

## GMC DOCTORS KEEP THE HEAT ON DESPITE RANE'S APOLOGY

CM assures such incidents won't recur after meeting with GMC representatives

**“The doctors of GMC strongly condemn the verbal abuse of our colleague... What happened was a deeply hurtful event for doctors in the State and beyond. We have also submitted a request to the Dean of GMC to file an FIR against the person who filmed and photographed the incident within the campus, which is against Supreme Court rulings**  
— Dr Pratik Sawant, former GARD President

Team Herald

PANJIM: The firestorm sparked by Health Minister Vishwajit Rane's verbal outburst on Saturday against a senior doctor at Goa Medical College (GMC) refused to die down on Monday, with doctors at the institution staging a protest de-

manding a public apology from Rane.

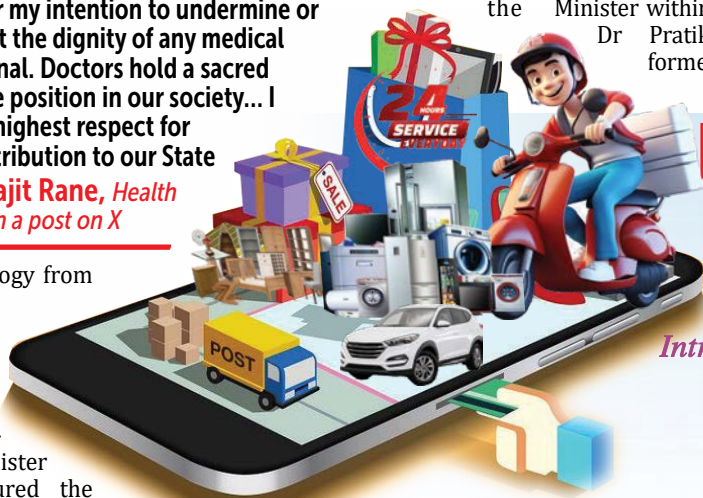
The minister took to X during the day to express his regret, but the doctors refused to budge and on Monday evening, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant assured the GMC team that such incidents

**“In the heat of the moment, my emotions overtook my expression, and I deeply regret the manner in which I addressed the situation. It was never my intention to undermine or disrespect the dignity of any medical professional. Doctors hold a sacred and noble position in our society... I hold the highest respect for their contribution to our State**  
— Vishwajit Rane, Health Minister, in a post on X

— Vishwajit Rane, Health Minister, in a post on X

Resident Doctors (GARD) gathered in front of the Dean's office to demand a public apology from the Minister within 24 hours. Dr Pratik Sawant, former GARD

ly condemn the verbal abuse of our colleague, which occurred in the Emergency Medicine and Trauma Department on Saturday. What happened was a deeply hurtful event for



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Doctors gather outside the Dean's office to demand a public apology from the Minister inside the GMC complex, on Monday

wouldn't recur and he would visit the hospital on Tuesday.

On Saturday, Rane had walked into the GMC casualty ward and reprimanded Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Rudresh Kuttikar in full public view — a moment that was captured on video and has since gone viral across the country.

Dr Kuttikar and GMC Dean Dr Shivanand Bandekar met the CM on Monday evening.

Earlier in the day, resident doctors and interns under the banner of Goa Association of

president, addressed the media, saying the protest represented the entire medical community — students, residents, consultants and faculty. He stressed that the issue was not about one individual but about safeguarding the dignity of all healthcare professionals in Goa.

“The doctors of GMC strong-

doctors in the state and beyond. We have also submitted a request to the Dean of GMC to file an FIR against the person who filmed and photographed the incident within the campus, which is against Supreme Court rulings,” Dr Pratik Sawant said.

Cont on Pg 11 >>

## Calls grow to move Old Goa police station from heritage zone

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Save Old Goa Action Committee has strongly objected to the proposed construction of a new three-storey police station building in Old Goa, citing violations of heritage protection norms and concerns about increased traffic and damage to the historic site.

In a formal letter addressed to Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, the committee stated that the proposed site lies within the buffer zone of a UNESCO World Heritage site, where construction is prohibited under the rules of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

The group warned that the functioning of a major police station in the area would lead to a substantial rise in vehicular traffic, which could have a detrimental impact on the surrounding heritage monuments.

Committee members also pointed out that during the tenure of former Chief Minister late Manohar Parrikar, a suitable parcel of land in Old Goa had already been acquired specifically for the construction of a police station. They urged the government to revisit that plan and utilise the previously earmarked location.

“The Old Goa police station covers a vast jurisdiction covering two Assembly constituencies, from St Cruz to Cumbarjua,” the committee said.

