

# The Navhind Times

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**PLACE : KALA ACADEMY, PANJIM**  
**DATE: TILL 28th AUG 2016**  
**TIME : 10.30 a.m. To 9.00 p.m.**

## GMR group bags contract to construct Mopa airport

NT NETWORK  
**PANAJI**

The Bengaluru-based M/s GMR Airports Limited has bagged the contract to construct the Mopa international greenfield airport on 36.99 per cent revenue-

share basis, Chief Secretary R K Srivastava said on Friday.

M/s GMR Airports Limited has been selected amongst the three qualified bidders for constructing the airport on a public-private partnership basis. Addressing media persons along with civil aviation director Suresh Shanbhogue, Srivastava said that initially there had been five bidders - M/s Airports Authority of India, M/s GMR Airports Limited, M/s GVK Airport Developers Limited, M/s Essel Infra Projects Limited (Consortium) and M/s Voluptas Developers Private Limited (Consortium).

Chief Minister Laxmikant Parsekar termed the completion of the bidding process for the Mopa airport as the "biggest fruitful achievement" of his tenure as Chief Minister, and said the first aircraft will land on the North Goa-based

airport in the year 2019. "The first phase of this airport would be completed in 2019, as per the schedule," he added.

The Mopa airport will be built on 'design, build, finance, operate and transfer basis' at an initial cost of Rs 3,100 crore in the first phase. However, the total cost of the whole project will be Rs 4,500 crore, Srivastava said.

Only three companies qualified for the bidding - M/s Airports Authority of India, M/s GMR Airports Limited and M/s Essel Infra Projects Limited (Consortium). Essel Infra Projects Limited quoted 27 per cent revenue-share works, M/s Airports Authority of India quoted 32.31, while the GMR Airports Limited quoted 36.99 per cent revenue share.

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A view of the Mopa airport site in Pernem taluka

### Big-push for passenger capacity

NT NETWORK

**PANAJI:** Chief Secretary R K Srivastava on Friday said the proposed international airport at Mopa in Pernem taluka would be built on public-private partnership basis. Speaking on air passenger projections in the tourist destination, Srivastava said the Dabolim airport has 4.4 million passengers capacity, and presently handles 5.5 million passengers per annum. By

2019, passenger projections at the Dabolim airport will stand at 8-9 million passengers per annum, he said. Hence both the airports - Mopa and Dabolim - will function simultaneously, he said. The Chief Secretary said that when the passenger capacity of the Mopa airport will be at 80 per cent, work on second phase of the new airport will be taken up. Likewise when passenger traffic will reach 80 per cent during the second

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## HC allows women's entry in Haji Ali dargah's sanctum

PTI

**MUMBAI**

In a landmark judgment, the Bombay High Court on Friday lifted the ban imposed on women from entering the sanctum sanctorum of Haji Ali dargah here, saying it contravenes fundamental rights and that the trust has no right to prohibit women's entry into a public place of worship.

"We hold that the ban imposed by the Dargah Trust, prohibiting women from entering the sanctum sanctorum of the Haji Ali Dargah contravenes Articles 14, 15 and 25 of the Constitution of India. Women should be permitted to enter the sanctum sanctorum at par with men," a division bench of Justice V M Kanade and Justice Revati Mohite Dere said.

Under these Articles, a person has the fundamental right to practise any religion he or she wants. They prohibit discrimination on grounds



A general view of the Haji Ali Dargah in Mumbai

### VICTORY FOR MUSLIM WOMEN

> "We hold that the ban imposed by the Dargah Trust, prohibiting women from entering the sanctum sanctorum of the Haji Ali Dargah contravenes Articles 14, 15 and 25 of the Constitution of India"

> "The state government and the Haji Ali Dargah Trust will have to take proper steps to ensure safety and security of women at the said place of worship"

> "Under these Articles, a person has the fundamental right to practise any religion he or she wants. They prohibit discrimination on grounds of religion, gender and so on, and provide freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion"

of religion, gender and so on, and provide freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion.

The court has, however, stayed its order for six

weeks following a plea by Haji Ali Dargah Trust which wants to challenge it in the Supreme Court.

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## Bungee jumping may not take off at Anjuna

Project site comes under no-development zone

NT NETWORK

**PANAJI**

An ambitious adventure tourism project on 'bungee jumping', which has been proposed at the Anjuna cliff, is not likely to see the light of the day as the project site falls under no-development zone.

The inspection team of the Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority has observed that the proposed site being a highly vulnerable laterite cliff is prone to erosion and the boulder hilltop will not withstand such heavy structure for the project of the tourism department.

