



Vasco Police arrested a resident of Vasco on charges of stealing gold ornaments worth Rs 70,000



Corporation Bank in association with Wockhardt Hospitals, Goa will conduct a free health checkup at Corporation Bank, Vidyanagar, Gogol on March 9

SNAPSHOTS

Metal sculpting camp

PANJIM: International and Goan sculptors will unpack their craft at a first-ever metal sculpting camp at Kala Academy from March 11-15 to launch a host of vibrant activities this March. Chairman of the Kala Academy, Vishnu Wagh on Friday unveiled a schedule of activities ranging from art, dance, drama among several others. The sculpting camp aims at bringing renowned sculptors from across the country and Goa and provide an opportunity for Goan sculptors to learn more about the art form. "All the sculptures crafted during the camp will be displayed within the Kala Academy campus. The sculptors participating in the camp are of international repute and the camp is being co-ordinated by Uttam Pacharne, the chairman of the Bombay Art Society. Wagh on Friday also disclosed that Goa will be presenting khata and bhajan dance performances by award winning artists at the Goa Festival being organised at the Shivaji Park Mumbai by the Ami Goemkar Group from March 15-17. A state art exhibition is being organised from March 15 and a kirtan programme is scheduled for March 17.

Vasco man held for ornaments theft

VASCO: Vasco Police arrested a resident of Vasco on charges of stealing gold ornaments worth Rs 70,000. According to Vasco Police, Anita Shirodkar of Volland complained that accused, Jovita Rodrigues, stole gold ornaments worth Rs 70,000 from her bedroom cupboard. Vasco Police arrested the accused and is investigating the case.

Chimbel man assaulted

OLD GOA: A man from Indiranagar, Chimbel, was injured after he was allegedly assaulted by a resident of Chimbel at Indiranagar on Thursday. According to Old Goa Police, Bashir Mulla complained that the accused entered his house by damaging the main door and abused him and his family members. The complainant further stated that the accused further assaulted him and his nephew, causing injuries. PSI Ramesh Shirodkar is investigating the case.

Gujarat native held in prostitution case

PORVORIM: Porvorim Police arrested a 43-year-old native of Gujarat in connection with a prostitution case late Thursday night. According to Porvorim Police, acting on a tip-off, police conducted the raid near Azad Bhavan, Porvorim, Thursday night and caught the accused Jethanand Sevani red-handed, who had gone to deliver a girl to a prospective customer for prostitution purpose. Porvorim Police rescued the girl and sent her to Protective Home at Mercedes. The accused was arrested under Sections 4, 5 and 7 of Immoral Traffic Act 1976 and police is investigating the case.

K'taka showcases crafts at ITB



Additional Chief Secretary, Arvind Jadhav interacts with delegates at ITB Berlin 2013.

PANJIM: Karnataka Tourism is showcasing itself at the world's largest tourism trade fair, the International Tourism Bourse (ITB) in Berlin. The State's tourism pavilion is designed and presented in a manner different from all Indian States. In a departure from the normal depiction of the State using pictures, this year, following the huge appeal generated at the Surajkund International Crafts Mela, the State is showcasing its varied crafts. The attempt is to bring out its rural characteristics. 6 Pillars depicting Channapatna's lacquerware, painting patterns that showcase styles of Lambani, Bidriware designs, Navalgund Dhurries (including 4 bright carpets laid over the floor) and Kasuti are showcased at the pavilion. Additional Chief Secretary-Tourism Arvind Jadhav is leading the delegation which also comprises Mrs G Sathyavathi, Director-Tourism. Popular German tour operators like Studiosus, Gebecco, Ikarus, Comtour, Tischler and TourAsia of Switzerland are having meetings with Karnataka Tourism.

Health checkup camp at Gogol

PANJIM: Corporation Bank in association with Wockhardt Hospitals, Goa will conduct a free health checkup at Corporation Bank, Vidyanagar, Gogol, Margao, on March 9, from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm. Public is requested to benefit from the camp, which will be inaugurated by the Zonal Head of Corporation Bank Goa Zone, Mr B Divakar Shenoy.

