

shorttakes

**1 WATER PIPELINE BURSTS AT KHANDEPAR, SUPPLY LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED**

**PANJIM:** Thousands of litres of water was seen going down the drains following burst of 250 mm dia water pipeline at Khandepar allegedly due to negligence of the road contractor. The JCB deployed at the ongoing road work site allegedly damaged the water supply chamber. Water continued to gush for over an hour from the damaged chamber causing hardships to commuters. Locals fear that this may affect the water supply in the area.

**2 RUSSIAN COUPLE IN DRUNKEN STUPOR KNOCKS DOWN YOUTH AT SOCORRO**

**PANJIM:** A Russian couple driving under the influence allegedly hit a vehicle at Socorro, Porvorim, injured a youth and fled from the scene on Monday night. However, following the incident, a group of youth accompanying the accident victim pursued the Russians and attacked their vehicle. In an attempt to flee, the couple rammed their car into an electric pole. Mapusa police are investigating the matter.

**3 OCTOGENARIAN KIDNAPPED FROM AGARWADA PERNEM**

**PANJIM:** The Mandrem Police have booked unidentified persons for allegedly kidnapping an 80-year-old woman from Pernem. According to police, one Masuebe B Koravar, resident of Chopdem, Pernem, and native of Dharwad, Karnataka, lodged a complaint stating that her grandmother Iravva Korvar was kidnapped from Agarwada, Chopdem. The incident had occurred on October 16. The case is being investigated by PSI J Abhishek Chodankar of Mandrem Police Station.

**4 BHATLEM MURDER ACCUSED NABBED BY PANJIM POLICE**

**PANJIM:** The Panjim Police arrested Arvind Tiwari, 38, from Uttar Pradesh for allegedly killing a labourer at an under construction building near Ram Mandir in Bhatlem in the city on Monday with the help of CCTV footage. Police stated that Nazir Mulla, 45, a contractor from St Inez, lodged a complaint stating that a labourer identified as John, 48, was murdered at a construction site following a drunken brawling. Panjim police immediately traced the accused, identified as Tiwari for allegedly killing John by slashing his neck with a sharp weapon. The murder was triggered by a sudden quarrel between the accused and the victim over the sharing of food. After committing the heinous crime, he fled from the scene but he was captured on CCTV footage at Mala area. Tiwari was arrested at Yog Sethu in the city.

**5 CANACONA RESIDENT BOOKED FOR ILLEGAL HILL CUTTING**

**MARGAO:** The Canacona police have registered an offence regarding hill cutting in the village here and booked Dattaraj Ramchandra Kamat for the violation under the TCP Act. The case was registered following a written complaint from Sarino Cletus Fernandes, an officer with the Town and Country Planning (TCP) Department. The complaint stated that Kamat carried out hill cutting on property bearing Survey No. 242/1 in the village of Poinquinim for personal gain.

**6 MAN GRANTED ANTICIPATORY BAIL IN JOB SCAM CASE**

**MARGAO:** Jeronimo Dias has been granted anticipatory bail by the Additional District and Sessions Court in connection with a case registered against him by Cuncolim police. The case, which was filed in November, pertains to allegations of forwarding posts related to a job scam. The Cuncolim police station registered the offence on 16 November after which the case was transferred to the crime branch for further investigation. Dias received a notice to appear at the police station on November 17, which he duly complied with. As part of the bail conditions, the court has directed Dias to report to the police station for a period of seven days. Amey Prabhudessai represented Dias.

**7 ROYAL ENFIELD BULLET ROBBED FROM PARKING SPOT AT AQUEM**

**MARGAO:** A Royal Enfield Bullet motorcycle parked near the Derajlaxmi building opposite the Aquem Post Office was stolen by unknown thieves. The thieves broke the handle lock, started the bike, and drove off towards Vishant Theatre and disappeared, said police. Margao police have registered the offence, but no arrests have been made as of yet. The complaint was lodged by Chandrakant Chavan from Nagmodem, Navelim.

**8 UP NATIVE ARRESTED; CANNABIS WORTH RS 30,400 SEIZED**

**MARGAO:** The Margao police have arrested Omprakash Rammurat, a native of Uttar Pradesh and recovered 304 grams of ganja, valued at approximately Rs 30,400 from his possession. The arrest followed a raid conducted on Old Station Road, behind a lodge in Malbhat, based on a complaint from PSI Nilesh Shirvoikar. Rammurat was caught red-handed with the illegal substance, which has been seized as evidence. He has been remanded to three days of police custody by the JMFC Margao.

