

FROM PAGE 1

**11 DEAD, 30 INJURED AS RCB'S PARTY ENDS IN STAMPEDE**

The men in uniform tried to use mild force to disperse the crowd or to at least bring some order but that did little to discourage people, many of whom could be seen pressed against the stadium's entrance gate, desperate to get in. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced that 11 had died and 33 were injured "due to stampede near Chinnaswamy Stadium."

"More than 2-3 lakh people came near Chinnaswamy Stadium, no one expected this crowd," Siddaramaiah said. "Most of deceased in RCB celebrations are youth. Government will provide Rs 10 lakh compensation to kin of deceased," he added, while declaring that there will be a magisterial inquiry into the incident.

The injured are being treated at the nearby Vydehi hospital and Bowering hospital.

"Crowd was uncontrollable, police was finding it difficult, so we had to stop procession," Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said while speaking about the tragedy because of which a planned victory parade could not take place. The BCCI said the turn of events was shocking and the organisers should have been better-prepared.

"It's most unfortunate, organisers should have planned RCB's IPL-winning celebrations better," BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia told PTI.

"When one organises a victory celebration of this magnitude, proper precautions and security measures need to be taken," he added.

Similar sentiments were expressed by IPL chairman Arun Dharmal, who said "Whatever inquiry that needs to be done, the concerned authorities will do that. It was not a BCCI event. It is sad and tragic."

The political slugfest also started soon enough with the opposition BJP targeting the Congress-led government for not handling the situation properly.

However, inside the Chinnaswamy, the show went on with players delivering speeches to acknowledge each other and the fans amid thumping music and bursting of firecrackers as well.

"It's for all of you - the fans, the people of this wonderful city, people who've supported RCB through thick and thin. I've never seen any fan base of any team in the world like this franchise," said Virat Kohli, who was the cynosure of all eyes after ticking another box in his illustrious career.

This was after the Rajat Patidar-led team landed in Bengaluru in the afternoon, received by Shivakumar at the airport. RCB defeated Punjab Kings by six runs in the IPL final at Ahmedabad on Tuesday to clinch their maiden title in 18 years. Patidar, like Kohli, also waxed eloquent about RCB's loyal fans, considered by many as the most passionate along side the ones who adore Chennai Super Kings.

"You all deserve the trophy. We all love you," Patidar said at the felicitation ceremony.

The scenes leading up to the tragedy reminded one of the historic welcome given to the T20 World Cup-winning Indian squad by Mumbai in July last year. However, while the sea of humanity had a gala time in Mumbai, things went haywire in the Garden City.

The much-anticipated open-top bus parade, which was allowed to proceed by Siddaramaiah from Vidhana Soudha

to the stadium, ultimately could not take place as crowd became unmanageable for the police. The Bengaluru Traffic Police had already discouraged such a plan citing the congestion on the route. At the Chinnaswamy stadium, fans jostled to sneak inside and it turned into a tragedy. Thousands were also seen waiting outside the Vidhana Soudha to cheer the players. The rainy weather in the city didn't help. The police had already endured a torrid time managing the crowd that flooded the streets to celebrate the triumph last night. In visuals shared online, Kohli could be seen holding the trophy and watching in awe, thousands who lined up the team's bus route, cheerfully waving at the convoy.

**ED ARRESTS ROHAN HARMALKAR IN 1000 CR GOA LAND GRAB CASE**

These properties — originally owned by individuals and family estates — were sold unlawfully without consent, causing significant financial and legal distress to the victims. The investigation revealed that Harmalkar was a key conspirator in orchestrating the forgery and manipulation of sale deeds for multiple properties. He also impersonated legitimate heirs, counterfeited government stamps, and used forged documents as genuine to unlawfully acquire land. Earlier, on April 24, 2025, the ED's search operations uncovered a large volume of incriminating property documents indicating manipulation of land records and fraudulent transfers of high-value plots spanning several lakh square meters in prime tourist locations such as Anjuna, Arpora, and Assagao in Bardes taluka. During the searches and subsequent investigation, Harmalkar had remained absconding.