Driving licenses distributed at Corlim



PANJIM: A valedictory function to distribute driving licenses to 55 unemployed youth who have undergone driving training under Syngenta Santa Monica Works Community Development programme 'Sparsh' was held at Corlim Panchayat hall recently. Sarpanch of Corlim Panchayat, Supriya Kerkar, panch Gorakhnath Kerkar, panch Mr. Victor Pereira, panch Dakshata Kalapurkar, secretary Oswin Mascarenhas, Head CSR of Syngenta Mr P S Jagadeesha, Manager CSR of Syngenta Mr S G S Borkar, Andrew D'Souza, Santosh Sawant and Asma Auti from NGO Margadarshak were present. Supriya Kerkar thanked Syngenta for extending the course of driving training to Corlim, Dhulapi and Mangaddo villages. "This has largely benefited the unemployed youth of these villages", she said and urged Syngenta to continue employment-generated courses for unemployed youth of these villages. Two beneficiaries ~ Dhanajay Dhulapkar and Pratiksha Dhulapkar thanked Syngenta for giving them free driving training.

Urology Camp at Vintage Hospital

PANJIM: Vintage Hospital will conduct a urology camp on March 10, from 9:30am to 1:30pm. The camp will focus on prostate diseases, prostate cancer, urinary stone and other urinary conditions. Free consultation will be provided. For details, contact 0832-664440 / 6711462 / 6711414.

FROM PAGE 1

This term I will prove myself, says Parrikar

some hurdles. Number one, obviously were financial ~ to the State. Because of mining, revenue dropped by Rs 850-950 crore. Obviously that is going to show some impact. It would have been Rs 1000 crore had we not taken some remedial action. But more important, mining is a very sensitive issue. There are a variety of viewpoints on it. If I see it as an environmentalist, I feel I should not allow mining. But when you see it from another side ~ it involves 25,000-30,000 people that are directly (impacted). I get emails that say, "My father has been sacked; my mother is not working"; "I'm not getting any job". A girl wrote to me recently saying, "All four of us are out of jobs, what do we do, other than commit suicide?" This is the question she asked.

Before we began to export 54 million tonnes, mining royalty wasn't all that much. That was just four or five years ago, and Goa managed fine. So why has royalty become such a huge issue?

I know, I'm not complaining. When there were no cars, we had to walk. Today, I don't walk. Everything depends on habit. In the last five years, there was an increase in royalty from a meagre Rs 6-8 (per tonne) to 10 per cent. Because of that, the State revenue depended to the extent of Rs 1000 crore, or 18-20 per cent on mining. I'm not saying in the long term mining royalties cannot be replaced by other revenue. It can be. But a situation was created where 20 per cent of the revenue came from mining. So suddenly it disappears, where do you get that 20 per cent from?

Do you regret that the Shah Commission findings became public at the very start of your term, and that to some extent it queried the pitch for you?

Let me be frank. Whatever comment I'm making does not either accept Shah or reject Shah. We in India ~ and Goa in particular ~ have the habit of deciding everything as black and white. There are greys. Shah Commission in principle ~ in fact one or two chapters of it are adapted directly from PAC report ~ has a lot of substance, (but) the statistics they have come out with probably do not have real credentials. Number one, the value of the ore does not constitute loss to the government. Secondly, Shah himself does not support his own statement of Rs 35,000 crore. In the next sentence he says it requires to be verified. It's a ballpark figure he's come up with. Overall I accept that Shah has pointed out illegalities and they need to be addressed. In a way it is a blessing in disguise. It would have happened sometime. It happened right in the beginning (of the term). Today, if and when we start, we can start from a clean slate. That is the biggest advantage I see out of it. Because of Shah, maybe legal mining has also stopped, but illegal definitely stopped.

The government affidavit in the Supreme Court says 3.5 lakh people have been affected by the mining shutdown; 25,000 trucks and 375 barges were involved in the business. The affidavit also clarifies that only 11,000 trucks and 223 barges were actually registered with the government. This in itself makes apparent the clandestine and illegal manner in which such a large part of the mining business was operating.

