

Workers rally in Panjim on Labour Day, demand wage hike and reforms

Flay government for being insensitive to needs of workers; call for repeal of anti-labour codes

Team Herald

PANJIM: Marking International Workers' Day with a spirited show of solidarity, hundreds of workers gathered in Panjim on Thursday, May 1, under the banner of the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC), demanding an increase in wages and pensions, along with broader labour reforms.

The rally saw the presentation of AITUC's Working People's Charter - 2025 to the State government, listing 25 comprehensive demands aimed at protecting and advancing the rights of workers across sectors.

Addressing the rally, AITUC Goa General Secretary Christopher Fonseca underscored the urgent need for the State to acknowledge and address the concerns of the working class.

"Our demand is that the government should accept the demands of the workers. They want freedom and their rights," Fonseca said. He criticised the continued extension of the Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA), demanding its repeal. "Minimum wages should be at least Rs 1000. Atrocities on farmers and workers should stop. Recommendations of the M S Swaminathan Committee



“Our demand is that the government should accept the demands of the workers. They want freedom and their rights” – Christopher Fonseca, AITUC Goa General Secretary

“Today, minimum wage is Rs 407 only. What can a worker get with this amount of money for himself and his family? That is why our demand is that minimum wage of a worker should be at least Rs 1000 per day” – Adv Suhaas Naik, AITUC leader

on minimum support price for agricultural products should be implemented. Public sector companies should be protected," Fonseca stated.

AITUC leader Adv Suhaas Naik also addressed the gathering, calling for the repeal of the four new labour codes, which he termed "anti-labour."

"The government has not extended the benefits of the 7th Pay Commission to the workers yet. This should be extended. Panchayat

employees should be given payment as per the government pay scale. Services of those working with the PWD Labour Supply Society should be regularised. Minimum pension should be Rs 10,000. Ceiling on bonus and provident fund should be removed," he said.

He further alleged that pharmaceutical companies were terminating employees without conducting inquiries and accused the government of shielding

such actions. "Today, minimum wage is Rs 407 only. What can a worker get with this amount of money for himself and his family? That is why our demand is that minimum wage of a worker should be at least Rs 1000 per day," Naik said. The rally concluded with a renewed call to the State government to engage meaningfully with workers' unions and implement the demands laid out in the Charter.



CM urges labour unions to avoid protests and engage in dialogue

PANJIM: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has appealed to trade unions in Goa to refrain from staging protests and instead engage in peaceful dialogue with the government to resolve their issues.

Speaking on Thursday during a function to present the Shram Gaurav awards, Sawant emphasised the government's readiness to address the genuine concerns of the working class.

"We are always open to discussions and are committed to finding solutions that benefit the working class. Rather than engaging in protests, I encourage labour unions to sit down with the government and address their

“We are always open to discussions and are committed to finding solutions that benefit the working class. Rather than engaging in protests, I encourage labour unions to sit down with the government and address their concerns in a peaceful and constructive manner,” the Chief Minister stated.

He assured that the rights and welfare of workers remain a top priority for his administration. "I wish to tell all the workers that there is no need to hold agitations as government is ready to talk to them and give the rights of the workers. Our government is committed to work for Vikasit Goa (Developed Goa) by 2047,"

he added. Highlighting the vital role of workers in the economy, Sawant pointed out that 50 per cent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is generated by the working class. He further stated that the government's goal is to ensure there is no exploitation of workers and that all legitimate grievances are addressed in a timely and effective manner.

Fire breaks out at Nuvem p'vat ghar

Team Herald

MARGAO: A fire broke out in the electric panel board of the Nuvem Panchayat ghar near Nuvem Church, Salcete, raising safety concerns though no injuries were reported. The blaze was quickly brought under control by fire personnel, averting a major incident.

Station Fire Officer (SFO) Gil Souza said the small electric panel caught fire and was promptly attended to by firefighters. Alarmed locals rushed to the scene, tried to control the smoke and alerted the fire services.

One fire tender from Margao fire station, led by SFO Souza, was initially deployed, and later a second was pressed into service to contain the fire. Firefighters worked for over an hour to control the situation. The exact cause of the fire remains unknown, and the department plans to write to the electricity department regarding the incident. Police also inspected the site.

A local resident expressed concern about the state of electric panel boards and urged the electricity department to conduct regular maintenance. Sub Officer C Carvalho and his team responded to the emergency.

SEWAGE SCOURGE



Raw sewage is being discharged into the mangroves near the Interstate Bus Stand at Patto in Panjim, posing an environmental threat. These mangroves are crucial carbon sinks, absorbing large amounts of carbon dioxide. They serve as a vital habitat for diverse marine life also and prevent erosion by stabilising the shoreline - but large swathes around Patto and Mercas are already dying due to pollution

Man arrested for murdering his wife in Mungul-Margao

Team Herald

MARGAO: In a shocking incident at Mungul, Margao, a man has been arrested for the brutal murder of his wife following a heated altercation over her alleged regular consumption of alcohol. The accused, Krishna Roy, a native of Calcutta, West Bengal, currently residing in Mungul, has been charged under Section 103 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) for the murder of his wife, Karishma Roy.