**STATES TOLD TO RAMP UP COVID READINESS**

The meeting was held with representatives of Disaster Management Cell, Emergency Management Response (EMR) Cell, National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) and central government hospitals in Delhi and with representatives from all states and Union territories to evaluate the current Covid situation and preparedness measures.

According to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, India recorded nearly 300 fresh Covid cases in the last 24 hours, with the highest number of cases being reported from Kerala. Meanwhile, two more Covid-related deaths were recorded in the country over the last 24 hours, taking the total death tally to 7 for this year.

According to the sources, state and district surveillance units under IDSP are closely monitoring Influenza Like Illness (ILI) and Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI).

"Testing is recommended for all admitted SARI cases and 5 per cent of ILI cases as per guidelines and positive SARI samples are sent for Whole Genome Sequencing through the ICMR VRDL network," an official source said.

As of June 4, India reported 4,302 active cases, with an increase of 864 cases in the past 24 hours. The official sources said most cases are mild and managed under home care.

Since January 1, 44 deaths have been reported, primarily among individuals with pre-existing illnesses, they said. "States have been instructed to ensure availability of oxygen, isolation beds, ventilators, and essential medicines," the source said.

A mock drill assessing oxygen supply systems (PSA plants, LMO tanks, MGPS lines) was conducted on June 2. Facility-level preparedness mock drills are planned for Wednesday and Thursday.

The official sources advised people to practise hand hygiene, cough etiquette, and avoid crowded places when unwell and that individuals with acute respiratory illness should self-monitor and seek medical care if symptoms worsen.

**CJI QUESTIONS POST-RETIREMENT JOBS FOR JUDGES**

On the issue of corruption, the CJI said whenever these instances of corruption and misconduct have come to light, the Supreme Court has consistently taken immediate and appropriate measures to address the misconduct.

"Furthermore, every system, no matter how robust, is susceptible to issues of professional misconduct. Sadly, there have been instances of corruption and misconduct that have surfaced even within the judiciary. Such occurrences inevitably have a negative impact on public confidence, potentially eroding faith in the integrity of the system as a whole.

"However, the path to rebuilding this trust lies in the swift, decisive, and transparent action taken to address and resolve these issues. In India, when such instances have come to light, the Supreme Court has consistently taken immediate and appropriate measures to address the misconduct," the CJI said.

The CJI's remarks come in the backdrop of Allahabad High Court's Justice Yashwant Varma facing allegations of corruption after the discovery of a large amount of cash from his official residence in Delhi.

CJI Gawai said in every democracy, the judiciary must not only dispense justice, but also be seen as an institution that deserves to hold truth to power and the terms "judicial legitimacy" and "public confidence" are interconnected.

"Legitimacy and public confidence are not secured through coercion of command but through the credibility earned by courts. Any erosion of this confidence risks weakening the judiciary's constitutional role as the ultimate arbiter of rights. Transparency and accountability are democratic virtues," CJI Gawai said.

Dealing with the often debated issue of post-retirement jobs taken by judges, he said the timing and nature of such post-retirement engagements could undermine the public's trust in the judiciary's integrity, as it could create a perception that judicial decisions were influenced by the prospect of future government appointments or political involvement.

"Another point of discussion is post-retirement jobs taken by judges. In India, judges are subject to a fixed retirement age. If a judge takes up another appointment with the government immediately after retirement, or resigns from the bench to contest elections, it raises significant ethical concerns and invites public scrutiny," he said.

The CJI pointed out that a judge contesting an election for a political office can lead to doubts regarding the independence and impartiality of the judiciary, as it may be seen as a conflict of interest or as an attempt to gain favour with the government.

"In light of this, many of my colleagues and I have publicly pledged not to accept any post-retirement roles or positions from the government. This commitment is an effort to preserve the credibility and independence of the judiciary," CJI Gawai said.

He further emphasised that in this digital era, where information flows freely and perceptions are rapidly shaped, the judiciary must rise to the challenge of being accessible, intelligible, and answerable, without compromising its independence.

