

Goa's first rains wash away govt's preparedness claims

From Panjim to Margao, flooded roads, choked drains, and disrupted lives reveal a system both unprepared and overwhelmed

Team Herald

PANJIM/MARGAO: Unseasonal pre-monsoon showers caught Goa by surprise on Tuesday, throwing normal life out of gear and laying bare the glaring gaps in the State government's claims of being monsoon-ready. The first major spell of rain brought with it widespread flooding, traffic disruptions and civic chaos — a sobering preview of what lies ahead as the actual monsoon season approaches.

Far from providing relief from the sweltering summer heat, the rains plunged several parts of the State into disarray, underscoring just how unprepared the administration is for even moderate rainfall.

In the capital city of Panjim, key areas such as Pattoo, Adil Shah Palace and Campal were flooded, with water stagnation causing major traffic snarls. Several roads turned into waterlogged stretches, stranding vehicles and inconveniencing commuters.

At Dabolim Airport, two flights had to be diverted due to bad weather and accessibility issues caused by traffic congestion. A Pune-Goa flight was re-routed to Hyderabad, while a Mumbai-Goa flight was diverted to Belgaum.

In Taleigao's Odxel village, homes were flooded with sludge after a hillside construction site



PICS: JOSEPH FERNANDES / MOHIT KHARANGATE



(Top) Cars navigate muddy streams beside ongoing elevated corridor work at Porvorim. (Above) Commuters brave treacherous conditions in Margao and (right) a scooterist is swept away by fast-flowing water at Khorli, Mapusa, on Tuesday commuters.



collapsed under accumulated rainwater. In Porvorim, ongoing work on the elevated corridor project worsened conditions, turning roads into muddy streams and bringing traffic to a crawl. Commuters were stuck for hours in a jam stretching from Guirim to Porvorim Tisk. Arambol witnessed water stagnation near Ga-

nesh Utsav Hall, with locals blaming the panchayat for poor drainage planning. In Pernem, overflowing drains pushed water onto the main roads, disrupting business and raising alarms over fragile civic infrastructure. "Look at the condition of Ganapati Hall. Who is responsible for this? Where is the MLA? No one cares

about the common people. Even the panchayat members haven't shown up," said Bharat Ghadi, a frustrated resident.

Another local, Suryakant Chodankar, pointed to specific lapses: "Drains weren't cleaned properly. In many places, they were choked with plastic waste."

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Astrophysicist Jayant Narlikar dies at 87

PTI, PUNE: Dr Jayant Vishnu Narlikar, one of the most distinguished astrophysicists who was globally acclaimed for co-developing the Hoyle-Narlikar theory of gravity — an alternative to Einstein's general relativity — and popularising science among common people, passed away in Pune on Tuesday. He was 86, family sources said.

A towering figure in Indian science, Dr Narlikar was widely known for his pioneering contributions to cosmology, his efforts to popularise science, and for setting up premier research institutions in the country.

He was also known for championing the steady-state theory of the universe, a bold counterpoint to the widely accepted Big Bang model.

According to family sources, Dr Narlikar died in his sleep early morning. Narlikar had recently undergone hip surgery in a city-based hospital. He is survived by three daughters.

Dr Narlikar's last rites will be conducted with full state honours on Wednesday, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis said.

Cont on Pg 11 >>

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF



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12/10/1957

DIED:
20/05/2025

FRANCISCO JOAO LOURDES DA CUNHA
ABU DHABI - MOIRA

LOVING HUSBAND OF HYACINTHA DA CUNHA
BELOVED FATHER / FATHER-IN-LAW OF LATE TYRA, TRACY / IRWIN CORDO, TRUDY / STANLEY CARVALHO.
LOVING SON OF LATE JOSEPH / LATE ROSY DA CUNHA
SON-IN-LAW OF LATE FLAVIANO / LATE ANASTASIA D'SOUZA.
BROTHER / BROTHER-IN-LAW OF LATE SEBASTIAN (SEBY) / ANCY DA CUNHA, JOEL / JAMILA DA CUNHA.
BROTHER-IN-LAW OF TONY D'SOUZA, IVO / MICHELLE D'SOUZA.
LOVING UNCLE OF SHAYNE, SHARON / JAKUB, SHADWELL, JUBAL, JONELLE, JARIUS, JOSETTE, ISAIAH, IAN.
DOTING GRANDFATHER TO OZIEL, OZANNE, ZARAIHA, ZEEV.

FUNERAL CORTEGE WILL LEAVE HIS RESIDENCE FROM BAMBORDEM, BEHIND MOIRA CLUB, ON THURSDAY, 22ND MAY 2025, AT 3:30 PM, TO OUR LADY OF IMMACULATE, CONCEPTION CHURCH, MOIRA FOR EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION, AT 4:00 PM, FOLLOWED BY BURIAL.

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