People don't understand that the trucks registered with us are for people with less than three trucks. They are not for those who have 20-30 trucks. We have also not registered trucks owned by the companies. For example, Sesa Goa has 1000-2000 trucks. They have given it to people to operate, so have Timblos and Salgaocars. Those trucks are around 8,000-10,000. These together make it 20,000-22,000. Maybe 2,000 (of the rest) don't want to come forward to register because they might be government servants or doing it in some benami name, or they may be outsiders.

You've been extremely sympathetic to the 'plight' of the mining dependent. You said the situation in the mining belt has reached a flashpoint...

It has... And one shouldn't be surprised if there were suicides or a breakout of violence. What kind of message does this send out to the other 12 lakh residents of Goa who have nothing to do with mining?

You are mixing up mine owner and the person who is suffering because of closure of mines. I don't bother about those mineowners



because they have lot of money. They can enjoy life for the next seven generations, and still their money won't get reduced. But when around 3 lakh people get impacted, if you say it is a small number out of the 15 lakh population, then it turns the concept of public welfare on its head. When there's an accident, you don't rush to help the bystander, you rush to help the one suffering.

There has been criticism over your statement that you cannot vouch for the security of the petitioners who filed the mining PIL in the apex court.

I've not said that. I said the potential of violence exists, and security of some people can become a problem. I only said this much. It can become a problem if you go to that area, if there is a picket point. I only talked about actual ground situation. I didn't talk about threatening someone. You have to understand, the question was asked to me: "What is there in the envelope?" (the sealed envelope handed to the Supreme Court by the Goa government counsel). I said the envelope talks about a very volatile situation. There may be persons with a lot of money surviving quite well. But there are some who were working as truck operator or machine operator. Today, he doesn't have (a job) because he has been sacked. He doesn't have any money to survive. I'm talking for those people. Now one person out of 1000 could lose his head and do something wrong...

Some people seem to have got the wrong message from your statement. See what happened in Margao.

What happened in Margao is definitely not right. I've asked the police ~ I was not there ~ why they didn't act quickly enough. Luckily in Margao no one was physically harmed. But I don't appreciate it. I'm very clear on that. I've told them to book and register cases. Everyone has a right to protest ~ a person who is against mining also has a right to protest.

But people don't have a right to intimidate...

That's what I'm trying to say, a person who is against mining ~ I'm not even saying those RTI activists are against mining ~ they were only trying to have a debate on the Shah Commission. What is wrong in that? Why should these people come and try to intimidate them? You cannot physically intimidate them. I will not tolerate it.

You have been openly critical of the secretary Goa Foundation Claude Alvares...

Not as a person... The government affidavit casts aspersions on Goa Foundation...

Wrong... You've not read it, we've made it very clear we appreciated his activities for 25 years...

I'm quoting from the affidavit: Goa Foundation have "exceeded their limits as an NGO". What exactly was the government trying to imply? And why have you asked the court to appoint an amicus curiae?

Supreme Court accepted our amicus curiae. We wanted a neutral umpire. Goa Foundation did not go with clean hands. They hid from the court that the government had changed. They should have mentioned it. When they

are quoting Shah Commission and the deeds of the earlier government, they should have said very clearly, however, the current government is headed by a different person.

But you won an election, everyone knows...

In Goa everyone knows. How does a SC judge, who might not have been aware? He did not tell the court we had banned the movement of mining. On the 10th (September, 2012) we closed the mines, on the 11th and 12th we issued an order banning all movement of mining. The moment this was done he has made an application to the court saying that mining activity, including transportation is still going on, when he knew very clearly it has been stopped. At least you will agree that mining was totally stopped. Everyone in Goa knows that. Because the moment he said that, the court would not have given him an ex parte order. Because there was no need of an ex parte order.

Your affidavit is critical of the petitioner, but makes no mention of the violators, or how the government proposes to recover the mining loot assessed by the Shah Commission. You seem to be treating the mine owners with kid gloves.