CJI Gawai highlighted the steps taken by the apex court in enhancing transparency and accessibility and said to bolster public confidence through transparency has been the volun-

tary disclosure of assets by the judges of the Supreme Court, promoting greater accountability and setting an example of ethical leadership.

"The Supreme Court has itself held that judges, as public functionaries, are accountable to the people. The court maintains a dedicated portal where judges' declarations are made public, demonstrating that judges are willing to subject themselves to a degree of scrutiny, similar to other civil functionaries," he said.

CJI Gawai added that to enhance public transparency, the Supreme Court of India also initiated live-streaming of its Constitution-bench cases.

"However, as with any powerful tool, live streaming must be wielded with care, as fake news or out-of-context court proceedings can negatively shape public perception. Only last week, one of my colleagues in a lighter vein counselled a junior counsel on the art of court craft and soft skills. Instead, his statement was taken out of context and reported in the media as, 'Our ego is very fragile; if you offend it, your case will go out,'" the CJI flagged.

CJI Gawai also justified the collegium system for appointment of judges in higher judiciary and pointed out that until 1993, it was the executive that had the final say in the appointment of judges to the Supreme Court and high courts.

"During this period, the executive twice superseded the senior-most judges in appointing the CJI, which went against established tradition," he said, adding the collegium system was meant to reduce executive interference and maintain the judiciary's autonomy in its appointments.

He said, "There may be criticisms of collegium system, but any solution must not come at the cost of judicial independence. Judges must be free from external control."

**NO U-TURN: TAXI UNIONS STAND FIRM AGAINST GOV'T APP PUSH**

Our families have been in this trade for generations. And now they want to shut us down."

Goes recalled a meeting held at Junta House, Panjim, in April, chaired by the Director of Transport. Representatives from taxi associations across Goa attended. "We were told there would be a presentation about cab aggregators," he said. "I asked — if I get a ride from Dabolim to Valpoi or Sattari, where there's no network, what do I do if I don't get a return trip? The director replied, 'Don't accept the ride. Cancel it. Switch off your phone.' Is that even a solution?"

Having worked with aggregator platforms himself, Goes said drivers lack even the most basic facilities. Goa currently has two app-based services — GoaMiles under the Transport Ministry, and GoaApp under the Tourism Department. "Now we're being forced onto these platforms — but those already on them are not having good experiences," he said. "When drivers get long-distance trips, where are they supposed to rest? What about food, toilets? Many stay on the roads for days. Tempers flare. We've had cases of drivers getting aggressive, even using abusive language — especially worrying when it comes to women passengers. This is the ground reality."

He added that while the Motor Vehicles Act allows the government to set tariffs — many operators follow the Goa Gazette rates — the sudden imposition of digital fare meters has added to the frustration. "In Mumbai, digital meters cost Rs 4,500. In Goa, it's Rs 11,650. They say the High Court mandated it — if so, why is it only enforced here? Why not across India?"

Goes also raised concerns about the revenue model. "They claim Rs 300 per ride, with Rs 20-Rs 30 as commission to the government. But this business is run by Goans. Yet when they held a meeting with tourism stakeholders — hoteliers, restaurant owners — they excluded us. Only aggregators were invited."

Pointing to what he sees as blatant bias, Goes concluded, "Now the Transport Minister says that if you join an aggregator, you don't need to install a digital fare meter. So what game is being played? And then they call us the mafia? This is not how people should be treated. This is not how business should be done."

**MAJORITY OF TAXI DRIVERS BACK APPS, CLAIM TRANSPORT SOURCES**

On June 2, some taxi unions urged drivers to file mass objections to the policy. Yet, sources familiar with the review process indicate that formal responses remained limited, with many drivers opting to suggest modifications rather than outright rejection. Proposals included restricting aggregator operations to pick-up and drop-off services, excluding traditional segments like sightseeing tours, weddings, and cruise transfers. Drivers also highlighted challenges such as unreliable mobile connectivity, limited smartphone access among peers, and the need for phased implementation to adapt to the changes. Other suggestions included periodic fare reviews to address fuel price hikes, incentives for electric vehicle adoption, and support for sustainable practices.

