

Unfinished work on Western bypass gives nightmares to Benaulim farmers

MARGAO: As the monsoon looms closer, 22 families dedicated to paddy cultivation near the ongoing construction site of the Western bypass in Benaulim have grown anxious. Their concerns center on the unfinished state of the works, leaving them vulnerable to potential flooding.

Farmers speaking to O Herald expressed their distress over significant losses and hardships inflicted by the flooding. Their grievances highlighted the inadequacy of culverts constructed in the area, which they believe will scarcely facilitate the flow of rainwater into the river.

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Sushil Kumar Modi passes away

PTI, PATNA: Former Bihar Deputy Chief Minister



and senior BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi passed away at the age of 72 on Monday.

Sushil Kumar Modi had in April this year revealed that he was suffering from cancer and that he would not contest the 2024 Lok Sabha elections due to his health condition.

The mortal remains of the former Rajya Sabha MP will be brought to his residence in Patna's Rajendra Nagar area tomorrow (May 14) and last rites will be performed later in the day.

High Court sets aside order of Additional Collector at Ponda

PANJIM: Holding that the Taluka Mamlatdars have jurisdiction to grant any temporary relief under the Mamlatdar's Court Act, the High Court of Bombay at Goa quashed and set aside the order of the Additional Collector at Ponda.

The petitioners had filed a writ petition challenging the Additional Collector's impugned judgement.

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Nearly 63% turnout recorded during 4th phase of Lok Sabha polls

West Bengal recorded an impressive 75.94 voting percentage, the highest among States/UTs in this phase; Srinagar witnessed 36.58 per cent voting, 'highest turnout in decades'

PTI, NEW DELHI: A voter turnout of nearly 63 per cent was recorded on Monday in the fourth phase of the Lok Sabha elections covering 96 constituencies spread over 10 states and Union Territories, with scattered incidents of violence reported in West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh.

West Bengal again recorded an impressive turnout at 75.94 per cent, the highest among states/UTs in this phase.

Srinagar constituency in Jammu and Kashmir witnessed 36.58 per cent voting in the first Lok Sabha election in the Valley since the scrapping of Article 370, with the EC stating that it was the "highest turnout in decades".

"Polling in the fourth phase of General Elections 2024 recorded an approximate voter turnout of 62.84 per cent till 8 pm. Polling was closed at 6 pm, but a large number of voters were still in the queue at polling stations," the Election Commission said in a statement, adding that these were "provisional" figures and were being updated.

Among other states, Andhra Pradesh recorded 68.12 per cent poll-



Security personnel stand guard as people wait in a queue to cast their votes at a polling station during the fourth phase of Lok Sabha elections at Fokeer Gujri on the outskirts of Srinagar, on Monday



ing, Bihar 55.90 per cent, Jharkhand 63.37 per cent, Madhya Pradesh 68.63 per cent, Maharashtra 52.75 per cent, Odisha 63.85 per cent, Telangana 61.39 per cent and Uttar Pradesh 57.88 per cent.

The overall voter turnout in the first three phases of the Lok Sabha elections was 66.14 per cent, 66.71 per cent and 65.68 per cent, respectively. With the conclusion of phase 4, polling for general elections has crossed the halfway mark as it is completed in 23 states/UTs and 379 Lok Sabha constituencies out of 543.

Also, Assembly elections have been completed in Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Andhra Pradesh, apart from 28 assembly seats of Odisha.

BJP candidate in Telangana's Hyderabad Lok Sabha seat K Madhavi Latha, who is contesting against AIMIM's Asaduddin Owaisi, was booked by election authorities after a video clip surfaced online in which she was purportedly seen

asking burqa-clad women voters to show their faces to compare with the photo identity cards.

In Andhra Pradesh, the TDP and YSRCP accused each other of indulging in violence, especially in Palnadu, Kadapa and Annamaya districts. YSRCP also wrote to the EC, alleging poll code violations by rival TDP in several assembly segments, including Vemuru, Darsi, Iccapuram, Kuppam, Macherla, Markapuram, Palakonda and Pedakurapadu.