The department, which tied up with the Nashik-

based M/s Jumpin Heights Adventure Pvt Limited in April last year to promote adventure tourism in the state, had sought permission from the GCZMA for the construction of a 45-metre high jump tower and 24-metre-long platform at the Anjuna cliff.

The proposal also aims at facilitating space for a briefing room, a storeroom and a refreshment counter.

The inspection by former expert members of the GCZMA on 4 March this year found that the site falls under no-development zone. The site is highly unsafe and vulnerable to erosion and could

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## Reports point to irregularities by CCP employees, contractors

NT NETWORK

**PANAJI**

The preliminary reports recently prepared by commissioner of the Corporation of the City of Panaji Deepak Desai as regards the permission for road cutting issued to Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd from 2013 to April 2016 by the CCP, and sopo/fair fees collected from 2011 to 2016, observes financial as well as administrative misappropriations on the part of the employees of the corporation and fraud on the part of the contractors appointed to collect the sopo/fair fees, resulting in substantial financial losses to the city municipal body.

The reports have been

**THE INDICTMENT**



> Second report maintains that On going through all files pertaining to collection of sopo/fair fees and pay parking in the basement of municipal market for the present year, it is noticed that there are discrepancies and irregularities, and other files were called for the period from 2013 onwards

> First report maintains that in case of road cutting permissions issued to Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd to lay optical fibre cable, there exist serious discrepancies

forwarded to the directorate of municipal administration for initiating action against those responsible.

The first report, observing that there is no standard rate followed by the

CCP for issuing road cutting permissions, further maintains that in case of such permissions issued to Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd

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## All-party delegation to visit Kashmir soon

PTI

**NEW DELHI**

An all-party parliamentary delegation is likely to visit Jammu and Kashmir in the first week of September and meet a cross section of people, amidst the ongoing unrest in Kashmir valley.

The government will consult all political parties before finalising an itinerary for the tour aimed at restoring peace in the Kashmir valley, which is witnessing violent protests even since the killing of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen militant Burhan Wani on July 8.

The move comes after Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh announced in Srinagar on Thursday that he had asked Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti to

make preparation for the visit.

Sources said the visit of the all party delegation to Jammu and Kashmir is expected to be discussed when Mehbooba will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday.

The facilitation of the all-party delegation to the troubled state is considered to be an attempt by the government to bring the political parties on-board of the process initiated to bring peace in Jammu and Kashmir.

There has been feeling in the government that unrest continues for too long -- 48 days -- and normalcy needs to be restored as early as possible.

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## Infant mortality rate shows other side of Goa

SHOAIB SHAIKH | NT

Staff Reporter

**PANAJI**

Even as Goa boasts of better facilities in the health sector compared to other states of the country, the infant mortality rate in rural areas of the state does not point to a happy trend.

Though the 2015 state average IMR of 15.42 is better when compared to the national IMR of 37, the number of infant deaths in the rural Goa is increasing year by year, as per the statistics.

Data from the registrar of births and deaths reveals that the IMR in the rural areas for the year 2011 was 19.66 per thousand live births, which increased to 22.12 infant deaths in 2012. However, in 2013 the num-

**GRIM FIGURES**



Year	Rural IMR	Urban IMR	Average IMR
2011	19.66	1.69	10.68
2012	22.12	2.65	12.39
2013	19.05	0.78	9.92
2014	25.32	1.68	13.50
2015	28.45	2.38	15.42

ber decreased to 19.05, but in 2014 the IMR stood at 25.32 and went up to 28.45 infant deaths per thousand live births in rural areas.

However, the IMR in the urban areas, as per RBD data, is far better. In 2011 the IMR recorded in urban areas was 1.69 per thousand live births, while in 2012 it was 2.65 and declined to 0.78

infant deaths per thousand live births.

However, the number increased to 1.68 infant deaths per thousand live births in 2014 and further increased to 2.38 in 2015.

Chief medical officer of the State Family Welfare Bureau Dr Vandana Dhume said that one of the reasons for the data indicating an increase in the IMR in rural

areas could be improvement in reporting the number of death cases.

She said, "About three years ago we developed software and every death report has to be fed into the software. So improved reporting could be one of the factors, but not the absolute reason for the increasing IMR."

Dhume stated that according to observations made from the available statistics with the health department, the major cause for infant deaths in Goa is congenital defects. The number of deaths due to congenital defects makes up to about 35 per cent of the total infant deaths.

The other major reasons for neonatal deaths are infections

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