**9 SUSPECTS DISCHARGED IN COLLEM MURDER CASE**

**MARGAO:** Shivam Ram Bahadur, 22, from UP and Chandrakant Bhagyavant, 56, from Satara, Maharashtra, have been discharged from a murder case involving Philip Kispotta, 38, from Jharkhand. The District and Sessions Court in South Goa had released them, while Ramesh Doddamani, 40, from Hukkeri, Karnataka, awaits charges to be explained in court on December 23. Kispotta's body was discovered near the railway track in Collem on October 27, initially deemed a non-suspicious incident before being classified as murder following further investigation.

# Ponda nullah turns into dumping ground, farmers abandon fields

Once a vital water source, the nullah faces severe pollution crisis; local communities demand government intervention to restore water quality

Team Herald

**PONDA:** Once a vital water source for agriculture and drinking water, the 12-kilometre-long Ponda nullah, which passes through the town and four villages, has become a dumping ground for garbage, industrial waste, hotel refuse and sewage over the past two decades.

The degradation of the nullah has had severe consequences, particularly for farmers downstream, who once relied on its water for irrigation. The increasing urbanisation in the area has exacerbated the problem, leaving farmers fearful of using the polluted water. Many have abandoned their paddy fields, now lying fallow, due to the health risks associated with exposure to contaminated water.

Farmer Durgadas Naik, who depends on the nullah for irrigation said, "It is risky for health and often causes rashes on the body." Local authorities, including panchayats and the Ponda Municipal Council (PMC), have attempted to curb the pollution by imposing fines on offenders, however, these measures have failed to deter the violators. The growing number of residential and commercial establishments along the nullah has contributed to the worsening situation, with waste from these areas flowing into the water body unchecked.



The Curti-Khandepar Panchayat recently lodged a complaint with the Goa State Pollution Control Board regarding the release of chemical waste into the nullah by industrial units in Bethora. In the past, residents have reported fish deaths linked to chemical pollution in the water. Farmers downstream in Bandora and Kavlem, once

productive hubs for paddy cultivation, have largely abandoned farming due to the contaminated water. The situation has also impacted local residents, with the stench of pollution near the Ponda market and alongside roads becoming unbearable.

Medical waste, including syringes and other hazardous items, has been found in the nullah, leading to injuries among farmers. Additionally, some hoteliers and vendors have been identified as contributors, releasing waste directly into the water.

Residents and farmers have urged the government to take immediate action to clean the nullah and enforce stricter regulations against polluters. They have specifically called for measures to stop the release of waste by houses, commercial establishments, hotels, and industries.

"The nullah was once our lifeline," said a local. "We used to depend on it for drinking, cleaning, and irrigation. Now, it's a health hazard."

Smaller streams that flow into the Ponda nullah are also polluted, carrying domestic waste from Ponda city and surrounding areas. Despite door-to-door garbage collection by the PMC, many residents continue to dump waste directly into the nullah.

The PMC has appealed to city dwellers and commercial establishments to connect to the city's 15-MLD sewage treatment plant (STP), which has yet to operate at full capacity. However, compliance has been slow, with many ignoring warnings and fines.

While some residents live in posh homes and flats, the nullah flowing near their areas remains heavily polluted, emitting a foul stench. The lack of adequate sewage connections and improper waste management continue to aggravate the crisis.

The locals are now looking to the authorities for sustainable solutions to restore the nullah to its former glory and ensure the health and livelihoods of the affected communities.

**Bike race: rider killed, another injured at Verna**

Team Herald

**VASCO:** The unauthorised bike race and stunts claimed the life of one of the riders and left the other rider seriously injured at Verna on Sunday.

The accident occurred near the Goa Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC), Verna when the two youths identified as Mohammad Kaif (21), a resident of Bethora, Ponda, and Subhan Babajan Pandari (24), from Dattagad, Ponda, were engaged in high-speed racing and performing stunts on their motorcycles.

Both the vehicles had no number plates and the riders were also not wearing helmets thereby violating safety norms and endangering public safety and human life, the police said.

On reaching near the GIDC area, both the riders lost their control of their bikes and collided against each other. Due to collision Mohammad Kaif succumbed to his injuries while Subhan Pandari received severe injuries.

Ldy PSI Pramila Fernandes is conducting investigations under the guidance of Verna PI Melson Colaco and overall guidance of Mormugao DySP Gurudas Kadam.

