GOA, SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 2025

voice of goa

Total Cost: Rs 56 crore

Rs 23 crore for the STP

Rs 33 crore for the 11-kilo-

metre sewerage network

Commercial: Rs 1.5 lakh ·

Monthly sewerage fees:

Commercial users: 50%

Domestic users: 35% of

be connected to the STP

Five-year maintenance

contract: Planned by the

Sewerage Infrastructure

Goa Ltd (SIDCGL)

Network expansion:

Possible extension to

Benaulim constituency if

capacity is underutilised

the government's resolve to en-

force connections wherever the

sewerage facility is available,

adding, "People must take the

Development Corporation of

Sulabh toilets in the village to

Connection charges:

Apartments: Rs 3,000

of the water bill

the water bill

Domestic: Rs 5,000

Rs 2 lakh

Connect to sewage network or face water cut-off: CM to Colvekars **PROJECT INVESTMENT**

Team Herald

MARGAO: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has set a March 31 deadline for all commercial establishments and households in Colva to connect to the newly commissioned 7.5 million litres per day (MLD) Sewage Treatment Plant (STP). Failure to meet this deadline will result in the disconnection of water supply, the CM warned during the plant's inauguration on Thursday. Sawant emphasised the importance of compliance, stating that the government has invested Rs 56 crore in the project, which includes Rs 23 crore for the STP and Rs 33 crore for an 11-kilometre sewerage network.

The plant currently operates with 19 domestic connections, while 35 commercial connections are in progress. The charges for connections range from Rs 5,000 for domestic users to Rs 1.5 lakh-Rs 2 lakh for commercial establishments. Apartments are charged Rs 3,000. Monthly sewerage fees will be 50% of the water bill for commercial users and 35% for domestic users, requiring only a copy of the water bill to apply. Sawant also announced



For years, sewage from homes, shacks and commercial establishments has been contaminating the Colva Creek, which in turn flows into the sea, making the Colva beach stretch amongst the most polluted on the Goa coast. (file pic)

that treated water from the STP would be provided free of charge for gardening and user response. construction purposes if users arrange their own transportation. Responding to concerns from Environment Minister Aleixo Sequeira about the absence of tapping points for hotels, Sawant directed officials

fee for treated water may be introduced later, depending on The Chief Minister instruct-

ed the Sewerage Infrastructure Development Corporation of Goa Ltd (SIDCGL) to connect the Sulabh toilets in Colva to the STP and revealed plans to appoint a contractor for the to install these facilities to enfacility's maintenance for the connections by the set deadline able easier access. A minimal next five years. He reiterated or face water disconnections."

TIDAL TANGO

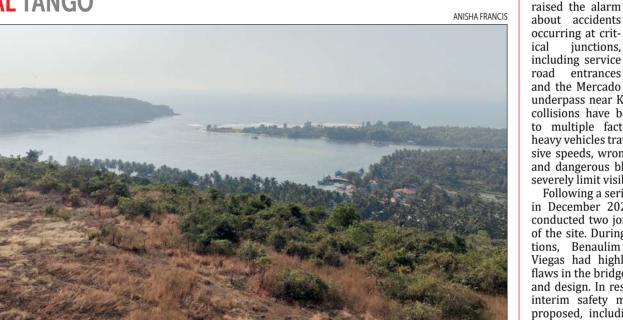
'Nyaya Yatra' launched to promote legal awareness in S Goa



Team Herald

MARGAO: "It is our duty to ensure that justice reaches the most marginalised sections of society," said Adv Sangram Desai, Chairman of the Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa, while launching the Nyaya Yatra - Journey to Justice, an innovative initiative by GR. Kare College of Law, Margao. The project is a collaborative ef-

The confluence of River Sal and the Arabian Sea makes for a breathtaking view from the Betul Lighthouse. At low tide, the submerged sandbar, a notorious obstacle for Cutbona fishermen, becomes visible just beneath the surface



Three weeks on, Benaulim's crash-prone Western Bypass still awaits safety measures



ments that were recommended included the installation of convex mirrors, functional streetlights, and rumbler strips at strategic locations. South Goa Deputy Superintendent of Police (DvSP)

Citizens and Improvements that were commuters have recommended included the installation of convex about accidents mirrors, functional streetjunctions, lights, and rumbler strips at strategic locations

road entrances and the Mercado underpass near Khareband. The collisions have been attributed to multiple factors, including heavy vehicles traveling at exces-

just before Christmas last year.