Not at all. It is well settled that the money is either demanded from the person who owes it, and then if he does not pay, you recover it as arrears of land revenue. This is set principle in government. So where is the question of setting different norms for mine owners? Mine owners recovery will be taken care of, but after identifying who is the culprit. If you've not identified the culprit, where is the question of recovering thousands of crores? Whether it is Rs 4,000 crore as per my estimation or Rs 35,000 crore as per Shah Commission estimates, how do you recover unless you establish that a particular person owes and has cheated? You can't do that. The law of the land does not permit you to do that.

Your comments in the last few weeks leaves one with the impression that in your view it is the Goa Foundation that is the villain of the piece, rather than those who've committed the illegalities.

The villains are many and I'm definitely not saying Claude is a villain. But I think Claude is going overboard. He should have given this government proper opportunity to correct things because we had banned mining and stopped trucks. Had Claude come and helped the government at that moment I would have been very happy to include him in a committee that could have looked into these illegalities. And I'm not saying the mining companies are saints. The mining companies' evil activity is known by everyone. So their 'villain' part does not need to be focused on again and again. In Goa everyone knows it. If Claude was serious about the issue, he could have associated with the government and done good things without damage. But he went for the kill. Obviously, I have to defend the government.

What do you mean he went for the kill? What does he stand to gain from it personally? He's been fighting for environmental causes for 20 years.

I fought a court battle against Mauvin Godinho and it cost me Rs 15 lakh so far. When you fight battles in SC your costs are in lakhs. If you want the government to be transparent, I only say Claude should also declare from where his expenses come.

He would have a number of sympathisers...

So he should declare it. Why should government only be transparent? Why should NGOs not be transparent?

Have they committed a crime or have a bunch of powerful people done so?

Unless proved, no one can say that. I'm not defending miners, again. But unless someone is caught, no one has committed a crime. I also said 20 long years of fighting court battles must have cost crores of rupees. And money doesn't come that easily.

What about the people that had to suffer the effects of mining all these years in villages?

Who said I'm supporting mining? I'm the one who stopped mining in Rivona area and put controls. Don't think I support mining. But for its dependents, I would have not even allowed mining to happen. Even now when I start again it will be at a much lower level and in a different manner. I have some differences of opinion with Claude on these issues. For

example, I don't agree that lifting dumps is damaging to the environment. In fact, dumps lying there are damaging to the environment.

What about nationalising the mines?

How do you do it? This government does not have the powers to do it. The leases are a legal entity under a parliament act. I have no powers to do it. Let parliament give me powers, I will auction.

You would?

Absolutely. I don't believe in these windfall profits to a few. Otherwise tax them to the level that they get 15-20 per cent and the rest comes to the State. I have no objection to it.

Where do you stand on the debate over Narendra Modi being projected as PM candidate?

That's for the party to decide. I'm not a leader at the Centre. When I'm consulted I will give my opinion to the party leadership. Let the party decide. Whatever they decide, I will support it.

Do you see yourself at some point moving into national politics?

At this stage my full focus is on ensuring Goa returns to good position at the earliest. I must have done a lot of things, but I'm not satisfied with the ground realities. There's been a lot of damage in the last seven years ~ whether on the drugs front, or law and order ~ sacrificing the integrity of the police and bureaucracy. They have been compromised, so automatically most of them are involved somewhere, and they sometimes even try to sabotage your attempt to do something. These are problems the state is facing today. I'm slowly getting it out of that rut.

But aren't you interested in the national debate and going to the Centre?

When you are hungry and eat something you like, do you think of any other dish at that moment? You may think after you're full, ok, I'll have a desert. For me the administration need of Goa is like that insatiable hunger which I'm trying to fulfil. At the moment, my concentration is nowhere else.

Is the Regional Plan likely to be finalised anytime soon?

Whether Regional Plan is finalised or not, I've done one thing which can be verified from the statistics. The revenues from infrastructure tax have come down to half, inspite of increasing 50 per cent ~ that means in reality they've become one-third. That also means construction activity is one-third of what it was last year. This is because I issued an order directing that no permissions are given based on RP 2021 unless they also conform with (RP) 2001.