**“The government is planning to construct a three-storey police station in a world heritage-protected area. We oppose this plan because it will increase traffic in the locality**

— Evaristo Rodrigues, Save Old Goa Action Committee

**“Old Goa is a UNESCO site. Allowing this police station could set a precedent for other high-rise constructions. There are alternatives, such as building a police outpost in Ribandar**

— Jacqueline Fernandes, local resident

“Surely, it is possible to find an appropriate location for the new police building without endangering the integrity of Old Goa's irreplaceable heritage.”

On Monday, members of the committee gathered at Azad Maidan in Panjim to raise public awareness about the issue and voice their protest against the government's proposal.

Speaking to the media, committee member Evaristo Rodrigues said, “The government is planning to construct a three-storey police station in a world heritage-protected area. We oppose this plan because it will increase traffic in the locality.”

Cont on Pg 11 >>

## 4 dead after falling off local trains near Mumbai

PTI, MUMBAI/NEW DELHI: Four commuters died and nine were injured after falling off two overcrowded local trains in Maharashtra's Thane district during the morning rush hour on Monday, officials said.

The incident occurred near Mumbra railway station when the trains were passing each other on a steep turn.

Chief Public Relations Officer of the Central Railway, Swapnil Nila, said the victims were travelling on the footboard of the two trains.

Cont on Pg 11 >>

## Internet row: Govt to relook order if ISPs pay Rs 3 crore

High Court hearing deferred to June 10

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Electricity Department has informed the High Court of Bombay at Goa that it is willing to re-examine its contentious order demanding Rs 12.6 crore in penalties and infrastructure usage charges from internet service providers (ISPs), provided they deposit Rs 3 crore plus 18% GST as an initial payment.

This assurance was given by Advocate General Devidas Pangam during the hearing of a writ petition filed by M/s Edgcom Telecommunications Private

Limited. The petitioner, represented through its director Mahadev Govekar, challenged the February 17, 2025 order issued by the department's executive engineer, Land Acquisition Cell.

The order in question had directed five ISPs and cable operators to pay penalties and charges for stringing their cables under the Goa Telecom Infrastructure Policy. The total amount demanded from all five operators was Rs 12.6 crore.

The petitioner contended that the department's action was arbitrary and

in violation of the “Right of Way” rules under the Indian Telegraph Act. It was further argued that no opportunity was given to the ISPs to be heard before the order was passed, thereby denying them principles of natural justice.

Senior Advocate Subodh Kantak, appearing for the petitioners, sought time to make an appropriate statement before the court in light of the department's conditional offer.

Following the submissions, the High Court adjourned the matter for further hearing to Tuesday, June 10.

## MEGHALAYA HONEYMOON HORROR

### Missing wife held for murder of husband

Autopsy report reveals two sharp cuts on the head of the deceased

AGENCIES, SHILLONG/ GHAZIPUR/ INDORE: A young couple's honeymoon to the misty hills of Meghalaya ended in a brutal murder, a cross-country man-hunt and a community in shock, after police alleged that 24-year-old Sonam Raghuvanshi from Indore orchestrated the killing of her husband, Raja Raghuvanshi, just twelve days after their wedding.

Raja, 26, was found dead in a deep gorge near Weisawdong Falls in Meghalaya's East Khasi Hills district on June 2, ten days after the couple was reported missing. The couple, who had married on May 11, had travelled to the state's Sohra



Sonam Raghuvanshi, being brought for medical examination at a hospital, in Ghazipur, on Monday region for their honeymoon. They were last seen on May 23, the day they checked out of a homestay in Nongriat

village, located about 20 km from where the body was later discovered.

Meghalaya Director General of Police I Nongrang on Monday confirmed Sonam's arrest, calling it a breakthrough in a case that had prompted a manhunt across Meghalaya, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh.

According to East Khasi Hills Superintendent of Police Vivek Syiem, Sonam allegedly hired four men to execute the murder. Three of them — Akash Rajput (19) from Lalitpur (Uttar Pradesh), Vishal Singh Chauhan (22), and Raj Singh Kushwaha (21), both from Indore — were apprehended in overnight raids.

Cont on Pg 11 >>

## Portugal win Nations League crown

AP, MUNICH: Cristiano Ronaldo hoisted up the Nations League trophy and “We Are The Champions” rang around the stadium after Portugal defeated Spain 5-3 in a penalty shootout in Munich on Sunday.

Portugal goalkeeper Diogo Costa saved Alvaro Morata's fourth penalty for Spain, then Rúben Neves converted his team's fifth to seal the win after their match finished 2-2 after extra time.

Morata was the only player to miss after seeing every player score their spot kicks before him. He was inconsolable.

More on Pg 14 >>

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