The mishaps have highlighted

persistent design and safety is-

sues that were first identified

during official inspections in De-

cember 2024.

sive speeds, wrong-way drivers, and dangerous blind turns that severely limit visibility.

Following a series of accidents in December 2024, authorities conducted two joint inspections of the site. During these inspections, Benaulim MLA Venzy Viegas had highlighted critical flaws in the bridge's engineering and design. In response, several interim safety measures were proposed, including the installation of temporary barricades and construction of substantial speed breakers to regulate traffic at high-risk junctions.

safety improve-Additional



(Traffic) Rajendra Prabhu-

O HERALDO

desai had also emphasised the need for proper signage and improved speed ers.

breaknoting several potentially hazardous areas along the

bypass. The safety concerns were in-

itially raised during the first inspection, but the measures were postponed to accommodate increased traffic flow during the Christmas season.

With several accidents already reported in the first few weeks of January 2025, the situation paints a grim picture of what could unfold in the months ahead if immediate action is not taken.

Local residents lament that those who have met with accidents here have sustained serious injuries and stress that the government should not wait for another major accident to occur before addressing these concerns on priority.

6 Goan students rank 'Best in India' at computational thinking contest

When asked about the STP's

capacity to serve the entire Be-

naulim constituency, Sawant

clarified that it was primarily

built to cater to Colva. However,

he said, "If capacity remains underutilised, we will consider ex-

panding the sewerage network

Highlighting Goa's progress

in waste management, Sawant

said the State will soon be-

come the first in India to treat

all forms of waste, including

sewage, garbage, biomedical

waste, e-waste, and hazardous

waste. Goa already has several

waste management facilities,

and more sewage treatment

plants are planned along the

coastal belt from Calangute to

Canacona, where high water ta-

bles make traditional soak pits

ineffective. "With public coop-

eration, we can make Goa clean

The Chief Minister stressed

the importance of ensuring

optimal utilisation of the Colva

STP, noting that any decisions

to expand the network would

depend on demand and avail-

able capacity. This approach,

he said, aims to balance infra-

structure development with

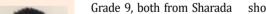
environmental sustainability in

Goa's coastal areas.

and green," he added.

to additional areas."

that of the total participants,



fort with the South Goa District Legal Services Authority and the Konkan Railway Corporation.

The Nyaya Yatra was inaugurated at the Margao Konkan Railway Station in the presence of several dignitaries, including Sarika Faldessai, Judicial Officer and Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority: Adv Pravin Faldessai, Deputy Solicitor General of India; Nitin Kunkolienkar, President of VVM; Adv Pritam Morais, Co-Chairman of the Law College Governing Council; DYSP Sidhanth Shirodkar; Dr Maria Goretti Morais, Officiating Principal He also pledged the Bar Council's support for any legal awareness campaign and encouraged law students to partner with the council to create a legally

of GR. Kare College of Law;

Adv Prasad Naik, President

of the South Goa Advocates

Association; and Ganesh

Samant, Senior Regional

Traffic Manager of Konkan

Adv Sangram Desai high-

lighted the importance

of citizens performing

their constitutional duties, noting that fulfilling

duties reduces the need to focus solely on rights.

Railway.

aware society. Adv Pravin Faldessai commended GR. Kare College for its innovative approach to spreading legal awareness, while Nitin Kunkolienkar reaffirmed the institution's commitment to empowering citizens through legal education. Dr Maria Goretti Morais outlined the objectives of

the Nyaya Yatra, empha-

sising its role in promoting

legal literacy.

MARGAO: Goan students achieved remarkable success in the 2025 Bebras India Computational Thinking Challenge, with six students securing National Rank 1 and twelve earning "Best in

State" titles across English, Hindi, and Marathi languages. The competition saw massive participation with over 16,000 Goan students, marking their strongest performance in four years of participating in this international computational thinking challenge.

