

Normal life disrupted as heavy rains batter State

Guirim service road partially washed with the rains; traffic disrupted; trees come down crashing on houses; low lying areas flooded; firemen on toes; tourists advised to stay away from beaches

Team Herald

PANJIM: Heavy rains on Sunday disrupted normal life in various parts of the State. The incessant downpour led to flooding of streets causing traffic jams. Commuters on the streets once again faced severe difficulties as a result of the abysmal condition of the roads in many areas. Despite the inconvenience, the cool weather provided much relief from the sweltering summer heat.

Due to the incessant rains, a compound wall collapsed at Sangolda disrupting traffic on the busy CHOGM Road. The heavy downpour led to flooding in Panjim as well, causing

difficulties for residents and locals.

The Fire and Emergency Services (FES) Panjim were on their toes as they received 35 calls of tree falls or problems related to electric wires. Porvorim Station Fire Officer (SFO) D G Pednekar told O Heraldo that the fire station received only one call related to tree falling.

Mapusa SFO A S Parab said, "We received 8 calls related to trees falling on roads. In Siolim, a coconut tree fell on a house while in Chapora a huge tree fell on a shop." One side of a culvert was damaged at Chorao which disrupted traffic on Chorao to Bicholim and vice versa.

Taking to microblogging site X (formerly Twitter),

Traffic SP Rahul Gupta said, "Due to incessant rains, one side of culvert has been damaged at Gavona Chorao, Tiswadi. Traffic on Chorao to Bicholim and vice versa routes has been diverted accordingly. Public are requested to exercise caution while traveling on this route."

A newly built sewage chamber on Chogm Road at Porvorim also caved in.

Meanwhile, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) put the State on red alert yesterday, issued an orange alert for June 10 and 11 while a yellow alert for June 11, 2024.

The IMD had recorded rainfall in Panjim at 3.3 inches followed by Old Goa at 2.7 inches



Culvert partially damaged at Gavona-Chorao

HERALD PIC

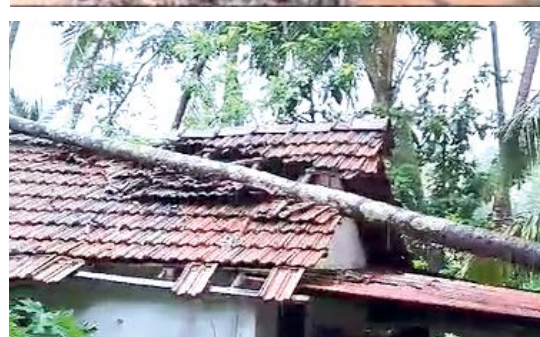
Service road goes for a toss in Guirim

Team Herald

CALANGUTE: The incessant rain on Sunday disrupted traffic on the National Highway at Guirim junction. Commuters had a harrowing time after the service road was partially washed away when the nullah in the area overflowed near the Guirim flyover. The ongoing work on a cross-drain and the elevated corridor close-by exacerbated the situation amidst the continued downpour.

The rain led to water-logging of roads at some places in the Calangute-Candolim beach-belt.

At Sinquerim, a huge tree came crashing down on a parked car near Taj Fort Aguada resort at around 7am on Sunday following strong winds and heavy rain. Pilerne Fire Station personnel rushed to the spot and cleared the debris. The car owner has estimated the damage at Rs 70,000, officials said. In another incident, a mango tree collapsed damaging a compound wall at Diaswaddo in Nagao.



A house was partially damaged after a coconut tree came crashing down on it at Pilimbi-Siolim

Tourist police save two tourists from drowning

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Tourist Police unit of Goa Police on Sunday saved two persons from drowning in two separate incidents.

In the first instance, at around 10.05 am, the alertness of constables Vikram Gawas and Sahil Pal saved the life of a Karnataka resident.

While patrolling at Baga beach, the constables noticed a male tourist about to drown into the seawater. Immediately, they took help of lifeguards Suraj

Nibhalkar and Siddhesh Bhosle and saved the tourist, identified as Siddharth S Kamadoli, 24, resident of Hubballi, Karnataka, from drowning.

