in Wayanad district, blankly looking across the Bailey bridge at the rubble where her house once stood.

She had just returned from the spot where her home had been completely wiped away, with not even a trace left, as huge boulders swept it away on July 30 last year in the worst landslide Kerala has ever witnessed.

She reluctantly returned to the shade, as she was alone and afraid of fainting in the scorching sun.

"I am least concerned about the house and the properties we lost, but I

can't get over the fact that the people who were so close to us are all gone," Suhara told PTI, choking with emotion as tears rolled down her cheeks.

Suhara survived because she was at a hospital for her husband's treatment. All the neighbours who had visited them at the hospital the previous night perished.

Eight months after the disaster, the Mundakkai and Chooralmala regions resemble a ghost town, with an eerie silence surrounding them.

Once a bustling hub of tourist activity, this beautiful valley in Meppadi, Wayanad, is now devoid of residents or visiting tourists.

## SC-appointed task force starts work, to seek views on mental health issues of students

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court-appointed National Task Force (NTF) has started its functioning and will seek public opinion in preparing its reports on tackling mental health issues in educational institutions across the country.

In a landmark judgment on March 24, a bench headed by Justice JB Pardiwala took note of the recurring cases of student suicides in higher educational institutions and formed the NTF to address the mental health concerns of students and prevent such incidents.

The top court had also directed the Delhi Police to register an FIR on the complaints of the family members of two students

who died by suicide while studying at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi, in 2023.

The NTF, headed by Justice S Ravindra Bhat, a former SC judge, comprises a distinguished panel of experts, including Dr. Alok Sarin, Prof. Mary E. John, Arman Ali, Prof. Rajendra Kachroo, Dr. Aqsa Shaikh, Dr. Seema Mehrotra, Prof. Virginius Xaxa, Dr. Nidhi Sabharwal, and Ms. Aparna Bhat.

The Task Force also includes ex-officio members from key government departments, including the Department of Higher Education, the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

In its first meeting held on March 29, 2025, the Task Force outlined its plan to explore the root causes of suicides in higher education institutions and develop a comprehensive report with actionable recommendations.

The NTF aims to assess current policies, review relevant laws, and consult

with various stakeholders to create an inclusive approach to improving student welfare.

The Task Force has been given a timeline of four months to submit an interim report and eight months for the final report.

The process will involve public consultations, interactions with educational institutions, and discussions with mental health professionals, students, and parents.

The Task Force is also set to launch a website and a social media handle to encourage public engagement and receive sugges-

tions.

The formation of the NTF follows growing concerns over student mental health in India, with increasing reports of distress, depression, and suicides among students in higher education institutions.

By involving a wide range of stakeholders and fostering an open dialogue, the Task Force seeks to ensure that the voices of those affected are central to the decision-making process, with the ultimate goal of creating a safer and more supportive environment for students across the country.

**FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY**  
In Loving Memory of  
**LAWRENCE D'MELLO**  
Mollar, Corlim  
There will be Eucharistic celebration for the soul of our beloved Lawrence D'mello on **2nd April 2025 at 8.00 am** at **St John Facundo Church, Corlim** Ilhas followed by Prayers and Blessing at the grave, offered by his sorrowful Family.  
*Relatives and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.*

**26<sup>th</sup> Death Anniversary**  
In Loving Memory of  
**PASCOAL FARIA**  
(Cansaulim)  
Date of Death:- 01-04-1999  
"26 Years Have Come and Gone, And we celebrate the life and legacy of our Dad, whose impact on our lives is immeasurable."  
"Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure you are loved beyond words and missed beyond limits."  
A loving tribute by his  
**Wife: ANTONETA Children's: (late) MICKY, CUSTODIO (CHRIS)/ PINKY, ARMSTRONG, Grandchildren: AUNALEY & VELLAN FARIA**

**RETURN TO THE LORD**  
**REMEDIOS FERNANDES**  
:- DAGWAL - RAIA :-  
Born: 11.10.1946 - Died: 31.03.2025  
Husband of late Filomena Fernandes.  
Father / father-in-law of John / Alice,  
Cristina / Glen, Valency / Simon Fernandes. Grandfather of Gail, Angel, Snow Ann, Floyd.  
Funeral cortege will leave his residence at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, 1st April 2025 at Our Lady of Snows Church, Raia, for Eucharistic celebration, followed by burial.  
*Relatives & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.*

**RETURNED TO THE LORD**  
**JOSE DIAS**  
Born: 04/12/1965 Died: 30/03/2025  
(Odguim, Nuvem)  
Loving husband of Fiola Soares, affectionate father/father-in-law of Glane/Fiona, Myron, Manisha/Deleto and caring grandfather of Glenia.  
Funeral cortege will leave his residence on 1st April 2025 (Today) at 9:45am to Jesus Mary Joseph Church, Nuveim, for Eucharistic celebration followed by burial.  
*Relatives, neighbours & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation*  
Rebello Publicity & Funeral Services Margao 9822383992

