

DAY AFTER, WHERE ARE THE BODY-CAM COPS?

O Herald's on-the-spot checks showed less-than-normal police presence on roads in areas such as Mapusa and Porvorim; in Panjim, no traffic cop was wearing a body camera

Team Herald

PANJIM: A day after Chief Minister Pramod Sawant announced that only police inspectors (PIs) and police sub-inspectors (PSIs) with body cameras have been authorised to issue challans for traffic violations, O Herald's search for cops with body cameras proved to be futile. Indeed, there were fewer policemen than usual on the roads in some areas, including Mapusa and Porvorim.

A police officer in Panjim said, "The traffic police cells have been informed not to physically stop vehicles found violating motor vehicle rules, but to capture the violators through cameras and generate challans. A challan, which will be sent to the registered mobile number of the violator, who will have to make digital payments since the government has now done away with cash payments." This begs the question: since no cops were wearing body cameras, and no vehicles were to be stopped as per

The traffic police cells have been informed not to physically stop vehicles found violating motor vehicle rules, but to capture the violators through cameras and generate challans. The constables, head constables and Assistant Sub-Inspectors (ASIs) standing at road junctions or at other places will not stop those breaking traffic rules, but they will capture the violators on their cameras. A challan, which will be generated, will be sent to the registered mobile number of the violator, who will have to make digital payments since the government has now done away with cash payments." This begs the question: since no cops were wearing body cameras, and no vehicles were to be stopped as per

HERALD ASKS: SINCE NO COPS COULD BE SEEN WEARING BODY CAMERAS, WERE ALL TRAFFIC VIOLATORS ALLOWED TO GO SCOT FREE ON SATURDAY?

TRAFFIC POLICE CELLS: 16
POLICE STATIONS ACROSS STATE: 32
BODY CAMERAS: 123

HERALD ASKS: WHERE ARE THE 123 CAMERAS AND WHEN WILL POLICEMEN AND OTHER DESIGNATED OFFICIALS START WEARING THEM?

breaking traffic rules, but they will capture the violators on their cameras. A challan, which will be generated, will be sent to the registered mobile number of the violator, who will have to make digital payments since the government has now done away with cash payments." This begs the question: since no cops were wearing body cameras, and no vehicles were to be stopped as per

instructions, did motorists have a free-for-all on Goa's roads on Saturday? The officer added, "Only PIs will have body cameras during the day and PSIs with body cameras during the night have been authorised to stop vehicles found violating traffic rules." There are 16 traffic police cells and 32 police stations across the State while the department has 123 body cameras. Also there are CCTV cameras installed at strategic locations to crack down on violators. As per the amended Motor Vehicles Act, hefty fines have been proposed for

some violations. The highest fine of Rs 10,000 each for those driving without a valid driving licence, using a vehicle without permit and driving under the influence of alcohol. If a rider is caught riding a two-wheeler without a helmet, he/she will be issued a e-challan of Rs 1,000 for the first offence and for the repeat offence, a fine of Rs 10,000 will be levied along with three months suspension of the licence. Similar is the penalty for the violator caught for speeding.

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CLEARING OBSTACLES



Workers remove snow to clear the road near the Kedarnath Temple for the upcoming 'Char Dham Yatra', in Rudrapur district, Uttarakhand, on Saturday

Dabolim flyover: Navy told NHA to stop work 'immediately'

Petitioner receives details of letter to NHA through RTI, relief among residents in and around Dabolim

AUGUSTO RODRIGUES

DABOLIM: A letter that was submitted to the court shows that Navala authorities had asked National Highway Authority of India (NHA) to stop construction work immediately for the four-lane flyover from MES College Junction to Bogmalo Junction.

The letter says: "Construction in the approach Funnel Zone are infringing Obstacle Limitation Surface (OLS) and that the work be stopped immediately and the construction in the above mentioned chainage be demolished to fall under permissible limits as mentioned in the survey reports."

"We received the letter of the Navy to NHA on Friday



through our RTI application and are happy that there is clarity in the air now. As of now, the NHA has not recommended the work. If they do, I will need to ap-

"We received the letter of the Navy to NHA on Friday through our RTI application and are happy that there is clarity in the air now. As of now, the NHA has not recommended the work. If they do, I will need to approach the court again to complain against violation of court order

- Retd Commander Atul Pant, petitioner

"Politicians tried to mislead the public, claiming that the flyover project was for the people. In reality, it was an anti-people initiative, aimed at shutting down the Dabolim Airport to benefit the real estate lobby. This Navy report is a major victory for us

- Sanjay Redkar, local resident

proach the court again to complain against violation of court order," disclosed the petitioner in the matter, retired Commander Atul Pant.

This has also left people all over South Goa, who depend on the Dabolim airport for survival, relieved.

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Goa Economic Survey report tampered: MLA

Benaulim legislator demands probe; Secretary (Legislature) clarifies inadvertent error corrected & uploaded with Speaker's approval

Team Herald

PANJIM: Taking serious note of the sudden alteration of the Economic Survey of Goa 2024-25 report on the Vidhan Sabha website, Benaulim MLA Venzy Viegas on Friday demanded an inquiry into the change in one of the pages of the report.

However, when contacted, Secretary (Legislature) Namrata Ulman clarified that the said inadvertent error on various types of revenue/tax collection at Page No. 28 of the document has been corrected and uploaded with the approval of Assembly Speaker Ramesh Tawadkar. A bulletin in this regard has already been issued, she said.

