

shorttakes

WRITER DATTA NAIK GRANTED CONDITIONAL BAIL AMID CONTROVERSY

MARGAO: The South Goa Sessions Court has granted conditional bail to prominent writer and businessman Datta Naik, who has been charged under Section 299 of the BNS by Canacona Police for allegedly offending religious sentiments. The court ordered his release upon the provision of a personal bond of Rs 25,000. Naik is required to report to the police as needed and is prohibited from leaving the State without court permission. Following the submission of an anticipatory bail application by Naik, the court issued notices to Canacona police, the public prosecutor, and the defence advocate, and heard the arguments presented. Public prosecutor V.G. Costa emphasised that arguments regarding the merits of the case cannot be entertained at this stage. Senior advocate Cleofato Almeida Coutinho, representing Naik, contended that no offence had been committed, asserting that even if the statement attributed to him were accepted, it could only amount to defamation. He further claimed that Naik had inadvertently used the term "loot". The court has scheduled further proceedings for Monday, January 13.

BAGA MAN SUCCUMBS TO ACCIDENT INJURIES, MP DRIVER BOOKED

PANJIM: Kishore Haldankar, 56, from Saunta Vaddo, Baga, who had sustained injuries after his two-wheeler was hit by a car at Calangute on January 3 succumbed to injuries on January 11. According to police, Vijay Shau, 37, from Madhya Pradesh lost control over his vehicle and knocked down Kishore at the Dolphin Circle in Calangute. An FIR has been registered against the accused for rash and negligent driving and the case is being investigated by PSI Dinesh Kanolkar.

MAID BOOKED FOR STEALING CASH, ORNAMENTS WORTH RS 65,000

PANJIM: The Bicholim Police have booked a 35-year-old woman for allegedly stealing cash, gold and diamond ornaments, all worth Rs 65,000 from Sankhlum. According to the police, one Bhageshree Blaggan, 27, from Sankhlum lodged a complaint stating that the alleged accused Noorjaan Hurkady, who was working as a maid stole Rs 11,500, a gold chain worth Rs 34,000 and a pair of diamond earrings worth Rs 20,000. An FIR has been registered and the case is being investigated by PSI Krishna Gawas of Bicholim Police Station.

COLVA POLICE ARREST MAN FOR SUSPECTED GANJA POSSESSION WORTH RS 3 LAKHS

MARGAO: Vinayak Chawan from Mandopa, Navelim, Salcete, was apprehended by Colva police for possessing a substance resembling ganja, weighing 3.082 kilograms and valued at approximately Rs 3,08,200. Police reported that, following a complaint from a sub-inspector at Colva Police Station, Chawan was found in possession of the suspected ganja on January 12, between 15:15 and 18:50 hours on an internal road in Vanelim. He has since been presented before the Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) in Margao, where a seven-day remand has been granted.

SCOOTER STOLEN FROM SIRIDAO

PANJIM: The Agassaim Police have booked unidentified persons for committing theft of a scooter from Siridao. According to police, Christevao Fernandes from Zuari Waddo, Goa Velha, Tiswadi, lodged a complaint stating that the unidentified persons stole the scooter worth Rs 90,000 on December 12, 2024. An FIR has been registered and the case is being investigated by Head Constable Sudesh Mangadkar.

TEENAGE GIRL KIDNAPPED FROM BICHOLIM

PANJIM: An unidentified person for kidnapping a 17-year-old girl, a native of Karnataka but presently residing at Bicholim. According to police, the incident occurred on Saturday, January 11. Mother of the minor lodged a complaint that the minor was kidnapped from her lawful guardianship at around 7.45 pm. An FIR has been registered and efforts are on to find out the unknown accused person and to trace out the victim, police said. Investigation is in progress with PSI Amarnath Palni investigating the issue.

WEST BENGAL NATIVE ARRESTED STEALING LAPTOP, 2 MOBILES FROM RESTAURANT

PANJIM: Abhishek Sarkar, 29, a native of West Bengal has been arrested by the Mandrem Police for allegedly stealing two mobiles and a laptop belonging to the owner of a restaurant where he was working. Police revealed that Neville Fernandes, 37, from Vailowaddo, Morjim, lodged a complaint stating that the accused stole a laptop and two mobile phones, all worth around Rs 1,20,000 from the Papas Beach House Restaurant at Vitthaladaswada. The incident had occurred on January 10 and all the stolen items have been recovered from the accused, stated the police.

Power department issues 15-day deadline to clear poles or pay fees

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Electricity Department has given a 15-day ultimatum to companies across Goa, demanding they either remove their cables from electricity poles or pay the department in accordance with the IT policy.

The department has announced that the drive to clean all poles will begin on 1st February. This move is expected to affect internet and cable television services in and around the capital city.