**RETURNED TO THE LORD**  
**ARMINIO AUGUSTO SOCORRO DORES RODRIGUES**  
:- Old Market, Margao, Goa :-  
Born: 08.04.1938  
Died: 29.03.2025  
Beloved husband of Palmira Clementina Primavera Dias e Rodrigues.  
Loving father / father-in-law of Dr. Ingrid / William Pires. Dr. Astrid Rodrigues / Clyde Souza, Sheldon Rodrigues.  
Affectionate Grandfather of Jonathan Pires, Christopher Pires, Jaden Souza, Tristan Souza.  
Brother / brother-in-law of late Oswald / Dr. Alina Rodrigues, Nelson / Maria de Graca Rodrigues, Silvia / Olavo Joanes, Yvonne / Joe Costa Pereira, Dr. Otília / late Dr. Ricardo Mascarenhas, Queenie / Anthony D'Souza.  
Brother-in-law of John / Theresa Dias, Leonara / Peter Risbert, Crescencia / Jovencio Da Costa, Susanna / Jawaharlal Godinho, Ophelia Dias.  
Funeral cortege will leave from Ancestral House Number 80, Opposite BPS Club, next to Barbosa Mansion in Pajifond, Margao, at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, 2nd April 2025 for mass at Holy Spirit Church, Margao, at 4:00 p.m. It will be followed by burial at the Margao Cemetery.  
*Relatives and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.*  
Confident Advtg. & Funeral Service, Margao 9823022194

**DEATH**  
**CHRISTOPHER D'SOUZA**  
Xell, Bastora  
Husband of Rita, Father of Sydel  
Son of Domnick/Conception D'Souza  
Brother of Albert/Dana, Tania/Simplicio & Zara/Cedric  
Brother-in-law of Cyrilla/Carrie, Fatima/Steve & Diogo/Sheryll  
Uncle of Elian, Jessica, Zack, Shanelle, Tasha, Cayenne & Znyda  
Funeral cortege will leave the residence at 4.00 pm TODAY, 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2025, for St. Cajetan's Church, Bastora, for a Eucharistic Celebration & burial.  
*Relatives, neighbours & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.*

**A YEAR WITH THE LORD**  
In everloving memory of  
**BALBINO (ABIT) FERNANDES**  
(Malbhat, Margao)  
"You left us beautiful memories, your love is still our guide. Although we cannot see you, papa you are always at our side"  
There will be an Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved Balbino on Wednesday, 2nd April 2025 at 8:00am at St. Sebastian Church cemetery, Aquem, followed by prayers & blessing at the grave, offered by his sorrowful family.  
*Relatives, neighbours & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.*  
Rebello Publicity & Funeral Services Margao 9822383992

**MONTH'S MIND**  
in loving memory of  
**GEORGE FERNANDES**  
Prop. VASCO MEDICAL STORE  
(Non Mon Dempo Bhat, Vasco)  
"Whose presence we dearly miss  
A month has passed, yet your love & kindness remain in our hearts  
you may be gone from our sight,  
but never from our thoughts. Rest in peace."  
There will be a Eucharistic celebration for the soul of our beloved George on Wednesday 2nd April 2025 at 7.30am. at St. Andrew's Church, Vasco followed by prayers & blessings at the grace offered by his sorrowful mother and family.  
*RELATIVES AND FRIENDS KINDLY ACCEPT THIS AS THE ONLY INTIMATION.*

**THIRD DEATH ANNIVERSARY**  
**SEBASTIANA FERNANDES e BAPTISTA**  
:- Sanglem Acsona, Majorda :-  
(18.04.1940 - 02.04.2022)  
Wife of late Assuncao (Aisao) Baptista.  
There will be an Eucharistic celebration for the soul of our beloved Sebastiana at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, 2nd April 2025 at Mother of God Church, Majorda, followed by prayers and blessing at the grave, offered by her sorrowful children.  
*Relatives neighbours & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation*  
Confident Advtg. & Funeral Services, Margao 9823022194

**First Death Anniversary**  
In Ever Loving Memory of  
**Guilherme Agnelo Guia da Silveira**  
(Ex-Foreman Indian Navy) St. Estevam / Vasco  
There will be an Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved Guilherme Agnelo Guia da Silveira, at 8.15 am, on Wednesday, 2nd APRIL, 2025 (Tomorrow) at St. Andrew's Church, Vasco, followed by blessings of the grave.  
*Offered by his sorrowful wife Bella & family*  
*Relatives, friends & neighbours kindly accept this as the only intimation*

**MONTH'S MIND**  
In Loving Memory of  
**ANN GODINHO**  
(Ex. Teacher Presentation Convent, School)  
:- FATORDA :-  
There will be an Eucharistic celebration for the soul of beloved ANN GODINHO at 7:45 a.m. on Wednesday, 2nd April 2025 at Our Lady of Rosary Church, Fatorda, followed by prayers at the grave at Holy Spirit Graveyard, offered by her children and grandchildren.  
*Relatives, neighbours & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.*  
Confident Advtg. & Funeral Service, Margao 9823022194

**ONE YEAR WITH THE LORD**  
in loving memory of  
**ANA HENRIQUETA D'MELLO**  
Ponolem, Calvim, Aldona  
30.06.1935 - 02.04.2024  
"We little know that morning that God was going to call your name  
in life we loved you clearly, in death we do the same  
Our family chain is broken and nothing seems the same  
but as God calls us one by one, the chain will link again  
Memorial Mass offered by her dear family at 8 am on Wednesday, 2nd April at St. Sebastian Church, Calvim followed by blessing at the grave

**SEVENTH DAY REMEMBRANCE**  
In loving memory of  
**ROQUE ZEFERINO DA SILVA (JEFFREY)**  
CANSULIM / RAJKOT / ASSOLNA  
There will be an Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved Dada on 2nd April 2025 at 8:15 am at Regina Martyrum Church, Assolna, followed by prayers & blessing at the grave, offered by his sorrowful children Clive, Christina/Werner Rodrigues granddaughter Kiara and family.  
*Relatives, neighbours & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation*  
Rebello Publicity & Funeral Services Margao 9822383992