In another incident, at around 12.12 pm, constables Nikhil Naik and Chetan Gaud, home guard Mohammad Asif and Swetha Devadas of TPU, while patrolling at Colva Beach, noticed a female tourist drowning in the sea. They immediately took the help of lifeguards Kishan

Naik and Sameer Velip and rescued the tourist who was identified as Nancy Verma, 24, resident of Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.



DANGER LURKS

VINCENT BRAGANZA



A sewerage manhole lies exposed in the middle of the road at Ribandar, which causes a risk to motorists especially two-wheeler riders

GOACAN sees red over rampant frog poaching in State

Huge demand for 'jumping chicken' in State; poachers venture into fields and forests during the monsoon to catch frogs basically during breeding season

Team Herald

MARGAO: Despite tough Forest Department laws to keep a check on frog poaching and the constant hunting of these monsoon visitors and passing of the fried delicacies clandestinely coded as 'jumping chicken' has infuriated wildlife activists in the State. The amphibians are hunted down poaches during the breeding season.

Frog meat has a huge demand in the State with and as a result poachers venture into fields and forests during the monsoon to catch and sell them.

Crusaders are now calling for a pan-Goa campaign with the involvement of village panchayats too to help the create mass awareness on how the amphibian species serve humans best in the wild and

not on a platter.

The relentless downpour brought relief from the sweltering heat, but it also heralded a visitor – frogs. As the amphibians emerged in droves,

hopping across fields and gardens, environmentalists sounded the alarm. Roland Martins, the coordinator of GOACAN, a local environmental organization, knew all too well the threat these unassuming creatures faced.

"Frogs are an integral part of Goa's ecological fabric. They've been woven into our culture for generations, celebrated in poems and songs. Yet, their numbers are

dwindling at an alarming rate," Martins explained.

The culprit? Greed and ignorance. A growing demand for "jumping chicken" – a euphemism for frog legs – had

turned these harmless creatures into a sought-after delicacy, served to unsuspecting tourists along the coast.

Martins shook his head, dismayed by the trend. "Hundreds of frogs are slaughtered for this so-called delicacy, disrupting the fragile ecosystem."

Recently, the Pissornem Forest Department officials nabbed two locals from Velim under the Wildlife Protection Act for allegedly poaching

frogs in Quitol, Quepem. Four frogs were found in their possession. Despite knowing poaching is illegal, demand for frog mea remains high during the monsoons in Goa.

The Forest Department, acknowledged the challenge. "We're monitoring activity outside notified forest areas, especially agricultural fields where frogs are abundant," a senior official stated. "Within forest areas, checks are regularly done."

However, enforcement alone isn't enough according to Martins, who believes that education is the key to fostering a deeper appreciation for these unsung heroes of nature. "Frogs are vital for controlling mosquito populations and preventing vector-borne diseases. Killing them is an ecological crime against the food chain," he asserted.



RND, Penha de Franca p'yat assure to implement GCZMA order on hoardings

Team Herald

PANJIM: River and Navigation Department has said that it will implement the Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) order on hoardings along the Mandovi in Penha de Franca once it receives it.

Speaking to O Heraldo, River and Navigation Department Director Vikramsingh Raje Bhosle said, "The department has not received the order and will comply with it once we receive it."

Around four years ago, the River and Navigation Department had given its premises of around 100 metres area for commercial use at a rate of

Rs one lakh per month with the approval of the state government and following the process of tender.

Penha de Franca Panchayat Secretary S S Phadte said, "We have not received the order yet. However, once we receive it we will take action accordingly."

The Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) has recently issued orders for demolition of several hoardings along Mand-

ovi in Penha de Franca panchayat. The directions have been issued as the hoardings were found to be in the no development zone of CRZ.

The authority noted that the violators were using the hoardings for commercial purpose.

