

MAJOR DISASTER AVERTED: UNDER-CONSTRUCTION FLYOVER SEGMENT COLLAPSES AT GUIRIM

Worker injured during lifting operation; Congress slams 'life-threatening lapse', demands criminal action and independent probe into metal hook failure on Mapusa-Panjim corridor

Team Herald

PANJIM: A major tragedy was narrowly averted on Sunday when a segment of the under-construction Porvorim elevated corridor collapsed from its girder near the Guirim junction, causing significant traffic congestion along the busy Mapusa-Panjim route. A worker sustained injuries during the incident and was immediately rushed to a hospital for treatment.

According to eyewitnesses, the mishap occurred during a bridge deck lifting operation, when metal hooks reportedly failed without warning, resulting in the large concrete segment crashing to the ground. The collapse not only disrupted traffic for hours but also raised fresh concerns about safety standards at the construction site.

Reacting strongly, the Congress party demanded immediate action against the contractor and called



The segment of the under-construction Porvorim elevated corridor that crashed at Guirim

for a high-level, independent inquiry into the incident, with the findings to be made public. It also insisted on criminal proceedings against those found negligent for endangering lives, and sought a public assurance through third-party audit reports before construction proceeds or the bridge is opened for use.

A spokesperson of the Congress stated, "This is not a minor error — it is a disaster-in-the-making... any compromise in its construction quality is an open threat to public safety." The spokesperson further questioned accountability for the "life-threatening lapse," citing the absence of strict quality control measures, third-party inspec-

tions, or structural audits during this critical phase of the project. "This incident is not just an embarrassment — it is a wake-up call. If construction collapses during fixing, what confidence can the public have in the finished product? The bridge is being built with public money, but what we see instead is public risk."

OPEN THREAT TO PUBLIC SAFETY: CONG

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QUALITY IS COMPROMISED: AAP

"Is this the quality and safety standard of development of @BJP4Goa? Is this bridge going to be safe? Quality is compromised due to higher rates of commission — Amit Palekar, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Goa Convener

OPERATION CLEAN-UP



Villagers take part in the annual Panzath Nag spring cleaning festival to rid the spring of weeds and silt, at Qazigund, in Anantnag district, Kashmir on Sunday

Pak was developing Jyoti as 'asset': Haryana Police

PTI, CHANDIGARH: Pakistani intelligence operatives were allegedly developing Haryana YouTuber Jyoti Malhotra, who was arrested on espionage charges, as an asset, said a senior Haryana police officer on Sunday.

She was allegedly in touch with a Pakistani officer posted at the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi during the military conflict between India and Pakistan that followed the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam, the officer said.

Hisar SP Shashank Kumar Sawan said Malhotra did not have direct access to any information related to the military operations.

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Govt challenges HC order on Sec 17(2) of TCP Act in SC

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Goa government has filed a Special Leave Petition (SLP) with the Supreme Court to challenge a High Court order that struck down the rules and guidelines under Section 17(2) of the Goa Town and Country Planning (TCP) Act.

The High Court had found the section to be "private interest-driven" and not in public interest, leading to the government's decision to challenge the ruling.

The Court's ruling had focused on the application of Section 17(2), stating that any proposals under this section must be assessed within the framework of the Regional Plan 2021 and

not in isolation. The court emphasised that future proposals should be considered in light of the regional plan, and not based on inconsistencies or incoherencies.

The court further directed that no additional approvals could be granted under Section 17(2) at this time, despite the State government's request for a six-week stay on the ruling.

Meanwhile, reacting to the development, Goa Foundation Director said, "After being entirely unclear of its proposed actions against the 17(2) judgment of the High Court, the Goa government filed its SLP against the judgment this week."

Pope offers message of communion in inaugural Mass

AP, VATICAN CITY: Pope Leo XIV, history's first American pope, vowed Sunday to work for unity so that the Catholic Church becomes a symbol of peace in the world, offering a message of communion during an inaugural Mass in St Peter's Square before an estimated 200,000 pilgrims, presidents, patriarchs and princes.



Leo officially opened his pontificate by taking his first popemobile tour through the piazza, a rite of passage that has become synonymous with the papacy's global reach and mediatic draw. The 69-year-old Augustinian missionary smiled and waved from the back of the truck, and stopped to bless some babies in the crowd.

During the Mass, Leo appeared to choke up when the two potent symbols of the papacy were placed on him — the lamb'swool stole over his shoulders and the fisherman's ring on his finger — as if the weight of responsibility of leading the 1.4-billion strong church had just sunk in.

