

## MHADEI DIVERSION WILL SPELL DOOM FOR GOA, WARNS OPPOSITION

Denounces NIO report on Mhadei water diversion, says report fails to capture the real ground situation; urges govt to present holistic study report of the project's effects to Supreme Court

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** Denouncing the report prepared by the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) on Mhadei water diversion, the Congress on Saturday demanded that the government should submit a holistic study report of the effects of the Mhadei river diversion project to the Supreme Court.

**LAST DAY**  
**Big DISCOUNT**  
**SHOPPING FESTIVAL**  
**SGPDA GROUND MARGAO**  
**Time: 10.30 am to 9.00 pm**

Addressing a press conference at the Congress office, here, South Goa MP Capt Viriato Fernandes voiced his serious concerns regarding a recent report on the contro-

### NIO REPORT LACKS GROUND TRUTHING: CONG



• The Congress highlighted the lack of ground truthing in the NIO report  
• Pointed to studies by IISc, ATREE, and IIT Mumbai, indicating potentially

severe consequences  
• Noted the NIO report's failure to consider non-monsoon flows vital for maintaining evergreen forests and the impact on

marine life nurtured by the river's nutrients

• Warned about the potential reversal of water flow affecting wildlife sanctuaries in Maharashtra and Karnataka if the Kalasa and Banduri dams are built

• Emphasised the need to declare Goa as Tiger Reserve due to increased wildlife sightings

• Suggested the CM lead all MLAs and MPs to PM to advocate for saving the Mhadei River

versal issue from the NIO. The NIO report lacks proper ground truthing and fails to capture the real situation on the ground, he said.

Challenging the NIO report's assertion that Goa would experience only minimal impact from water diversion at Mhadei, he pointed to four credible and exhaustive studies

conducted by renowned researchers who are associated with Institutes like the Indian Institute of Science, the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology & the Environment (ATREE), Norwegian Institute for Water Research, and IIT Mumbai - all of which paint a starkly different picture.

These studies warn that diverting water from Mha-

dei could trigger catastrophic consequences, leading to the ultimate saline desertification of Goa, he added.

One of the most glaring oversights in the NIO report, prepared by only hydrologists and from the hydrology point of view, is its disregard for the non-monsoon flows from Mhadei.

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### BEAUTY AMPLIFIED



The Taj Mahal is reflected on its wet premises after rainfall, in Agra, Uttar Pradesh, on Saturday

## Ragging at Arch College resurfaces amid allegations of cover-up

Parents claim perpetrators were let off; complain children still suffer from trauma; activist flags irregularities and demands transparency

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** Initially brushed under the carpet, the ragging incident at Goa's College of Architecture, Altinho, has resurfaced following mounting dissatisfaction among parents over the handling of the internal inquiry, who alleged that the perpetrators were let off lightly and that their children continue to suffer emotional trauma.

The incident occurred during a fresher's party held in September last year at a private venue in the city. At least 24 first-year students submitted a three-page complaint to the principal, accusing several senior students and a visiting faculty member of ragging and sexual harassment during the event.

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### RTI REVEALS INCONSISTENCIES IN COLLEGE'S REPORTING

• Activist John Nazareth obtained documents under the RTI Act that revealed inconsistencies in the college's reporting to GU

• Principal's Oct 2024 report claimed that no ragging took place and that

the institution maintained constant vigilance

• GU stated that reports for July, August & Sept were not submitted

• Panjim Police confirmed that a Lady PSI was part of the ICC and that a closure report had been submitted

## Haryana YouTuber arrested on charge of spying for Pakistan

**PTI, CHANDIGARH:** A Haryana-based YouTuber has been arrested on the charge of passing on sensitive information to Pakistani intelligence operatives, police said on Saturday.

Jyoti Malhotra, who runs a YouTube channel, Travel with JO, and hails from Hisar in Haryana, was arrested

from New Aggarsain Extension, they said.

She has been booked under the relevant sections of the Official Secrets Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, said police.

She was sent to a five-day police remand after being produced before the court.

Jyoti, whose YouTube

channel and Instagram account have 3.77 lakh subscribers and 1.33 lakh followers respectively, allegedly was in contact with a Pakistani staffer working at the Pakistan High Commission in Delhi. On May 13, India had expelled that Pakistani official for allegedly indulging in espionage.

Her YouTube channel account shows some videos regarding her visit to Pakistan - 'Indian Girl in Pakistan', 'Indian Girl Exploring Lahore', 'Indian Girl at Kataraj Temple' and 'Indian Girl Rides Luxury Bus in Pakistan'.

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## Pope Leo XIV is a man of deep faith, rooted in Christ & grounded in prayer: Cardinal Ferrão

In this special interview with **O Herald**, His Eminence Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrão, Archbishop of Goa and Daman and President of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences, speaks to **KARSTEN MIRANDA** about the profound spiritual responsibility of participating in the recent Papal Conclave that elected Pope Leo XIV. The Cardinal offers thoughtful reflections on the prayerful process within the Sistine Chapel, the swift consensus that emerged among Cardinals from diverse perspectives, and discusses Pope Leo XIV's qualities for leading the Church through contemporary challenges. Reflecting on Goa's devout support and His Eminence's hopes for the Church's synodal future in Asia, the Cardinal shares how faith and discernment shaped this historic moment for the world.



(Left) Pope Leo XIV at the main central loggia balcony of the St Peter's Basilica, in the Vatican. (Right) Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrão, Archbishop of Goa and Daman, who participated in the recent conclave

**Herald (H):** Your Eminence, the conclave is one of the most sacred and solemn moments in the life of the Church. Could you share what it is like, spiritually and emotionally, to participate in such a profoundly ecclesial event?

**Cardinal (C):** No doubt, the conclave marks a significant moment of crucial importance in the journey of the Church. For most of us, Cardinal electors, this conclave was a maiden experience. As for me, while getting ready for the conclave, I had two types of feelings: feelings of grief for the demise of our beloved Pope Francis and a certain sense of anxiety about the onerous responsibility of choosing a worthy successor to the Chair of Peter. However, what proved to be of great help were the several General Congregations that were held before the beginning of the

conclave. During these Congregations, all the Cardinals - the electors as well as those above eighty years of age - were able to share their insights about the various challenges the Church was facing in our times and the qualities the new Pope would require to lead the Church at this point of history. The spiritual environment, before and during the conclave, was enhanced by the thought-provoking meditations that were offered, together with the moments of prayer, invoking fervently the light of the Holy Spirit and seeking the assistance of all the Saints, our heavenly intercessors. Thus, the Cardinal electors were led to have a deep inner disposition of total docility to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

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**GOA CASHEW FEST 2025**  
Season 3  
EXPLORE • EMPOWER • ENRICH

**18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025** | **4.30 PM ONWARDS**  
**D. B. GROUND, PANAJI**

**FREE ENTRY!**

**24K INDIA**  
7.30 PM - 8.30 PM

**NEETI MOHAN**  
8.30 PM - 10.00 PM

**ATHARWAVE**  
5 PM - 5.45 PM

**ROZ ANGON**  
6 PM - 7 PM

**FASHION SHOW BY Pinka Martins**  
7 PM - 7.30 PM

**TECHNICAL SESSIONS**  
9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

**Festival Highlights:** Sundowner Experience | Fashion Show | Technical Sessions  
50+ Food & Beverage Stalls | Spot Prizes | Renowned Artists And More!

**VENUE PARTNERS**