

## HISTORY-SHEETERS FROM RAJASTHAN FINDING SAFE HAVEN IN GOA

Jodhpur Range IGP confirms three wanted criminals from Marwar were running businesses in Goa

BASURI DESAI

PANJIM: In a development that could have broader implications for inter-State law enforcement coordination, Rajasthan Police is preparing an official communication to send to Goa Police, urging them to closely monitor individuals from the Marwar region of western Rajasthan suspected of being involved in illegal narcotics and liquor trade.

This decision comes in the wake of the recent arrest of Bhagirath Ram, a fugitive narcotics smuggler who was on the run for seven years, but was recently apprehended in Goa.

Shockingly, he was found operating multiple licenced liquor shops in the State under his wife's name – an arrangement that has now drawn intense scrutiny from both States' authorities.

Speaking to **O Herald**, Inspector General of Police (Jodhpur Range) Vikas Kumar said, "This is the third arrest from Goa in recent times where a wanted crim-

### ON THE FOOTSTEPS OF A WANTED CRIMINAL

❖ The link of felons from Marwar with Goa came to light after the recent arrest in Goa of Bhagirath Ram, a fugitive narcotics smuggler who was on the run for seven years

❖ He was operating multiple licenced liquor shops in Goa under his wife's name

❖ Bhagirath would travel

frequently between Goa and Rajasthan, yet took calculated steps to avoid detection. He always travelled by bus, and never took a train, flight or a personal vehicle

❖ He has several associates in Goa actively involved in helping him set up business operations. This is the third such arrest in recent times

“This is the third arrest from Goa in recent times where a wanted criminal with an award to his name was found in Goa. We will prepare a report based on our observation and investigation and send it to Goa Police as the notorious criminals were not only taking shelter but were also exploring business prospects in Goa – Vikas Kumar, IGP (Jodhpur Range)

inal with an award to his name was found in Goa. We will prepare a report based on our observation and investigation and send it to Goa Police as the notorious criminals were not only taking shelter but were also exploring business prospects in Goa.”

Kumar acknowledged that there is currently no direct evidence that Bhagirath or his associates were involved in smuggling narcotics or liquor into Goa, but he emphasised that patterns of behaviour and movement raises

red flags.

“There is no direct evidence as yet that the arrested accused is involved in any smuggling of narcotics or liquor to Goa but circumstances and pattern forced them to assume that they have some links in smuggling in Goa,” he said.

According to the investigation, Bhagirath would travel frequently between Goa and Rajasthan, yet took calculated steps to avoid detection.

“Bhagirath was absconding for seven years and

would travel every other month from Goa to Rajasthan and back by bus. The accused never used to choose train, air or personal vehicles,” IGP Kumar revealed, highlighting the strategic use of public transportation likely aimed at evading tracking systems.

Kumar stressed that while there is no concrete evidence to confirm illicit trade links between the two states, the investigative indicators suggest otherwise.

Cont on Pg 11 >>

## PULWAMA ECHOES IN STILL WATERS



A Shikarawala near parked Shikaras at Dal Lake as Kashmir continues to see low footfall of tourists, in Srinagar, on Thursday

## Bengaluru stampede: FIR against RCB, KSCA for ‘criminal negligence’

PTI, BENGALURU: An FIR was registered against RCB, Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA), and others under various charges including culpable homicide not amounting to

ment for inquiry.

The case was registered under sections 105 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), 115 (Voluntarily causing hurt), 118 (voluntarily

### KARNATAKA CM ORDERS MAGISTERIAL PROBE, SUSPENDS TOP COPS

PTI, BENGALURU: Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday ordered the suspension of Bengaluru police commissioner B Dayananda and several senior police officials in connection with the stampede in front of Chinnaswamy Stadium here, which left 11 people dead.

He also ordered the arrest of representatives of RCB, DNA entertainment private limited and Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA), while handing over the probe to the one-man judicial commission headed by retired High Court judge of Karnataka Justice Michael Cunha.

The stampede occurred on Wednesday evening in front of the stadium, where a large number of people thronged to participate in the RCB team's IPL victory celebrations.

Cont on Pg 11 >>



Bereaved family members of Divyanshi, a victim of the stampede near the Chinnaswamy Cricket Stadium, at her residence, in Bengaluru, on Thursday

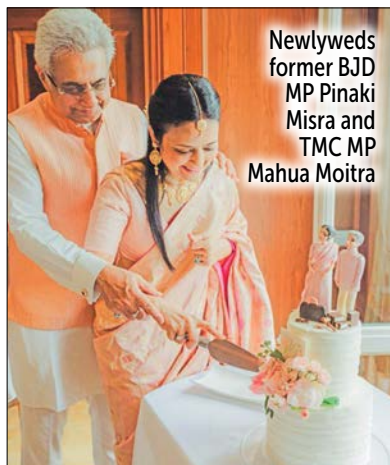
Franchise has been listed as accused 1, DNA entertainment private limited as accused 2 and Karnataka State Cricket Association Administrative Committee as accused 3, they said.