Even drivers who raised objections often provided constructive input. One submission stated, "While I support the government's efforts to regulate transport aggregators, addressing these concerns will ensure more effective and equitable guidelines." A DoT source added, "The responses vary, and not all are negative. Some drivers see technology as inevitable but want it implemented in a way that works for them."

Notified on May 20, the draft guidelines aim to regulate app-based taxi operations in Goa, emphasising fare transparency, service reliability, and digital integration. Public suggestions and objections will be accepted until June 19 as part of the consultation process.

While some political parties have backed taxi union protests, claiming the policy threatens livelihoods, officials stress that the review process remains inclusive. Every submission — whether supportive, critical, or suggestive — is being docu-

mented for consideration before finalising the policy. With two weeks left in the consultation period, the department expects more responses. Early feedback suggests that while concerns persist, opposition is not as widespread as portrayed, opening the door for dialogue to create a balanced framework that supports traditional livelihoods while enhancing Goa's transport services.

**FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY**  
In everlasting memory of  
**SEBASTIAO (SEBY) FURTADO**  
Deussua - Chinchinim  
Born: 27.07.1953 / Died 06.06.2024



There will be an Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of Sebastiao Furtado on 06.06.2025 (Tomorrow) at 8.00 a.m. at Our Lady of Hope Church, Chinchinim, followed by prayers and blessings at the grave. Offered by his sorrowful family. Relatives and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation. Costy's Ads, Chinchinim, Navelim, 9850473904

**FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY**  
In everloving memory of  
**FLAVIO HORMILIO PEREIRA NETO**  
(Mundivel, Vasco -Da- Gama)



There will be a Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved Flavio Hormilio Pereira Neto on Friday 6th June 2025 at 8.15 am at St. Andrews Church Vasco followed by prayers and blessing of the grave offered by his sorrowful wife Clara C. Neto and family. RELATIVES AND FRIENDS KINDLY ACCEPT THIS AS THE ONLY INTIMATION

**THIRD DEATH ANNIVERSARY**  
In everloving memory of  
**ANA MARIA GOES E GRACIAS**  
SARZORA / COLVA



We have an angel watching over us she is our mom. There will be an Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved MOTHER on 06.06.2025, Tomorrow at 8.00 am at Our Lady of Assumption Church, Sarzora, followed by prayers and blessing at the grave. Offered by her sorrowful children, grandchildren & great grandson. Relatives & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation. Costy's Ads, Chinchinim, Navelim, 9850473904

**MONTH'S MIND**  
In everloving memory of  
**SILVESTRE AGNESIO FERNANDES**  
(Chinchinim/Assolna)



One month have passed, yet your Absence looks like yesterday. Your memory continues to live in our Hearts and your love guides each day You are gone but never forgotten. There will be an Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved Silvestre on Friday (06/06/2025) at 8.15 a.m. at Regina Martyrum Church, Assolna followed by prayers at the grave. Offered by his loving wife: Vency Children Shaman and Stesha & family. Relatives, neighbours and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation. Costy's Ads, Chinchinim, Navelim 9850473904

**FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY**  
In Loving memory of  
**CATARINA SOUZA**  
- Molcornem -



"Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us everyday. Unseen, unheard but always near, still loved, still missed and held so dear." It's been a year you left us mama but not a day goes by that you're not in our hearts. "In Life we loved you dearly, in Death we love you still. In our hearts you hold a place, no one else will ever fill." You were the beautiful melody in the rhythm of our Lives, the music of your life lives on. Miss you lots mama, May God grant you eternal rest and may perpetual light shine upon you. Please join us for a Eucharistic Celebration for the precious soul of our Mother Catarina Souza at 8.00 a.m. on Friday, 6th June 2025 (Tomorrow) at Our Lady of Piety Chapel, Molcornem, followed by prayers and blessings at the grave, offered by her beloved husband: Paulo Dias, daughter / son-in-law: Ninoshka / Dailon, Shenell Dias and grandchild: Nailosha Caylee Fernandes. Relatives & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation. Grief4Less Advtg. & Funeral Service, Margao 982022154