Speaking to reporters, Executive Engineer (Electricity) Kashinath Shetye explained, "In 2022, a new policy was introduced re-

quiring internet and cable service providers to obtain a licence, but so far, nobody has complied. They haven't even applied for a licence. The Electricity Department is supposed to receive Rs 300 per pole per year from them. The cables create difficulties for our linemen."

He further stated that the Electricity Department has incurred losses of around Rs 50 crore, as none of the internet or cable service providers have paid any fees.

Shetye added that the service providers have now been instructed to settle their dues and obtain a licence from the IT Department of the government.

Collapsed ramp at Durbhat jetty a threat to locals and fishermen

Team Herald

PONDA: Once a bustling port in Goa, Durbhat jetty has fallen into a state of severe neglect, with its dilapidated condition now posing a significant danger to locals, fishermen, and ferry passengers. Known for its import of roof tiles and other essential commodities, Durbhat was once a vibrant hub, much like Vasco port. However, over time, it has been left to decay, and its remains now serve as a safety hazard.

Around 35 years ago, the old ramp of the port was severely damaged by a Barse (heavy monsoon



SANTOSH NAIK

storm), and recently, another portion of the ramp has collapsed. The damaged ramp is situated near the busy ferry ramp, making it particularly perilous for the fishermen using canoes

and for passengers traveling on ferries. The collapsed section, submerged in the water, is not visible and continues to damage fishing canoes, leading to significant losses for the lo-

cal fishermen.

Eknath Fadte, a local resident, recalled the days when Durbhat port was a thriving centre of activity, with tourists visiting the area and locals enjoying the

river during the hot summer months. He lamented that for over three decades, the government has failed to address the port's deterioration. He stressed the urgent need for action to clear the debris and rebuild the port.

"The remains of the port are a real risk to people. The collapsed ramp poses a danger to commuters using the ferryboats, and fishermen's canoes are often damaged when they accidentally hit the submerged portions," Fadte said. He urged the government to take immediate action to prevent further accidents and economic losses.

Collision claims life of 27-year-old in Margao

Team Herald

MARGAO: A 27-year-old man, Joseph Ferreira from Borda, tragically lost his life in a collision involving a two-wheeler and a bus. The accident occurred near a nursing home at Old Market, Margao.

According to Margao police, Joseph was travelling from Margao towards Fatorda when the incident took place. He was initially taken to South Goa District Hospital, but due to the seriousness of his condition, he was subsequently transferred to Goa Medical College (GMC) in Bambolim, where he succumbed to his injuries while receiving treatment.

CREATIVE TOUCH

SAGUN GAWADE



A worker spray-paints a sculpture for the upcoming Lokotsav 2025 at Darya Sangam, an exhibition ground at Kala Academy, Campal

Two suicides reported in S Goa

MARGAO: Three suicide cases were reported in South Goa on Monday. According to Collem police, a 16-year-old boy, took his own life after his father questioned him about returning home late at night.

Police received a call from PHC Pilliim Dharbandora, reporting that a patient from Tamdimol Collem had been brought in dead, with the cause being a suicide by hanging. During the investigation, it was revealed that the deceased had left home after being questioned by his father. On January 13, at 7:15 am, the father discovered his son's body hanging outside their home. The body was subsequently lowered and transported by ambulance, where the attending doctor pronounced him dead. The body has been preserved at South Goa District Hospital in Margao for further medico-legal formalities. The investigation is being handled by PSI Viraj Korgaonkar of Collem police station.

In a second case, Colva police reported that 24-year-old Manish Kumar Ray from Mazilvado Benaulum, originally from Bihar, died by hanging using a dupatta and shirt as ligature material. Police were alerted by a resident of Manzil Waddo, who informed them that Ray had hanged himself in his rented room.

Goa saw surge in tourist numbers: Min

Team Herald

PANJIM: Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte on Monday claimed that the State saw a tourist footfall of 1.4 crore last year, according to conservative estimates from the Department of Tourism, which used data from air, rail, and road travellers.

Speaking to media personnel at the Tourism Stakeholder Conclave in Dona Paula, Khaunte stated that 99.41 lakh domestic and 4.67 lakh foreign tourists arrived in Goa in 2024.

He highlighted that the State experienced a 22 per cent year-on-year growth compared to 2023. Additionally, 54 per cent more tourists visited the State in December 2024 compared to December 2023. The quarterly growth for the last quarter, i.e., October to December, stood at 38 per cent, he informed.

In a record of sorts, the last week of December



saw 200 flights arriving in Goa per day, which Khaunte described as unprecedented.

According to Khaunte, the number of domestic tourists increased by 22 per cent, while the number of foreign tourists rose by 3 per cent. When asked about the low rate of foreign tourist growth, the Minister asserted that, given that Asian tourism has yet to recover from the damage caused by Covid-19 and currently stands at -18 per cent, a 3 per cent growth in foreign

tourists in Goa is a positive outcome and better than the national average.

He said, "Tourism in Goa has recovered to more than 50 per cent of pre-Covid levels. Goa continues to be a favourite tourist destination."

