

## Chronic delays plague defence projects: IAF chief

### Says not a single project completed on time, emphasises need for future readiness

PTI, NEW DELHI: Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal A P Singh on Thursday flagged serious concerns over inordinate delays in implementation of various defence acquisition projects and pitched for addressing the issue even as he hailed Operation Sindoor as a 'national victory'.

In his first public comments following the four-day military clashes between India and Pakistan, the Air Chief Marshal said that "not a single project" has been completed on time.

He, however, did not provide specific details of the projects or made a reference of the period since when delays have been impacting the Indian Air Force (IAF).

The Chief of Air Staff said the Operation Sindoor has given the Indian armed forces a "clear idea" of where "we are headed and what we need in the future".

Lauding the armed forces as well as all agencies concerned for the success of Operation Sindoor, Air Chief Marshal Singh said: "We were taking the path of truth, I think, God was with us also in this."

**Timeliness is a big issue; that is where the 'vachan' (commitment) part comes in. Once a timeline is given.. not a single project that I can think of, has been completed on time. Why should we promise something which cannot be achieved? While signing the contract itself, sometimes, we are sure that it is not going to come up. But, we just sign the contract and see what can be done after that.. obviously then the process gets vitiated**

**— Air Chief Marshal A P Singh, Chief of Air Staff**



Under Operation Sindoor, the IAF played the leading role in destroying nine terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir early on May 7 under Operation Sindoor, in response to the dastardly Pahalgam

terror attack.

All subsequent retaliations to Pakistani offensives were carried out under this operation.

In his address, the IAF chief lamented the delays in implementation of defence projects. The IAF has been upset over huge delays by the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd in the delivery of Tejas light combat jets.

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## Railway may shift ore handling away from wildlife sanctuary

### Wildlife Board defers clearance; experts raise ecological concerns

Team Herald

MARGAO: The South Western Railway (SWR) has expressed openness to exploring an alternative site for its proposed iron ore handling operations at Kalem, amid mounting objections over the project's proximity to the Bhagwan Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park.

At the latest meeting of the Goa State Board for

Wildlife (SBWL), the proposal to permit loading, unloading, and transportation of iron ore at the Kalem railway yard came under scrutiny. Located within protected forest limits in Sanguem taluka, the site has raised significant environmental concerns, leading the Board to defer its decision on granting wildlife clearance.

Board members, including Chief Minister Pramod

Sawant, questioned whether the ore handling activities could be shifted approximately two kilometres away from Kalem village, to a location farther from the sanctuary's boundary. The suggestion aimed to reduce potential ecological disturbances to the sensitive forest zone.

Responding to this, the Additional General Manager of SWR stated: "This being a policy matter, if such a pro-

posal is received from the State government, it will be examined by the Railways and a decision will be communicated accordingly."

The railway's proposal involves using around 0.7616 hectares of land — comprising both the yard and access road — within the sanctuary limits. The move follows a directive issued by the High Court on February 5, 2024, instructing authorities to

assess the proposal on its merits after giving all stakeholders an opportunity to be heard. The court also called for a decision within four weeks.

In compliance with the court's order, the Chief Wildlife Warden asked SWR to apply for the necessary wildlife clearance before presenting the matter to the Board.

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## BJP summons state chief to Delhi to decide Gaude's fate

### Speculation rife about disciplinary action and cabinet reshuffle

Team Herald

PANJIM: Goa BJP president Damodar (Damu) Naik confirmed to O Herald that he has been summoned to Delhi on Thursday by the party's central leadership to discuss the fallout of Art & Culture Minister Govind Gaude's recent outburst against the Department of Tribal Welfare — a portfolio held by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant. "I will be meeting party leaders, including President J P Nadda," Naik said.

Naik had only just returned to Goa from Delhi on Thursday evening when he was urgently called back to the capital. "I landed at around 7:30 pm at Mopa airport, went home briefly, and within minutes received a

call asking me to return to Delhi. I'm now boarding a flight from Dabolim airport," he explained.

Naik has made it clear that disciplinary action against Gaude is on the table, despite the minister's attempt to shift the blame to the media for allegedly misrepresenting his remarks. However, a scheduled meeting between Naik and Gaude could not take place due to the state BJP chief's packed schedule.

There was intense activity at the BJP's state headquarters on Thursday, though both Chief Minister Sawant and Minister Gaude declined to respond to media queries on the issue.

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## IN LOVING MEMORY

*The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit* — Psalm 34:18

It is with deep shock, profound sorrow, and an overwhelming sense of loss that we announce the untimely passing of our beloved colleague, **MR ROSARIO MASCARENHAS**, who led our Accounts and Human Resources operations with distinction and dedication.

Mr Mascarenhas was more than a committed professional — he was a man of warmth, grace and unwavering integrity. With his genial nature, meticulous approach to work, and deep-rooted human values, he



earned the respect and affection of colleagues across all departments. In every sense, he embodied the ethos and spirit of Herald.

His absence leaves a void that words cannot fill. The Management and Staff of

O Herald extend our heartfelt condolences to Mr Mascarenhas' family and loved ones. We pray that the Lord grants them the strength to endure this immense and irreparable loss.

## O HERALDO



# GOA STATEHOOD DAY

विकास  
रास्त

## Greetings & Pleasant wishes on Goa's 39<sup>th</sup> Statehood Day

This is indeed a memorable day in the glorious political history of Goa, when the State became a full-fledged 25th State of the Indian Union.

On this historic occasion, let us remember and bow down to all the leaders and the intellectuals who have contributed towards the attainment of Statehood. It is certainly a successful struggle to protect our identity as Goans.

On this day, let us rededicate ourselves to create 'Swayampurna Goa' and pray for continued progress of our beautiful State.

### PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

- Declaring Goa as fully literate State under ULLHAS new India Literacy program
- Felicitation of "Iconic Brands of Goa"
- Display of Photo exhibition titled 'Goa - Then and Now' and rare photos related to Statehood
- Exhibition and sale of books published by Department of Art & Culture at Sanskruti Bhavan, Patto, Panaji
- Promo Launch of Web Series "Bharat Hai Hum - Goa Chapter"
- - Presentation of Ravindra Kelekar Konkani Bhasha Puraskar
- - Presentation of B.D. Satoskar Marathi Bhasha Puraskar
- Distribution of Sponsor Letter to Beneficiaries under CFF & Compassionate Scheme
- Felicitation of Best Practices in Governance & Best Performing Swayampurna Mitras

DATE

30<sup>th</sup> May, 2025 at 11:00 am

VENUE

Kala Academy, Campal, Panaji






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SWAYAMPURNA GOA