But that allows for some ambiguity in interpretation right?

There's no ambiguity. If a particular area is settlement in (RP) 2001, you can consider it, provided it is settlement also in 2021. So it is a common subset of two sets. So 2021 is not operational, but it is operational to the extent 2001 permits it. So it is actually a restrictive clause, much more than what you can come out with in a new one. There is no worry. I've stopped massive construction. What is going on at this moment are last year's projects.

What's holding up the finalisation of the plan?

Obviously I didn't have time to finalise it. You're also aware, the moment I open the Regional Plan, there's going to be heavy pressure on the government to convert, which I don't want. I'm very clear about it. I don't want Goa to be turned into a concrete jungle. So I'm not prepared mentally... Then there'll be flak. I'll have to say No. You have to be mentally and physically prepared to do it. The moment I get total control of the mining situation, I will open it.

A lot of money has been given to the agriculture sector, but very little work is being done. There are complaints that officers are not following through.

You actually pointed out my difficulty. One top industrialist told me, "you're the CEO of Goa". I said, "No, sorry. You're lucky. You can choose your colleagues because you can appoint your MDs, appoint anyone, and you decide who is your subordinate because you can kick out a person who does not work." For me, my subordinates are decided by the earlier government and my colleagues are decided by the people of the state ~ not that I complain about it, but virtually no one is decided by me. I have to overcome a much more difficult task than the CEO of a company.

CM: Mindset of males must change

on the rise," stated Parrikar. He opined that women can also play a major role in changing the mindset of males.

"While bringing up her children, the mother should not discriminate between a son and daughter and she should teach her son to respect women with dignity. If this is done by each and every mother, then crimes against women will reduce," Parrikar added.

On the occasion, Parrikar presented the 'Yashodami Puraskar' for the year 2012 and 2013 to women who have excelled in various fields. Recipients of the 'Yashodami Puraskar' for

the year 2012 are Shubhalaxmi R Mandrekar and Malini Chari (art and culture), Deepalaxmi Avati (sports), Smedha Kamat Dessai and Meghana Kurundwadkar (literature), Vijaya N. Sheldekar (social work) and Suhashini Prabhuganekar (journalism). Recipients of the 'Yashodami Puraskar' for the year 2013 are Ana Pinto (social work), Mangala More (art and culture) and Shilpa J Bonsel (education).

Goa State Commission for Women Chairperson Vidya Shet Tanawade welcomed the gathering, while Meghana Dewari compered the programme.

CBI denies media reports on Wanchoo's role in chopper deal

Agusta Westland into the tender process for buying 12 VVIP helicopters and alleged that the tender conditions were changed by then National Security Adviser late Brajesh Mishra and the SPG. Mishra was the NSA during the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) regime while Wanchoo became the SPG chief only in the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government and remained in the post up to seven years up to October 2011.

Naming both for tweaking the tender conditions itself shows Tyagi's contradiction



as the two were in power at different times, the official said.

He said the CBI has already traced the kickback money trail in which Delhi lawyer Gautam Khaitan and busi-

nessman Parveen Bakshi, both of Chandigarh-based Aeromatrix, routed bribe money to the former IAF chief through his two cousins Sanjeev and Doca Tyagi in fake engineering contracts from Mauritius and Tunisia, and no role of the present Goa governor has been detected in the case so far.

During their interrogations, the Tyagi brothers tried to claim that they got money in the deals for the power projects, but they could not show any documents sought from them to prove this alibi, the official said.

The agency is preparing papers for the arrest of Air Chief Marshal (retd) S P Tyagi, his cousins Sanjeev and Doca, as also Bakshi and Khaitan, possibly next week, for charges of bribery, cheating and forgery, another official said.

The CBI is building the case that Tyagi accepted the bribe through his cousins to help Agusta Westland's entry into the tender process and pursued its case even after his retirement as confirmed from his meetings with the middlemen that he has been denying the official added.