

shorttakes

DYSP CHODANKAR TRANSFERRED TO POLICE HQ

PANJIM: The Goa Police have transferred Mapusa SDPO Sandesh Chodankar to Police Headquarters (PHQ). In his place, Pernem SDPO Ashish Shirodkar has been given additional charge of the Mapusa sub-division.

SINDHUDURG YOUTH HELD FOR KILLING BIKE RIDER FROM BICHOLIM

PANJIM: The Mandrem Police have arrested Sourabh Prasad Gudekar, 21, from Sindhudurg, Maharashtra, for allegedly driving negligently and causing the death of Raj Ratnakar Pednekar, 22, a two wheeler rider from Bicholim. The accident occurred on February 18, near the Indian Oil Petrol Pump in Tuem, Pernem. According to police, Saurabh, who was proceeding from Tuem to Pernem, stopped the car suddenly on the road which caused Raj to hit the four wheeler from behind. As a result, Raj was thrown on the road and sustained serious injuries. He was rushed to the Community Health Centre (CHC), Tuem, where he was declared dead by the doctors. An FIR has been registered and further investigation is in progress, police added.

POLICE INTENSIFY DRIVE AGAINST DRUNK-DRIVING IN SOUTH GOA

MARGAO: Police stations across South Goa, in collaboration with traffic cells, have launched a campaign targeting motorists driving under the influence of alcohol and other traffic violators. The Margao Traffic Cell booked eight individuals for drunk-driving offences. Following reports of vehicles operating without number plates, Curcholem Police Station, along with the Curcholem Traffic Cell, conducted a joint operation and detained five two-wheelers. Curcholem PI Tukaram Chavan confirmed that the inquiry into the detained vehicles is underway. He assured that similar drives will continue to enforce traffic regulations and enhance road safety.

BODY OF MISSING DISTRIBUTOR DISCOVERED IN CANACONA DRAINAGE

MARGAO: The body of Yadu, also known as Damu Gavade, 49 and a resident of Chaudi Canacona, originally from Chapali, Uttara Kannada, Karnataka, was found in a drainage near the Mamlatdar Office, Canacona. The Canacona Police received an anonymous call alerting them to the discovery. Fire brigade personnel assisted in retrieving the body, which was subsequently transported to CHC Canacona via a 108 ambulance, where medical staff pronounced him dead on arrival. Investigations revealed that Gavade, employed as a distributor in Chaudi Canacona, had been missing since 9 pm on February 18, from his rented accommodation near CHC Hospital. The police conducted a scene of unnatural death (UD) occurrence panchanama and inquest. The body is preserved at South Goa District Hospital Morgue pending post-mortem results. PSI Babu D. Dessai is leading the investigation.

FIREFIGHTERS RESCUE DOG FROM WELL IN BETALBATIM

MARGAO: Margao firefighters successfully rescued a dog that accidentally fell into a well in Betalbatim, completing the operation within an hour. Local residents praised the firefighters' swift and compassionate response. Gil Souza, Fire Station Officer at Margao, stated that upon receiving the distress call, personnel equipped with necessary gear rushed to the scene. Leading firefighter D.N. Khotarkar led the rescue with the assistance of his team, utilising life-saving techniques commonly employed during animal rescues.

CUNCOLIM POLICE ARREST MAN FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT ON MINOR GIRL

MARGAO: Cuncolim Police have arrested Sushan Nayak, 21, a waiter at a South Goa hotel and resident of Sarzora, Salcete, originally from Simdega, Jharkhand, on charges of sexually assaulting a minor girl. Police reports indicate that Nayak befriended the 14-year-old victim, a native of Chhattisgarh, via Facebook. Between 2 January and 14 February 2025, he allegedly took her to Jharkhand without parental consent and later brought her to his rented room in Salcete, where repeated sexual assaults occurred, resulting in the girl becoming pregnant. The accused was apprehended at 10:45 pm on 18 February 2025 and is set to be presented in court for remand. Medical examinations for both the accused and the victim will be conducted at Goa Medical College, Bambolim.

WAITER FLEES WITH RS 30,000 FROM COLVA CAFE

MARGAO: Colva Police have registered a theft case against Gaurav Shinde, a waiter at Torrados Café and Loonage, Colva, for allegedly stealing approximately Rs 30,040 and absconding. Shinde, a resident of Vanelim, Colva, originally from Andheri East, Mumbai, reportedly committed the theft at around 11:45 pm on February 15. Complainant Rohan Kammar of Velim, Salcete, lodged the complaint. Police have disseminated alerts across Goa and Mumbai in an effort to locate the suspect.