In a letter written to the

MLA'S CHARGES

Benaulim MLA Venzy Viegas said he had downloaded the Economic Survey report from the E-Assembly portal on March 26

On April 4, Viegas said he found changes on Pg No. 28 with regard to the TCP Dept revenue collection

These changes were reflected from April 3, 2025 at 5 pm which detailed the major revenue receipt for the State, the MLA informed

The legislator said on April 3, at 10.30 pm, the Goa Vidhan Sabha website was updated once again, this time labelling the report as a corrected copy

Secretary (Legislature), Viegas said that last-minute tampering with a crucial government document -- the Economic Survey of Goa report. He has demanded immediate clarification on the integrity of the documents and the decision making process that led to its modification. He said that he had

downloaded the Economic Survey report from the E-Assembly portal on March 26, but on April 4, he found changes on Page No. 28 of the report with regard to the Town and Country Planning (TCP) Department revenue collection.

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Waqf Bill gets President's assent

PTI, NEW DELHI: President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday gave her assent to the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, which was passed by Parliament earlier this week.

Murmu also gave her assent to the Mussalman Wakf (Repeal) Bill, 2025. "The following Act of Parliament received the assent of the president on April 5, 2025, and is hereby published for general information: The Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025," the government said in a notification.

Parliament early on Friday approved the Bill after the Rajya Sabha gave its nod to the contentious legislation following an over 13-hour debate. The discussion witnessed staunch objections from opposition parties.

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Kerala firm accused of 'torturing' underperforming employees

PTI, KOCHI: A private marketing firm here has been accused of subjecting its underperforming employees to degrading treatment, including making them walk on their knees like chained dogs and lick coins from the floor.

After the disturbing visuals were aired by local TV channels, the Labour department ordered a probe into the alleged inhuman workplace harassment. Police and the labour department launched separate investigations.

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DEGRADING TREATMENT

The visuals purportedly showed a person using a leash to force a man to crawl on his knees on the floor, resembling a dog

Some persons, claimed as employees of the firm, told a channel that those who fail to achieve targets were subjected to such punishments by the management

According to police, the incident allegedly

took place in connection with a private marketing firm functioning in Kaloor and the crime allegedly occurred at nearby Perumbavoor

Labour Minister V Sivankutty ordered an inquiry into the undated incident

Instructed the district labour officer to submit an immediate report on the incident.

SSC results on April 7

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Goa Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education (GBSHSE) will declare the results of the SSC examination held in March 2025 on Monday, April 7, at 5 pm.

A total of 18,838 students including 9,280 boys and 9,558 girls had appeared for examination under the regular category.

The results will be available on www.gbsmse.in; http://results.gbsmsegoa.net/#/ and the digilocker App and the website.

The examination was held from March 1 to 21 and it was conducted across 32 examination centres across the State.

The details of the date of collection of mark sheets will be declared shortly. Marksheets shall be collected through authorised representatives of the school from the IT section of Goa Board. No candidates or parents will be entertained regarding the marksheets. For any queries candidates should approach their school, it said.

In March 2024, a total of 18,914 students (regular category) had appeared for exams of which 17,473 were declared pass, giving a pass percentage of 92.38 per cent.

According to Goa Board chairman Bhagirath Shetye, it will be for the first time in the history of Goa that the SSC results will be declared in shortest time. "This was possible only because the Goa Board increased assessment centres and overwhelming response and cooperation from examiners and schools during assessment.

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MAX. TEMP 34.9 °C
MIN. TEMP 25.9 °C

idharudhar



This beach is demarcated as safe, only for swimming!

Goan-origin scientist says sewage, climate change altering Arabian Sea biodiversity

Helga do Rosario Gomes's research shows proliferation of unusual organism

ALEXANDRE MONIZ BARBOSA

PANJIM: Biological oceanographer, Dr Helga do Rosario Gomes, a Research Scientist at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Columbia Climate School has said that the biodiversity of the Arabian Sea has changed completely.

Her research on the Arabian Sea has concluded that "the biodiversity, the biology of the Arabian Sea, especially the base of the protein, which is the plant-like structures of this Arabian Sea has changed completely."

Having done her PhD at NIO and a lot of her thesis work in the Arabian Sea, Rosario Gomes, hailing from Goa and currently with Columbia University in New York, returned later to conduct more research on the Arabian sea.



"When we started looking at the data, we saw that there were very unusual organisms. When we asked our colleagues about them, they said they were seeing them very much. We know them as noctiluca and it's called nocti-

"These mega cities around the Arabian Sea... (don't have) sewage treatment plants. I have read that our Goa sewage plants are working at like 20 to 40 percent of their capacity. So, imagine the amount of organic matter that we are dumping into the oceans

- Dr Helga do Rosario Gomes

luca scintillans. We started researching this noctiluca and we saw that there were giant massive blooms generally found only during the winter monsoon," she told O Herald.

She said that when there are not many nutrients, the noctiluca are able to eat other things. "They can also eat

dead material, detritus, eggs, anything that they find. What is happening is the waters are getting warmer. When the waters are getting warmer at the surface, there is this thing called stratification, which means that the bottom layers are not able to come to the top and fertilise. So, in this case, with the stratification there are no nutrients. So, on one side, they are taking whatever nutrients there are in the water and at the same time they are feeding on little, little things. Those little, little things were food for other little, little things. So, they have taken away another food source, they have taken away another nitrogen source," said Dr Rosario Gomes.

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