Polling for 175 Assembly seats and 25 Lok Sabha constituencies in the coastal state occurred simultaneously on Monday.

The YSRCP alleged that TDP leaders captured five polling booths in the Vemuru constituency.

YSRCP leader and Tenali MLA, A Shiva Kumar allegedly manhandled a voter in Tenali following an argument, police said, adding the voter also retaliated.

Sporadic incidents of violence marred the fourth phase of Lok Sabha polls in the eight parliamentary constituencies of West Bengal.

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BURNING FAITH

SAGUN GAWADE



A Dhond walks on the burning embers during the annual zatra of Goddess Lairai at Shirgao in the wee hours of Monday. It is astonishing to watch the sincere devotion of some of devotees, who calmly and resolutely walk over the burning embers. It is believed that one can achieve this only with the divine blessings of the Goddess

MEA's VOLTE-FACE: Passport revocation for OCI registration 'still under consideration' of Home Ministry

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), New Delhi has done a volte-face over the 'Revocation Certificate' for OCI registration by issuing a corrigendum stating that the 'Revocation certificate' as alternative document in lieu of 'Surrender Certificate' is under consideration of the Ministry of Home Ministry (MHA).

The corrigendum has diluted the earlier circular issued by the MEA dated April 4, 2024, which had stated that the MHA had decided to accept revocation certificates instead of surrender certificates.

“The MEA issued a corrigendum dated April 30, 2024, stating that revocation of passports is still under consideration of the MHA. The corrigendum could not be brought under High Court notice during May 6 hearing as we received it late

—Nijo Varghese, Regional Passport Officer

“It was your (State government) duty to tell the Court that this corrigendum was there. You can't mislead the High Court. This is very, very serious. It is contempt of court

—Adv Carlos Alvares Ferreira, Aldona MLA

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SHOCKING: Over 9,600 children wrongly locked up in adult jails between Jan 2016 and Dec 2021, shows RTI study

Findings raise concerns about juvenile justice system in India

PTI, NEW DELHI: More than 9,600 children were wrongly incarcerated in adult prisons across India between January 1, 2016, and December 31, 2021, a new study has found.

The data for the study -- "Incarceration of Children in Prisons in India" -- was obtained under the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

The study by legal rights body iProbono shed light on a deeply concerning issue affecting the juvenile justice system in India.

The data indicated that at least 9,681 children were wrongly incarcerated in adult prisons between January 1, 2016, and December 31, 2021.

"This means an average of over 1,600 children were

State	Juveniles transferred	Response from % jails
Uttar Pradesh	2,914	71
Bihar	1,518	34
Maharashtra	34	35
Haryana	1,621	90
Rajasthan	108	51
Chhattisgarh	159	44
Jharkhand	1,115	60

transferred out of prisons across the country every year," the study said, referring to the children identified by Juvenile Justice Boards (JJB) and moved to juvenile homes from adult jails.

This figure was ascertained on the basis of responses to RTI requests by 285 district and central prisons out of a total of 570.

"This also does not in-

clude the 749 other prisons from which we did not request data, including sub jails, women's prisons, open prisons, special prisons, borstal schools and other prisons. It also, as previously mentioned, only includes those who were successfully identified and transferred.

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Loutolim farmers warn of massive stir as PWD abruptly skips land demarcation

Submit memorandum to PWD office; seek detailed schedule, contact information and a comprehensive plan for the project

Team Herald

MARGAO: Already angered with the Public Works Department's (PWD) decision to go ahead with land acquisition for the proposed new Borim Bridge and bypass road, the farmers of Loutolim were infuriated as the PWD abruptly skipped the land demarcation process, which was to be held on Monday.

NEW BORIM BRIDGE IMBROGLIO

The locals, along with Village Panchayat of Loutolim, were frustrated over PWD's approach of first informing in writing regarding the land demarcation process and then changing the programme abruptly, without



Loutolim farmers gather at the proposed land acquisition site for the new Borim Bridge project, on Monday

intimating the panchayat.