Khaunte condemned the attacks on Goa that emerged through social media influencers in the last quarter of December 2024, which he claimed were triggered by 'unverified data' released by the China Economic Information Centre.

Kare College to launch 'Nyaya Yatra' initiative on legal awareness

Team Herald

MARGAO: G. R. Kare College of Law is set to launch 'Nyaya Yatra', a pioneering initiative designed to raise public awareness on various social-legal issues. In collaboration with the South Goa District Legal Services Authority and Konkarn Railway Corporation, the initiative, titled 'Nyaya Yatra: Journey to Justice', aims to foster a legally informed community and promote justice through legal knowledge.

Adv Pritam Morais, Co-chairman of the College's Governing Council and the event's coordinator, explained that the college will conduct a series of legal awareness campaigns under this theme. These campaigns will include the display of informative posters at prominent

Konkan Railway stations, covering crucial socio-legal topics such as senior citizens' rights, entitlement to free legal aid, and protective legislation for women and children. The posters will be designed by law students, who will also perform skits at public locations to further engage the community. Additionally, pamphlets will be distributed, providing information on various beneficiary schemes.

The initiative is supported by the South Goa District Legal Services Authority, which, along with the law college, will host free workshops addressing issues such as cybercrime, human rights, labour laws, and entitlement to legal aid. The programme will be launched on Friday, January 17, at 9:30 am at the Konkarn Railway Station in Margao.

Lifesavers rescued 639 from drowning

Team Herald

CALANGUTE: In a remarkable display of bravery and dedication, lifesavers along Goa's coastline have made a significant impact in 2024, rescuing 639 individuals from drowning. According to a statement released by Drishti Marine, the lifesaving agency contracted by the Goa government, a total of 764 incidents were reported, with lifesavers positively intervening in approximately 950 cases.

Calangute beach emerged as the front-runner for lifesaving interventions of 164 rescues, closely followed by Baga with 147 and Candolim with 66. The lifesaving efforts included 639 water-based rescues, 157 instances of first aid administration, and assistance to 146 individuals, including children, ensuring

their safe return from perilous situations.

The statistics revealed that Russians, UK nationals, and domestic tourists from Karnataka and Maharashtra make up the majority of victims needing assistance. Tragically, despite these heroic efforts, eight individuals lost their lives to drowning along the coastline in 2024.

Drishti Marine has been operational in Goa since 2008, a response to a staggering 200 drowning deaths in the previous year. The establishment of this lifesaving service has led to a remarkable 99 per cent reduction in drowning-related fatalities, significantly enhancing the safety and experience of tourists visiting the region. Since its inception, over 8,000 lives have been saved through the swift actions of trained lifesavers.

APPOINTMENTS

WANTED URGENTLY

ACCOUNTANT

With 3-4 years experience, should be extremely knowledgeable in GST, TDS, balance sheet, tally, etc. candidates from in and around Panaji preferred.

OPERATIONS MANAGER- HOSPITALITY

The Operations Supervisor should have experience in hospitality or operations, with Excellent Communication skills having Knowledge of safety & compliance regulations, will be responsible for overseeing day-to-day operations, managing staff, ensuring guest satisfaction, and maintaining quality standards in the hospitality services provided.

SITE SUPERVISOR

Diploma with 3-5 years experience, excellent managerial & communication capabilities. Should be able to handle site independently, need to submit timely progress reports & should also interact with Architects, Supervisors, Contractors Engineers & Suppliers.

Contact in person or mail your CV along with recent photograph:

Group Shiv Samarth

A/6, Skylark Apartment, Meneses, Dr. Braganza Pereira Rd., Panaji, Goa-403001 Email: ho@shivsamarth.com

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Traffic violations in Ponda on the rise, Rs 2.18 Cr collected in fines

Team Herald

PONDA: The Ponda Traffic Police issued fines to 36,481 drivers for various traffic violations, collecting a total of Rs 2.18 crore during the year 2024.

Traffic Police Inspector Krishna Sinhari stated that while the number of cases involving riders without helmets decreased, other types of violations saw an increase. In 2023, there were 2,517 cases of riding without a helmet, which dropped slightly to 2,247 cases in 2024.

The traffic violations recorded included 5,614 cases of violating no-entry zones, 3,911 cases of dangerous parking, 3,361 cases of speeding, 2,917 cases of using tinted glass,

TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS ON THE RISE			
Types of offence	2023	2024	
Driving in high speed	3265	3361	
Under influence of Alcohol	201	376	
Without seat belt	291	405	
No entry	7213	5614	
Tinted glass	4733	2917	
Without helmet	2517	2247	
Dangerous Parking	6500	3911	

2,247 cases of riding without a helmet, 405 cases of not wearing a seatbelt, 376 cases of driving under the influence of alcohol and 138 cases of using a mobile

phone while driving.

Notably, the number of speeding violations increased in 2024, with 3,361 cases compared to 3,265 in 2023.