POLICE UNIFORM SYMBOLISES RESPECT, SAYS RETIRED SP VISHNUDAS VERNEKAR

MARGAO: Retired Superintendent of Police Vishnudas Vernekar emphasised the importance of maintaining the dignity associated with the police uniform, urging officers to preserve its integrity. He was speaking at a felicitation ceremony held in his honour in Margao. Reflecting on his career, Vernekar credited his disciplined upbringing, influenced by his strict father, as pivotal to his professional journey. He recalled his first posting in Canacona during the tenure of Chief Minister Bhausaheb Bhandodkar and underscored the police's role as dignified public servants. The event featured tributes from notable figures including Margao MLA Digambar Kamat, Fatorda MLA Vijay Sardesai, BJP State President Damu Naik, and Superintendent of Police Santosh Desai, among others.

POWER SHUTDOWN

SANGUEM: On February 20, from 9 am to 12.30 pm, at Dabamol, Vorcotto, Cortali, Velipwada, Piraraj, Zariwada, Part of Xelpem and surrounding areas

United they fight: Residents vow to save Sinquerim hill from destruction

Form human chain by linking hands in solidarity; resolve to file petition against Bollywood superstar for constructing bungalow in CRZ

Team Herald

CALANGUTE: Residents of Candolim, Calangute and other nearby coastal areas thronged in large numbers to attend a public awareness meeting on Wednesday evening at St Lawrence Church on Sinquerim Hill and resolved to oppose any commercial development including a proposed star hotel by a prominent hotel group and a bungalow being built by celebrity in the CRZ no-development zone.

During the meeting, members of the Calangute Constituency Forum (CCF) presented a video showcasing the ongoing construc-



tions on the Sinquerim plateau and hillside. The CCF has spearheaded the campaign against the development of Sinquerim Hill.

Residents also formed a human chain by linking hands in solidarity. A resolution was adopted stating that no government or private agency should be

allowed to survey the land in Survey No. 96/0. "We have unanimously resolved to oppose this project for as long as we are here," the assembly declared. Another resolution called for the filing of a petition against the construction in the CRZ no-development zone at Sinquerim by a Bollywood

superstar.

The video presentation, made by CCF President Premanand Divkar, highlighted several construction projects where orchard land has been converted into settlement areas. Various documents were also displayed during the presentation. Divkar also pointed out

that the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), which is responsible for protecting Aguada Fort, had attempted to build an illegal structure. "The construction was halted following a CCF petition filed in the High Court. Parts of the fort are deteriorating due to the ASI's negligence," said Divkar.

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Eco-restoration plan for coastal creeks mooted

Team Herald

MARGAO: Benaulim MLA Captain Venzy Viegas has urged the Water Resources Department (WRD) to take immediate action to protect and restore coastal creeks across the State by bringing them under the Irrigation Act.

The MLA emphasized the need for a comprehensive eco-restoration plan that would focus on preserving catchment areas and natural feeder streams. Viegas further called for measures to maintain historic tidal flushing patterns across seasons, remove shoals at creek mouths, and ensure proper oxygenation.

REMEMBERING THE WARRIOR KING



Members of the Mahalaxmi Dhol Tasha Sanskritik Mandal, Panjim, perform during the Shivjayanti celebrations at the grand procession held in Panjim on Wednesday. Earlier in the day, Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant attended the celebrations at Farmagudi, Ponda

Borim college students taken on a field trip to Zambaulim gaushala

Team Herald

MARGAO: The Department of Commerce and Environment Studies at Swami Vidyaprasarak Mandal College of Commerce, Borim, organised a field trip to the Dhyana Foundation Gaushala in Zambaulim.

According to the press release, the purpose of the trip was to provide students with practical insights into agropreneurship, focusing on sustainable agricultural practices and cattle management at the Dhyana Foundation Gaushala. The Gaushala houses 1,300 cattle, all rescued from accidents across Goa, ensuring they

receive proper care and shelter. Students were fascinated as they learned about the importance of Gaushalas in animal welfare and sustainable farming.

The students were informed about the critical role of Gaushalas in promoting sustainable agriculture and rural entrepreneurship, while also exploring the economic and environmental benefits of animal welfare initiatives. The visit offered real-world exposure to agropreneurship and sustainable farming practices, emphasising the importance of ethical livestock management and the sig-

nificant role Gaushalas play in environmental conservation. This experience inspired students to consider agriculture-based business opportunities. The trip was accompanied by Assistant Professors Girish Kapdi, Nikita Rivonkar, and Hanuman Gawas.

The Dhyana Foundation is an active member of the Animal Welfare Board of India, the Goa State Animal Welfare Board, and the DSPCA South Goa. In recognition of its work, the Dhyana Foundation was awarded the 2018 Best Cow Shelter Award by the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations.

Margao regularisation drive under RUCA on March 1

Team Herald

MARGAO: The South Goa Collectorate will launch a special drive for the regularisation of structures under the Goa Regularization of Unauthorised Construction Act (RUCA), 2016, on March 1, 2025.