**SEPTIC SHAME**



Raw sewage flows in the open gutters opposite Vidyut Bhavan, Panjim; a lapse that has been ongoing for the past one month. These open drains are swarming with mosquito larvae, putting the community at risk for vector-borne diseases

**Panel for Pvt, KTC bus operators coordination**

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** Government constituted an eight-member committee to ensure better coordination between the private bus operators and the State-owned Kadamba Transport Corporation Limited (KTC). The Director of Transport has been appointed as the chairman of the committee. The other members are managing director of KTC, dy director of transport (North), dy director of transport (South), asst director of transport (headquarters), KTC GM (traffic) and representatives of Goa State Private Bus Owners Association and the All-Goa Private Bus Owners Association.

**Couple injured in cylinder explosion**

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** A five-litre gas explosion in a rented room at Sodiem-Siolim left a couple seriously injured on Monday at around 8 pm. The injured couple was taken to District Hospital Mapusa and later shifted to the Goa Medical College for severe burn injuries. Police suspect that gas leak which may have caused the cylinder to catch fire and explode. Sources reveal that mini gas cylinders are openly sold at a grocery store in Sodiem where most of the buyers belong to the labour class.

**Cops nab chain snatchers at Old Goa fair**

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** The Old Goa Police have arrested three persons from Maharashtra for allegedly snatching gold chains worth Rs 1.28 lakhs from children at the Old Goa feast fair.

The accused have been identified as Ramdas Jadhav, Arun Jadhav and Yuvraj Pawar, all residents of Sangli, Miraj.

According to police, in the first incident, which occurred on December 8 Nitesh Mayekar from Bicholim lodged a complaint stating that the accused snatched gold chains weighing around 3.1 gm and 8 gm worth Rs 95,000 from his children when he had come for the feast.

The case is being investigated by ASI Yeshwant Harmalkar.

In the second incident, one Chandresh Naik from Ponda lodged a complaint stating that at the feast fair near Old Goa Church, the accused along with an unidentified woman snatched a gold chain weighing around 5 grams worth Rs 33,500 from his son. Chandresh had come to Old Goa for the feast fair along with his family.

PSI Diptaraj Gaude of Old Goa Police Station is investigating the case.

**Six booked by Valpoi police for illegal sand extraction at Sattari**

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** Six persons have been booked by Valpoi police for alleged illegal sand mining in river Kalika at Naneli, Sattari.

Four labourers, a woman who had employed them and a truck driver who had come with his vehicle to transport the extracted sand have been booked.

## Govt to convert 38,000 pumps to solar based system by 2050: Union Minister

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** Union Minister of State for Power and New and Renewable Energy Shripad Naik on Tuesday said that the State is planning to promote and implement the solarisation of agriculture pumps, aiming to convert 38,000 pumps to solar based systems by 2050.

This is as part of the initiative to make Goa the State with the lowest energy footprint in India by 2050, Naik said while addressing valedictory ceremony of 100 days on awareness and outreach programme under PM KUSUM through 100 KVAs across the country, at Panjim.

Minister for New and Renewable Energy, Ramakrishna 'Sudin' Dhavalikar, Ajay Yadav, Joint Secretary, MNRE, Government of India and Suman Chandra, Director of MNRE, Government of India were present on the occasion. Dhavalikar praised Naik for his sincere efforts for helping implementation of PM-KUSUM scheme in Goa more effectively. He thanked Union Minister for his wholehearted support. Yadav also spoke this occasion.

During the event, detailed information on PM-KUSUM and its components was provided to farmers. The training was imparted by the master trainer in local

language. Handhold sessions were carried out to address the issues by the farmers regarding installation of the solar power plant under the scheme. In the end, feedbacks were also taken for farmers and necessary information was provided on Component A of the scheme. Suman Chandra welcomed the guests and Bernhard Kreuzberg, project manager-Energy Cluster, GIZ gave a vote of thanks.

The PM-KUSUM Scheme was launched by the government in March 2019 to provide financial support to the farmers for installation of standalone solar and solarisation of

existing grid-connected agriculture pumps, and to provide the farmers an opportunity to become solar entrepreneurs by installing solar power plants on their barren/fallow/agriculture land.

To mark the success of the event, GEDA has signed its first Power Purchase Agreement under Component-A of PM KUSUM scheme, during the event. The PPA was signed between Farmer and Electrical Department, Goa for the purchase of power for 2 MW at feed in tariff of Rs 4.08 per unit for 25 years. The power would be procured by DISCOM at 33/11 KV substation in Piliem village.

**APPOINTMENTS**

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