In December last year, the High Court directed 20 owners of the land wherein hoardings were existing in No Development Zone (NDZ) as well as the companies using



Cong approves AAP's candidacy for Benaulim ZP seat

Team Herald

MARGAO: With the INDIA Bloc's success in the South Goa seat during the recent Lok Sabha elections, the Congress Party is leaning towards allowing the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) to contest the Benaulim Zilla Panchayat (ZP) seat in the upcoming June 23 by-election.

This strategic move is seen as a continuation of the INDIA bloc's efforts to consolidate their position in Goa.

However, there are

indications that efforts might be underway by opposition forces from Benaulim constituency to nominate a joint candidate to challenge AAP's candidacy, which could set the stage for an intense political battle in the ZP constituency.

Benaulim MLA Venzy Viegas of AAP is already mobilizing support on the ground, actively engaging with the local electorate and recruiting new party members. Simultaneously, senior Congress leaders have thrown their weight



behind the decision to let AAP contest the Benaulim seat, reinforcing the INDIA bloc's strategy.

It is learnt that the Congress's plan to cede the Benaulim seat to AAP was discussed during a recent

visit by AAP Goa Chief Amit Palekar with Congress' Goa in-charge, Manikrao Thakare. Thakare subsequently affirmed the continuation of the INDIA Bloc in Goa, paving the way for the Congress leadership to endorse AAP's candidature in Benaulim. This decision is further bolstered by the fact that AAP had previously held the Benaulim seat before it was vacated due to a tribunal ruling.

The section of top Goa Congress leaders, supporting this move, have

cited Benaulim's significant lead for its candidate and the new South Goa MPA Captain Viriato Fernandes in the recent Lok Sabha elections as a key factor in their support for AAP. They believe fielding a Congress candidate for the by-election might not resonate well with the local voters, given the bloc's recent success in the area.

Furthermore, the other INDIA alliance partners are not expected as of now to field a candidate either in support of retaining the alliance.

Tiswadi teachers allege harassment by schools managements

Team Herald

PANJIM: The teachers from Tiswadi taluka are likely to take up the issue of harassment by school managements before Secretary (Education) Prasad Lodayekar on Monday, June 10.

According to some teachers, the matter was brought to the notice of Director of Education Shailesh Zingde and Director of SCERT Meghana Shetgaonkar that some institutions were harassing teachers by forcing them to work during vacations and also beyond school hours.

They have claimed that they were not paid travelling allowance (TA) in their salaries in the month of May due to vacations yet they were being forced to take extra classes.

The State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) has convened a taluka/block wise meeting of head of institutions, members of managements, teachers and parents from Tiswadi taluka at Dr K B Hedgewar High School, Cujira on Monday, to address difficulties faced in the full-

TA NOT PAID
Teacher claimed that they were not paid TA in their salaries in the month of May due to vacations yet they were being forced to take extra classes

fledged implementation of National Education Policy (NEP)-2020. The meeting will be conducted in two groups, one from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm and from 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm.

The teachers complained that some heads of institutions are forcing them to report to school at 7:30 am and students at 7:45 am.

The All Goa Secondary School Teachers Association (AGSSTA) has condemned the act of harassing teachers by the heads of institutions in the name of NEP. This is a disturbing trend of harassment being perpetuated by a few heads of institutions against teaching staff. It has demanded that the government should safeguard the rights and dignity of the teachers with the educational system.

Lifesavers issue advisory due to red alert

Team Herald

PANJIM: The lifeguards have cautioned tourists and residents to take necessary precautions while visiting the beaches and pointed out that the IMD had issued a red alert on June 8 and 9, predicting extremely heavy rainfall at isolated locations across Goa, and an orange alert has been issued on June 10 and 11, and a yellow alert on June 12, with very heavy rainfall over parts of North and South Goa.

"Gusty winds are anticipated, which can create unfavourable conditions, especially near coastal areas. Beachgoers are urged to avoid water-based activities and stay away from the shoreline," the lifeguards said and advised people to refrain from swimming or engaging in water sports during periods of rain, lightning or thunderstorms. "If you are on the beach when a storm approaches, seek shelter immediately and avoid open areas," the advisory said. The have also suggested people to monitor local news and weather channels for the latest updates on weather conditions.