**SECOND DEATH ANNIVERSARY**  
In everloving memory of



**ROLAND HILARY TIMOTHY COUTINHO**  
(Carrem - Socorro)

There will be a Eucharistic celebration for his soul on 06th June, 2025 (Tomorrow) at 8:30am at Our Lady of Succour Church, Socorro Porvorim, Goa. Followed by prayers at the grave, offered by his sorrowful family. Relatives and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

**LORD I AM COMING HOME**  
**CLAYTON SAVIO VALLADARES**  
(Proprietor Divine Medical Store)



BIRTH: 08-06-1976 DEATH: 02-06-2025  
"Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, Love leaves a memory no one can steal... Although we can't see you no more, you'll always and forever be in our hearts"

Beloved son of Late Agnelo (Ex Military Engineer) Bambina Valladares (Ex Principal of Sun Beam Nursery Belgaum), Beloved nephew of Late Philomena Valladares. Loving Son in law of Valeriano/Julia Soares. Dearest Husband of Nadia Valladares. Loving Father of Elrisha, Francena and Genive. Beloved Brother/brother in law of Donfred/Charlette Valladares (Kuwait), Rajesh/Brenhilda Soares (Singapore) Loving Uncle of Beverly, Aidan, Shanille, Sheadon  
Funeral cortege will leave his residence, Carl Centre Old Goa on Friday, 6th June 2025 at 3pm to Se Cathedral church, Old Goa for Eucharistic Celebration followed by burial.  
NO CONDOLENCE VISITS PLEASE

**RETURNED TO THE LORD**



Born 16/06/1964 Died 01/06/2025  
**ANTHONY MARCAL FERNANDES (TONY)**  
(Socol Vaddo, Ucassaim)

Son of late Inacio & late Matilda Fernandes. Loving Husband of Josleine Fernandes. Adorable Father of Venroy Fernandes. Brother / Brother-in-Law of late Maria Augusta / late Dominic, Moses / Flora and Joseph / Eliza. Funeral Cortege will leave his residence on Thursday, 05th June, 2025 (TODAY) at 4.00 p.m. to St. Elizabeth Church, Margao.  
Relatives, Friends & Neighbours kindly accept this as the only intimation. Empathy Ambassadors 9022290801 / 7558653211

**RETURNED TO THE LORD**



BORN: 14.1.1953 DIED: 4.6.2025  
**ARNALDO ROLANDO ANTONIO FERNANDES**  
- Carxetta / Navelim / Margao -

Beloved husband of late Luízinha Fernandes (Luiza). Loving father/ father-in-law of Alderico Fernandes/ Stansil Paes, Alancy/ Elviston Fernandes, Alrisha Fernandes/ Elton Baretto, Alshwini Fernandes/ German D Silva. Dearest grandfather of Staldrich Paes, Elric Baretto, Eliana Fernandes & Zayn D' Silva. Passed away peacefully.  
Funeral rites will be held at 4.30 p.m. on Friday, 6th June 2025 at Our Lady of Rosary Church, Navelim.  
Relatives and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.  
NO CONDOLENCE VISITS PLEASE.  
Contidant Advtg. & Funeral Services, Margao, Ph. 9823022194

**THIRD DEATH ANNIVERSARY**  
In everloving memory of our beloved  
**MENINO JOSEPH GOES**  
Condi, Quepem



September 23, 1943 - June 7, 2022  
Three years have passed, but your laughter still lives in every corner of our hearts. You were the soul of every gathering, loud, loving, and larger than life. We miss the way you'd light up a room and call each of us your pride. May your soul rest in peace, - forever remembered, forever loved.  
There will be an Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of MENINO on FRIDAY 6th JUNE 2025 at 8:00 am at HOLY CROSS CHURCH, QUEPEM, followed by prayers and blessing of the grave. Offered by his SORROWFUL FAMILY. Relatives, neighbours and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation. ART TRICKS 8390897800