According to Fatorda police, the incident occurred late on the night of April 30, before 8.30 pm, when

a heated argument broke out between the couple. In a fit of rage, Krishna Roy allegedly assaulted his wife with a wooden stick and belt, inflicting fatal injuries. Upon receiving the information, police rushed to the spot and conducted a panchanama.

The police also deployed a dog squad and fingerprint experts as part of their investigation. Krishna Roy was subsequently arrested and taken into custody. The couple had reportedly been residing in Mungul for over three years.

Police informed that the body of the deceased was

sent for post-mortem examination. The police surgeon, following the autopsy, certified the cause of death as "Head injury consequent to blunt force impact in a person with multiple injuries all over the body caused by blunt weapon." The report also noted that all the injuries were fresh at the time of death.

Viscera samples have

been preserved for chemical analysis, and additional materials have been retained for serological examination. Blood-stained gauze has been collected for DNA profiling, and a blood sample has been preserved for grouping.

The body was later handed over to the family following the completion of medico-legal formalities.

Seven in fray for p'vat by-polls in Assonora and Tivim

Team Herald

PANJIM: Seven candidates are in the fray for the by-elections to two panchayat wards scheduled for Sunday, May 11.

In Ward VII of Assonora Village Panchayat, there will be a triangular contest between Mita Milesh Naik, Shankar Pandurang Naik and Vijay Babai Banaulikar. The by-election has been necessitated due to the death of Milesh Naik.

Ghanashyam Pundalik Aroskar, Niraj Narayan Nagvekar, Ramchandan Chandrakant Salgaonkar and Ravindra Shiva Aroskar are contesting from Ward I of Tivim Village Panchayat. The ward fell vacant following the death of former sarpanch Arjun Aroskar.

Polling will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. There are 346 voters in Ward VII of Assonora Panchayat, while Ward I of Tivim Panchayat has 1,047 electors.

The State Election Commission (SEC) has appointed a general observer, expenditure observers and flying squads to monitor the enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct currently in force in these two village panchayats.

Three main matka kingpins, 12 bookies in police dragnet

Mumbai woman and two Gujarat natives booked

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Crime Branch of the Goa Police conducted multiple raids at different places across the State against matka gambling and arrested 12 bookies while accepting bets.

Besides arresting the matka bookies, the crime branch for the first time also booked the main kingpins of the trade that included a woman from Mumbai and two others from Gujarat.

"While the woman Jaya Chadda operates the Main Kalyan from Mumbai, Maharashtra, Chandubhai Thakkar alias D'Sa and Ganeshyam Bhai operate from Gujarat and are the dealers of Main bazaar which operates at night. Jaya is the wife of Suresh Bhagat who

Jaya Chadda operates the Main Kalyan from Mumbai, Maharashtra, Chandubhai Thakkar alias D'Sa and Ganeshyam Bhai operate from Gujarat and are the dealers of Main bazaar

was also known as the Kalyan Matka King," said a Crime Branch official.

Police stated that all the three have national and international connections and operate from any part of the world where there is matka and said a legal process is on to get them down from Mumbai and Gujarat as they have underworld connections. "The 12 bookies whom we have ar-

rested rattled the names of the main dealers whom they were operating for," said a Crime Branch official. The raids were conducted at Panjim, Mapusa, Porvorim, Margao, Vasco, Ponda, Mandrem, Pernem, and 12 cases were booked.

Rs 26,480 in cash and other matka gambling articles, including computers were seized from the bookies.

FIRs registered against the bookies, accepting the bets, also include the names of their agents/handlers in Goa, namely Anna, Paresb, Subhash, Nilesb, Mousin, Gulzar, Appu Tiwari, Narayan Parab, Somnath and Bharat Toraskar.

Further investigation is in progress under the guidance of PI Tushar Lotlikar and DySP Rajesh Kumar.

Continuous skills upgrade essential in AI era, says Union minister

Team Herald

PANJIM: The world is changing very rapidly and it is essential to continuously update one's training, skills, and capabilities to adapt to changing professional requirements. This will ensure survival and success in a modern world where artificial intelligence is impact-

ing every field, said Union Minister of State for Power Shripad Naik.

He was speaking as the chief guest at the 15th tranche of the Rozgar Mela, held at the International Centre, Dona Paula, on Saturday. Also present were Goa Commissioner of Customs Sunil Bhimrao Deshmukh, Goa CGST

Commissioner Bipin Kumar Upadhyay, and CCP Mayor Rohit Monserrate.

On the occasion, Naik distributed appointment letters to 47 candidates who secured employment in the Central Goods and Services Tax, Financial Services Department were Goa Commissioner of Customs Sunil Bhimrao Deshmukh, Goa CGST

Provident Fund Organisation, and Goa Customs.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, through video conferencing, distributed appointment letters to 51,000 newly recruited individuals across the country for government jobs. The Rozgar Mela was organised at 47 centres across the country, including Goa.

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MLA - Curtorim constituency
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