The initiative was announced by Environment Minister Aleixo Sequeira following a recent meeting at the District Collectorate.

"The South Goa Collectorate will conduct a special drive to expedite the disposal of applications for regularization under the RUCA Act. All deputy collector offices in the South district will remain open on Saturday, March 1, exclusively to handle these cases," Sequeira said.

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on Saturday, March 1, exclusively to handle these cases," Sequeira said.

A similar drive was held on January 25 to fast-track pending applications under the RUCA Act. The initiative aims to streamline the pro-

cess by bringing applicants and key department representatives under one roof.

During the last drive, all deputy collectors' offices in South Goa operated simultaneously throughout the day. Representatives from the PWD, Town and Country Planning Department, Forest Department, and Survey & Land Records Office were also present to facilitate on-the-spot decision-making.

Ahead of the previous drive, authorities had announced that applicants whose constructions exceeded permissible limits would be given a chance to revise their plans before facing rejection.

Alcoholics Anonymous to hold national convention celebrating golden jubilee in Goa

Team Herald

PANJIM: Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) Goa is organising a convention at Ravindra Bhavan, Margao, to mark the golden jubilee of the organisation in the State.

According to AA Goa, the four-day national convention, scheduled from February 21 to February 24, will attract over a thousand delegates from across the country to participate in the festival of "Sober Living."

The primary aim of the "Goa AA Convention 2025" is to encourage female alcoholics to come forward and seek help, while also generating awareness that alcoholism is not a disgrace, but rather a disease. The AA fellowship in Goa, India, and worldwide focuses on removing the stigma surrounding alcoholism through continuous awareness programmes. Highlighting the alarm-

ing rise in alcoholism, particularly among women, AA has pointed out that the increase is especially prominent in leisure activities, year-round events, celebrations, and party venues in the tourist-friendly state of Goa. AA has also raised concern over the high incidence of accidents and fatalities due to 'driving under the influence of alcohol,' and pointed out that Goa's roads are being labelled as some of the deadliest in the country.

"As the prevalence of alcohol misuse continues to be a significant concern in Goa, AA Goa recognises the vital role that mental health professionals and community support play in the journey to recovery. Through this partnership, we aim to create a more holistic approach to treat-

ment that addresses not only physical dependency but also the underlying psychological and social factors," AA stated.

Representatives from AA also said that the Goa AA Convention 2025 is a once-in-a-decade opportunity for people to learn more about alcoholism and its treatment. They emphasised that free treatment and recovery resources are available through AA Goa, which conducts 60 meetings across various villages and towns in both North and South Goa.

AA Goa has established strong partnerships with mental health professionals, including psychologists, counsellors, and psychiatrists, to provide integrated care for individuals battling alcoholism. These experts

offer therapeutic interventions that complement AA's 12-step programme, ensuring a comprehensive treatment plan.

Local communities in Goa have shown remarkable solidarity in supporting AA's mission. Community members, volunteers, and organisations have joined forces to create a network of support that extends beyond the confines of AA meetings. This network provides a safe and encouraging environment for individuals to share their experiences and find strength in unity.

In its efforts to empower women and young adults, AA Goa is committed to addressing the unique challenges faced by these demographics in relation to alcoholism. Special support groups and tailored programmes have been developed to cater to the specific needs of women and young adults.



APPOINTMENTS

GOA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Computer Based Recruitment Test (CBRT)
The CBRT for following posts will be conducted by the Commission on 01/03/2025 and 02/03/2025

Sr. No.	Post Name
1.	Assistant Professor in Commerce
2.	Assistant Professor in Hindi
3.	Lecturer in Physics
4.	Assistant Professor in Computer Science
5.	Legal Officer
6.	Scientific Officer
7.	Assistant Director of Education
8.	Assistant Professor in Chemistry (Organic)
9.	Assistant Professor in Physics
10.	Vice-Principal, Teachers training College/Headmasters, Government High School/Vice-Principal, Government Higher Secondary Schools
11.	Technical Officer

Candidates should make their own arrangement to reach the assigned center well before the reporting time as mentioned on their hall ticket. Candidates are requested to check their email for further details and those who cannot download their hall ticket by 21/02/2025, should personally report to the office of the Commission from 24/02/2025 to 27/02/2025, during office hours along with their Identity proof to collect their hall ticket. Candidates without Hall Ticket will not be allowed to answer the CBRT.

The minimum passing percentage for the CBRT Test for the above mentioned post is as follows:

Category	Passing Percentage	Remarks
General/EWS	60% (45 out of 75 marks)	Wherever Applicable
OBC/PwD/CFF	55% (42 out of 75 marks)	Wherever Applicable
SC/ST	50% (38 out of 75 marks)	

DI/ADVT/2002/2025