The case has been transferred to the criminal investigation depart-

force to deter a public servant from discharging their duty) and 125(12) (acts endangering life or personal safety of others) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

Cont on Pg 11 >>

## TMC MP Mahua Moitra marries BJD's Pinaki Misra in Germany



Newlyweds former BJD MP Pinaki Misra and TMC MP Mahua Moitra

PTI, NEW DELHI: Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Mahua Moitra has married senior advocate and former BJD MP Pinaki Misra in Germany.

On Thursday evening, Moitra (50) posted a photograph on X which showed her and Misra (65) cutting a cake with the message, "Thank you everyone for the love and good wishes!! So grateful."

TMC leaders congratulated Moitra and Misra on social media.

Cont on Pg 11 >>

## Active Covid case tally nears 5,000

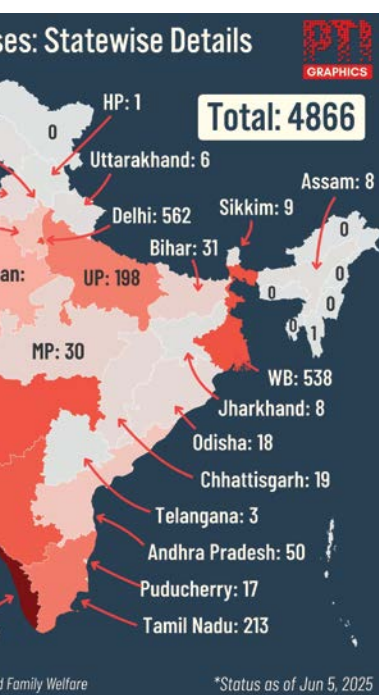
India reports 7 deaths in 24 hours

AGENCIES, NEW DELHI: India recorded 4,866 active Covid-19 cases as of June 5, with seven deaths reported in the last 24 hours, according to the latest data from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Among states, Kerala had the highest caseload at 1,487, followed by Delhi and West Bengal with 562 and 538 cases respectively.

Maharashtra (526), Gujarat (508) and Karnataka (436) are the other states to cross the 400 active cases mark. These six states currently account for 83 per cent of India's total active infections.

Of the seven deaths, three were reported from Maharashtra and two each from Delhi and Karna-



taka. All patients also had other conditions such as pneumonia and heart disease.

Cont on Pg 11 >>

## Pakistan national residing in Goa moves SC against visa revocation

You go back, says SC; but petitioner was born in India, says his counsel

PTI, NEW DELHI: A Pakistani national residing in Goa since 2016 on long-term visa on Thursday moved the Supreme Court in wake of the Centre's notification revoking the visas of Pakistani nationals following the Pahalagam terror attack.

Following the attack, the Centre issued a notification revoking the visas granted to Pakistani nationals except for those mentioned

in the communication and gave a specific timeline for their deportation.

The Pakistani national's counsel on Thursday mentioned the matter before a bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and Satish Chandra Sharma for urgent listing.

"This is a matter of a Pakistani national residing in Goa since 2016 on long-term visa. After the Pahalagam attack, there is a notification issued by the

Government of India," the counsel said.

"You go back," the bench said.

The counsel said the petitioner would go back but he may be heard as there was a specific condition in the long-term visa.

The bench was informed that the petitioner was born in India.

The top court, however, inquired with the counsel why his client hadn't moved

the jurisdictional high court.

The counsel responded saying the police came to the petitioner following which the court said the matter would be listed for hearing.

In a separate matter, the apex court on May 2 directed the authorities not to deport six members of a family to Pakistan, for allegedly overstaying their visas, till their citizenship claim was verified.

MAX. TEMP 32°C  
MIN. TEMP 24°C

idharudhar



You lost the trophy, but saved my government – thanks!

## Plastic ban in Goa is just on paper

Despite laws and lofty speeches, single-use plastic continues to choke Goa's streets, markets, and beaches

Team Herald

PANJIM: As Goa marks World Environment Day, with a global focus on reducing plastic usage, the ground reality across the State starkly contradicts the rhetoric. Plastic bags and waste continue to blight roadsides, beaches and water bodies, revealing a worrying disconnect between policy and practice.

Goa was among the early adopters of a ban on plastic bags below 40 microns. However, that ban exists more in legislation than in everyday life. Despite repeated assurances by ministers and elected representatives, enforcement remains lax. A visit to local markets is enough to witness the widespread flouting of the law —



plastic carry bags are still routinely handed out, especially in the bustling CCP Market, Panjim.

Even the presence of a tailor at the CCP Market, offering cloth bags as alternatives, has done little to change

consumer behaviour. "Customers often come empty-handed and refuse to buy if we don't give them plastic bags," said a vegetable vendor. "Only a few bring their own. People don't understand how harmful plastic is."



(Above) Caranzalem beach littered with plastic waste. (Left) Rampant use of plastic bags by vendors as well as customers continues at CCP market, Panjim

Overflowing dustbins filled with plastic bags at the market underline the lack of serious enforcement. This is despite claims by CCP officials that bags below 40 microns are banned and that regular inspections are carried out.

Outside the markets, the situation is no better. In Caranzalem, plastic waste has inundated the beachside.

According to a clean-up contractor, nearly 700 to 800 tonnes of garbage were collected from the area following recent heavy rains. The waste included plastic bags, bottles, glass, and even religious offerings such as flowers — clear signs of public apathy and institutional neglect.

Cont on Pg 11 >>