

# Imagine Panaji Smart City completes landmark manhole near St Inez junction

**IPSCDL says infrastructure project represents major engineering achievement despite numerous challenges**

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Imagine Panaji Smart City Development Ltd (IPSCDL) achieved a significant milestone with the completion of the construction of a crucial manhole located near the Sheetal Hotel at St Inez "Y" intersection.

This infrastructure project, featuring a depth of four metres and a diameter of three metres, represents a major engineering achievement despite numerous challenges, the IPSCDL said.

According to the IPSCDL, the excavation process was particularly delicate due to the presence of several critical utilities due to laying of gas pipeline passing through the excavation chamber. It also took precaution to ensure that the existing sewage pumping line, which transports sewage from the Don Bosco School pumping station to the Sewage Treatment Plant (SWTP), was carefully preserved and also protecting electrical



cables and internet cables. To protect these utilities, manual excavation was conducted, ensuring the safety and integrity of existing services, it said.

Narrating technical difficulties, the IPSCDL stated that the manhole's location at a busy junction required the connection of three pipes i.e. one from the Vivanta By Taj, one from the Madhuban junction side and the third go-

ing towards Caculo Mall.

The overhead existing pumping line posed challenges for tying reinforcement and conducting concreting work. Special strategies were employed to manoeuvre around these obstacles.

The three-metre diameter of the manhole, larger than the typical two-metre diameter, required special form work. This was sourced and implemented to facilitate the concreting process.

Despite all these complexities, the project was completed without damaging any utilities, showcasing the team's expertise and commitment to excellence.

A top IPSCDL official said that the completion of this manhole was a testament to its commitment to enhancing the city's infrastructure with precision and care. The completion of this manhole improves the efficiency and reliability of the local infrastructure, contributing significantly to the city's overall development, he said.

## 18-yr-old Bihari girl dies after observing fast

Team Herald

PONDA: After shocking deaths of two brothers from starvation were reported in Margao barely a month back, another such unfortunate incident came into focus in Ponda when a teenager from Bihar is also believed to have died of fasting on Tuesday.

Police investigations have revealed that the 18-year-old girl was staying at her uncle's place in Ponda for the past 4 years and had been fasting for the last few months on every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday without food and water.

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Ponda PI Tushar Lotlikar rushed to the hospital and inquired about the deceased with the family members who informed the former that the girl had abstained from food and water while fasting from Monday morning till Tuesday night.

The reasons for be-

hind the strict fast was unknown, say police but opined that the scorching summer heat must have dehydrated the girl and taken a toll on her life.

The body has been preserved in the morgue for an autopsy and police registered a case of unnatural death.

## DODGING THE DELUGE

SAGUN GAWADE



Caught in an unexpected monsoon downpour, a scooter rider braces against the rain, drenched but undeterred, near the State Bank of India, Panjim branch, on Thursday

## Panjim woman cheated of Rs 90L through e-trading app

Team Herald

PANJIM: Cyber crooks cheated a Panjim based woman of Rs 90 lakh on pretext of helping her secure handsome returns on investment through institutional trading.

According to police, the victim Kalpana Govekar from Chicholim lodged a complaint stating that the accused user of GIMI App contacted her through social media and WhatsApp.

The unidentified accused induced her to download GMC collar India for institutional free market trading and on pretext of getting a huge return of investment made her to transfer an amount of Rs 90 lakh into different bank accounts.

The incident occurred on April 28, 2024. An offence under sections 419 and 420 read with 34 of IPC and section 66 D of Information Technology (IT) Act has been registered in this regard.

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## Retaining wall collapses on 8 parked vehicles at Kundaim

Team Herald

PONDA: Eight vehicles belonging to employees of a company were severely damaged at the Kundaim Industrial Estate after a retaining wall of the firm collapsed. No one was hurt but the owners of the vehicles demanded compensation from the company to which the latter refused thus leaving the employees infuriated.

Both the parties have now been summoned to the Mardol Police station to settle the issue on Friday morning. It is learnt that on May 11, a retaining wall of the company collapsed on eight vehicles, mostly bikes parked by workers in the parking place.

It is reportedly learnt that the company had initially promised to compensate the workers for the damages they suffered but later backtracked.

The Mardol police rushed to the spot and asked both parties to remain present at the police station on May 17.

## South Goa District Hospital calls for community participation to combat dengue

Team Herald

MARGAO: The South Goa District Hospital (SGDH) marked National Dengue Day on Thursday with a rallying call for community participation to control the spread of the mosquito-borne disease. The event, organized by the Directorate of Health Services (DHS) anti-vector-borne diseases cell, brought together healthcare professionals and stakeholders from various government departments and the public to highlight the importance of a multi-pronged approach in tackling dengue.

The main speaker, Dr Kalpana Mahatme, who heads DHS's anti-vector-borne diseases cell, emphasized the need for co-ordinated efforts involving local agencies and community members to eliminate breeding sources, screen entrants to the state, and raise awareness among the populace. She lauded the success

of past initiatives, which have led to a significant reduction in dengue cases and fatalities in South Goa.

While she pointed out that they had made progress in curbing the spread of dengue in South Goa, she expressed concern that the numbers in North Goa are comparatively higher.

In the latest statistics she shared of areas where dengue cases were reported, Mapusa was leading the charts. Dr Mahatme emphasized the importance of sustained efforts and vigilance to maintain the downward trend.

Dr Rajendra Borkar, the Medical Superintendent (MS) of SGDH, commended the DHS and all stakeholders involved in the preventive measures against dengue. He highlighted the event's theme, 'Connecting Communities to Control Dengue,' stressing the pivotal role of community engagement in mitigating the disease's impact.

Experts at the event emphasized the importance of eliminating stagnant water sources, which serve as breeding grounds for dengue-carrying mosquitoes. They also urged residents to take precautions and to take this matter seriously.

The event also featured informative presentations and interactive sessions, educating attendees on the signs and symptoms of dengue fever, as well as the measures to be taken in case of suspected infections. Healthcare professionals emphasized the importance of seeking prompt medical attention to prevent complications and ensure timely treatment.

The common theme was to enhance the ongoing concerted efforts being put in by all the stakeholders, including government agencies, panchayats, municipalities, healthcare institutions, and local communities, to combat the spread of this potentially deadly disease.

## Indian Coast Guard leads successful pollution response exercise at Mormugao Port

Team Herald

VASCO: The Indian Coast Guard District Headquarters, Goa, along with the Mormugao Port Authority (MPA) conducted an area level pollution response exercise in the Mormugao port premises on May 15 and 16.

The two-day exercise aimed to enhance co-operation among various stakeholders involved in maritime pollution response, validate and practice standard operating procedures (SOPs) for pollution response and assess the preparedness of the State, MPA and minor ports and partner agencies in handling pollution related incidents.

MPA Deputy Chairman

Satish Honnakkatte inaugurated the two-day event on Wednesday. In his keynote address, Honnakkatte emphasised the crucial role of the Indian Coast Guard as nodal agency collaborating between all stakeholders in safeguarding the coastline and maintaining a clean marine environment.

Representatives from various organisations viz- Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB); South Goa District Administration; National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), Dona Paula, Department of Fisheries; Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOC), Captain of Ports (CoP) and oil handling companies participated in the exercise.

All participants actively engaged in the two-day exercise, showcasing their capabilities, discussing

challenges, and offering recommendations for improved efficiency in pollution response.

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