On Monday, the Village Panchayat of Loutolim, took proactive steps to address the concerns surrounding the proposed land acquisition for the new Borim Bridge project. They submitted a memorandum to the PWD office in Ponda, seeking a detailed schedule, contact

information, and a comprehensive plan for the project.

"Even in the earlier letter to the panchayat, the timing was not mentioned. When the bridge alignment was being done, neither the farmers nor the panchayat were informed. As of now, nothing is clear," said Albert Pinheiro, Chairman of Lou-

tolim Tenants Association.

He further emphasised that farmers are apprehensive that the demarcation process is also being attempted without taking the panchayat or the farmers into confidence.

"We are concerned and worried because these fields are our survival and now ploughing has to be done to prepare for the sowing process during monsoon. We clean our fields before ploughing and sowing," said Pinheiro.

In a letter to the PWD by Loutolim's acting sarpanch, Celina A Branganza conveyed the concerns of the local residents regarding the proposal for the commencement of the demarcation process.

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It's been a fortnight, Bethora locals are without water

Gherao officials at PWD office in Daag, Ponda; protest over the water scarcity; threaten to launch a gagar (empty utensils) morcha to the office

HERALD PIC

Team Herald

PONDA: With the taps running dry for the past 15 days, Bethora residents on Monday marched to the PWD office at Daag, Ponda, and gheraoed the officials by launching a protest over the water scarcity.

HAR GHAR NAL BUT NO JAL

The locals complained that they are facing a water crisis as their taps have run dry for the past fortnight, with no water available to meet their daily needs. They further threatened to launch a gagar (empty utensils) morcha to the office on Tuesday, if the water supply was not restored by Monday.



Bethora residents gherao officials at the PWD office in Daag, Ponda, on Monday

Anil Patil, a villager, said, "Since the past 15 days the taps in the village have run dry. Locals from Dattagarh, Vaidyanagar, Kasarwada, Zune-Maal, who are furious over the water scarcity, on Monday, rushed to

the PWD office at Daag-Ponda, and grilled the officials over the issue. They complained that they have no water for drinking, bathing and cooking purposes and have demanded that the officials immediately

SACORDA FACES WATER CRISIS AS RAGADA RIVER DRIES UP

PONDA: The Sacorda villagers are facing a water crisis after Ragada river has almost dried up.

Due to this, since Saturday onwards the 1 MLD water treatment plant (WTP) based on this river has stopped its operations, causing water shortages in the village. Villagers at Tambdi Surla, Dharge, Battar, Talade and Karemaal area are facing water shortage issues. The PWD has now started supplying water through tankers.

The 1 MLD treatment plant was built and started supplying water to villagers from May 2023. At that time the locals had suggested the authorities construct bandharas (check dams) so that during summer, the WTP would get sufficient water for pumping and treatment.

With no bandharas built, the locals felt that the plant was forced to shut down for shortage

of water in the river during summer.

PWD had shut down the treatment plant operation from Saturday and halted water supply. Following this, as an alternative arrangement, PWD has started supplying water to affected areas through tankers, but it is not sufficient.

Sacorda Sarpanch Priya Khandeparkar said, "As Ragada river water dried up, the WTP was forced to shut down and due to this, people are facing acute water shortage. The panchayat has urged PWD to supply more water tankers to the village."

Assistant Engineer of PWD at Dharbandora, Devidas Gaonkar, said, "As per the demands of locals, from Monday onwards more water tankers have been provided to meet water requirement. We are watching the situation to solve the water crisis issue."

solve the issue, failing which, they would launch a gagar morcha on the PWD office with emp-

ty utensils." The locals said, "Water supplied through one or two tank-

ers for 600 houses located in the area is insufficient."

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MAX. TEMP 36.0 °C
MIN. TEMP 26.1 °C

idharudhar



No emails for bomb threats! Our internet is too bad!