Team Herald

The State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) Goa announced from St. Theresa's High

8,912 students completed the challenge, demonstrating the growing enthusiasm and interest in computational thinking among young learners in the state. The students who achieved the "Best in India" ranking represent various schools across Goa, showing the widespread excellence in computational thinking across the region. Anubhav Parab and Trisha Gaude, both from Grade 5, represented G. S. Amonkar Vidva Mandir, Mapusa in Bardez and Sharada Eng High School Marcela in Ponda respectively. Grade 6 winners included Aahan Borkar



Sai Pranav Gandhi Saaket Amonkar

School Candolim in Bardez jim. From the higher grades, and David De Sa from The Rosary High School in Pan-

Saaket Amonkar of Grade 7 and Sai Pranav Gandhi of

Trisha Gaude

Mandir School, Panjim, se-

cured top positions. The Bebras India Challenge, organised by ACM India's CSpathshala initiative, is designed to introduce students aged 8-18 to fundamental concepts of computational thinking through engaging and thought-provoking problems. The challenge specifically aims to foster problem-solving skills, logical reasoning, and algorithmic thinking among participants, making it a comprehensive test of students' computational abilities.

students, their teachers, and school administrators. As the premier institution responsible for developing and implementing educational policies and programs in the state, SCERT Goa remains committed to promoting computational thinking as an essential 21st-century skill. The council has pledged to continue supporting initiatives that encourage students to explore the world of computing, while maintaining its focus on enhancing the quality of education and fostering innovation in teaching and learning practices throughout the State.

MAX. TEMP 34.6 °C **MIN. TEMP** 23.2 °C

idharudhar



For a Goa package, what's your annual income?

MARGAO: The Global Romi Lipi Abhiyan (GRLA), a newly formed group advocating for the inclusion of the Roman Konkani script in the Official Language Act, was formally registered under the Societies Act, 1860, on Opinion Poll Day. Announcing its launch, the group highlighted its mission to unite Konkani speakers and associations worldwide to combat the marginalisation of non-Devanagri scripts.

Team Herald

"On this historic day, when Goans commemorate the fight to retain their identity, we call on all Goans to rise in solidarity with the Roman script movement," said Kennedy Afonso, the group's president, while addressing media persons in Margao on Friday.

It may be recalled that Afonso was the former Pres-



ident of the Goa Konknni Forum (GKF) that had taken up the same cause but he had recently resigned from his post, which was accepted by GKF. With GKF splitting and the new group, which includes members from GKF, being formed, the Romi activists asserted that the spirit and motive remains the same.

group's intention, GRLA said the need for their movement

While Devanagri script users account for only 12% of Konkani speakers, they dominate the Sahitya Akademi Advisory Board and have exclusive recognition under the Official Language Act of 1987, according to the newly-formed Global Romi Lipi Abhiyan . The remaining 83% of Konkani speakers-using Roman, Kannada, Malayalam, and Perso-Arabic scripts—are excluded, the activists allege.

gri scripts. While Devanagri Abhiyan was formed-to em-

script users account for only 12% of Konkani speakers, they dominate the Sahitya Akademi Advisory Board and have exclusive recognition under the Official Language Act of 1987. The remaining 83% of Konkani speakers—using Roman, Kannada, Malayalam, and Perso-Arabic scripts—are excluded. "The rich diversity of Konkani cannot survive with-

brace all Konkani lovers and fight for the Roman script's rightful place," Afonso added. The group's leadership team comprises Vice President Joaquim Faleiro, Secretary Michael Jude Gracias, Treasurer Ansh Bandekar, and 12 other executive members. GRLA announced plans to push for an amendment to the Official Language Act during the Goa Assembly session on February 6, 2025, to permit Roman script as an option for teaching Konkani in schools. The group extended an open invitation to all politi-

cal parties and their members

to join the cause, emphasizing

The group also addressed

the challenges they faced in

the past, including resistance

and division within their pre-

vious organization. Despite

these setbacks, GRLA reiterat-

that GRLA is apolitical.

ed its determination to bring all Konkani lovers together under one inclusive platform. "We urge every Goan to stand with us in correcting the injustice done to the Roman script in 1987. Together, we can secure its rightful place in the Official Language Act," Afonso said.

GRLA also highlighted its efforts to foster unity among Konkani speakers, citing a meeting with three prominent Mangaluru-based Konkani associations-Maand Sobhann, Poetica, and Karnataka Lekhak Sangh. According to the group, this collaboration was aimed at organizing the first-ever Maha Sabha in Goa, a historic event that would bring together all five Konkani scripts-Roman, Devnagri, Kannada, Malayalam, and Perso-Arabic-on one platform to discuss the future of the language.

Speaking about the new arose from systemic discrim- out uniting all its scripts. This ination against non-Devana- is why the Global Romi Lipi

SCERT Goa has expressed its appreciation for the hard work and dedication New Romi Konkani script movement emerges to correct 'historic injustices'