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Eight children among 17 killed in Hyderabad blaze

PTI, HYDERABAD: A blaze triggered by a suspected short circuit in a building near the iconic Charminar here on Sunday killed 17 people, including eight children, belonging to an extended family.

The fire broke out at a building in Gulzar Houz here, police said.

"All 17 who were shifted to hospitals were brought dead," a senior police official told PTI.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed anguish over the loss of lives and announced ex-gratia.

A narrow staircase was the only escape route for the inmates of the building, but they could not rush out, a Fire Department official said.

The building housed jewellery shops on the ground floor and people were residing in a flat above, police said adding smoke spread and people suffocated.

AIMIM chief and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi told reporters that the family has been residing there for 125 years, indicating that generations from the particular family have been living there for over a century.

The family is said to be running a jewellery shop in the city.



Rescue and relief work underway after a fire broke out in a building near Gulzar Houz in the Old City area of Hyderabad, on Sunday

"Now only two members of the family are left. I want to offer my condolences. I was informed by DG Fire Services that most of the deaths happened due to asphyxiation and fumes...let the report come, it is very painful," he said.

Hyderabad Police Commissioner C V Anand told PTI that most of the buildings, including the one that caught fire, at Gulzar Houz and surrounding areas are of 100 to 200 years old.

Telangana State Disaster Re-

sponse and Fire Services Director General Y Nagi Reddy, who inspected the spot, told reporters that the fire was reported between 6 and 6.15 am.

During the rescue operation, one Fire official was also injured and admitted to hospital.

There was a call to the fire department at 6.16 am and the fire engine was turned out at 6.17 am, he said.

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Bandhara work near Falнем sparks protests across villages

Residents fear the check dam could threaten their homes and the Zuari River ecosystem

GAURESH SATTARKAR

SANVORDEM: Reiterating their strong opposition to the controversial bandhara (check dam) project of the Water Resources Department (WRD), residents of Falnem and neighbouring villages have asserted that the project poses a serious threat to their homes and the ecosystem of the Zuari River. They have demanded an immediate halt to the construction.

Locals suspect that ongoing digging activity at Survey Nos. 26/8 and 26/5 in Mirabag is related to the construction of a pump



Locals suspect that the digging activity in Mirabag is related to the construction of a pump house for the bandhara

house for the bandhara.

Falнем lies along the banks of the Zuari River, known for its significant tidal flow. Villagers fear that disturbing this natural water movement could endanger their safety and

livelihoods. The potentially affected villages include Mugoli (Sanguem), Soliem (Curchorem), and Falнем and Mirabag (Sanvordem).

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MAX. TEMP 34.2 °C
MIN. TEMP 27.4 °C

idharudhar



I'm blacklisted, but meet the new contractor -- my son!

Dribbling their way into the future

Two Olympians and a school principal team up to revive hockey at the grassroots — starting with primary students of a Verna school, hoping to extend it across State



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VERNA: A group of Class 2 and 3 children dashed across the turf, hockey sticks in hand, their laughter filling the air as they played with abandon. There were a few tumbles, but they sprang back up, giggling — caught in the pure joy of movement. It looked like just another morning of schoolyard fun. But behind those carefree games lies a serious, heartfelt mission: to breathe life back into hockey in Goa.

At the centre of this grassroots revival is Fr Agnelo Gomes, principal of Fr Agnel Multipurpose Primary School in Verna. In November 2024, he approached former Olympians and Arjuna Awardees Joaquim Carvalho and Merwyn Fernandes with an idea: introduce hockey to children early — really early — by making it part of their physical education classes.

They embraced the vision wholeheartedly. "We believe in the philosophy of quantity leading to quality," said Joaquim Carvalho. "The more children we introduce to the game, the greater the chances of discovering and shaping future champions." The programme officially



(Centre) Fr Agnelo Gomes, principal of Fr Agnel Multipurpose Primary School in Verna with former Olympians and Arjuna Awardees Joaquim Carvalho (left) and Merwyn Fernandes. (right) Class 2 and 3 children enjoying the game

launched on February 23, 2025, at the Agnel Ashram Ground, with around 60 second and third-graders



picking up sticks for the first time. By integrating hockey into school hours, the initiative removes bar-

riers like after-school scheduling conflicts, giving every child a fair shot. The effort has received enthusiastic support from parents, many of whom signed their children up for the summer hockey camp. Custom kits — including lighter sticks, balls, jerseys, and shorts — were distributed to the children, making the sport accessible and fun. Over 500 sticks have already been provided, thanks to generous backing from philanthropists.

Fr Agnelo, while deeply proud of his school's recent win at the Under-17 Subroto Football Championship, feels hockey deserves equal, if not more, attention.

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