

shorttakes

19-YEAR-OLD FALLS TO DEATH FROM SECOND-FLOOR WINDOW AT CHINCHINIM

MARGAO: Adler Joe Rodrigues, 19, from Chinchinim, succumbed to injuries at GMC Hospital, Bambolim, after falling from the second-floor window of his locked house. Cuncoim police revealed Rodrigues attempted entry via the window, resulting in fatal head injuries. He was first treated at South District Hospital, Margao, before being referred to GMC, where he was declared dead. A post-mortem confirmed death due to blunt force trauma.

VALPOI RESIDENT HELD FOR ATTEMPTING TO SNATCH GOLD CHAIN AT BAGA

CALANGUTE: A Valpoi resident, Vijay Harvalkar, was caught by locals after allegedly attempting to snatch a gold chain from a foreign tourist in Tito's Lane, Baga, on Tuesday. Upon his apprehension, Harvalkar was found carrying a hacksaw blade and fake jewellery. He was handed over to the Tourist Police Unit (TPU) and later transferred to the Calangute police station for further action.

55-YEAR-OLD KARNATAKA NATIVE DIES IN DHARBANDORA MISHAP

MARGAO: Shekappa alias Ashok Pujar, 55, of Gadag, Karnataka, died in a self-vehicle accident at Nandran, Mollem. Collem police reported Pujar was referred to GMC Bambolim after initial treatment at PHC Pillim. Investigations revealed he succumbed to injuries sustained in the crash. Police conducted a scene inspection and inquest, and further inquiries are underway.

MAHARASHTRA MAN ARRESTED IN BANK FRAUD CASE

MARGAO: Fatorda police arrested Vijay Kishan Vishnoi, 24, of Thane, Maharashtra, the prime suspect in a Federal Bank fraud case. Vishnoi managed the account used to cheat Vaishali Bhosle of Rs 2.2 lakh. Earlier, two accomplices, Faizal Shaikh and Amit Waghela, were arrested and confessed Vishnoi's involvement during interrogation. Technical surveillance led to his arrest in Mumbai. All accused are in police custody, with investigations ongoing.

68-YEAR-OLD GERMAN TOURIST DIES IN BENAULIM GUEST HOUSE

MARGAO: German national Goran Ragnar Tranberg, 68, was declared dead at South Goa District Hospital after being found unconscious in a Benaulim guest house. His friend, Joachim Weber, revealed Tranberg had a history of strokes and had recently reported feeling unwell. Police ruled out foul play and are conducting medico-legal procedures. Investigations continue.

COLVA POLICE REGISTER CASE AGAINST BULL FIGHT ORGANISERS

MARGAO: The Colva police have filed a case against two individuals for organising a bullfight in violation of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. Based on a complaint lodged by the Lady Police Sub-Inspector (LPSI) of Colva Police Station, the offence was registered following the reported incident. According to the police, the incident occurred on January 20, at around 4.30 pm, in an open paddy field opposite the Fisheries Department, in Colva. The accused, identified as Joel Fernandes from Socubhat, Per-Seralim, and Philip Kevin Rodrigues from Paroda, Quepem, allegedly organised a bullfight involving two bulls for public entertainment.

BELAGAVI MAN ARRESTED FOR FATAL HIT-AND-RUN ACCIDENT AT DHARBANDORA

PONDA: The Ponda police arrested Maruti G Gavada, a resident of Belagavi, Karnataka, in connection with the fatal hit-and-run accident that occurred on January 16 near the Sanjivani Sugar Factory at Dharbandora. The incident resulted in the death of Mohmdarif Momin, 26, from Bhumikanagar, Usgao, who was riding the motorcycle. Pillion rider Rohit Kujar, 20, also from Bhumikanagar, sustained serious injuries and was shifted to the Goa Medical College (GMC) for treatment. The motorcycle was severely damaged in the accident. The tragic accident took place at around 6 am when an unknown vehicle, driving rashly and negligently, hit the motorcycle and fled the scene. Ponda Police relied on technical surveillance, CCTV footage from the accident scene, and footage along the suspected route to trace the vehicle involved in the crime. The investigation led to the identification of a pick up vehicle with registration number KL-55-F-1764, owned by Vinod Narayan Patil of Tisk-Usgao, Ponda. Local intelligence and further surveillance enabled the police to apprehend Gavada from his residence in Khanapur. During interrogation, Gavada confessed to his involvement in the accident, admitting that his vehicle had collided with the motorcycle.

Team Herald

MARGAO: A devastating fire broke out at a car service centre in Verna Industrial Estate on Tuesday afternoon, causing extensive damage to 33 vehicles, including 22 Skoda cars (one a demo model) and 11 Renault cars. The fire, which reportedly started in nearby dry grass, rapidly spread to the service centre premises, resulting in estimated losses running into crores.

The vehicles, many of which had been brought in for servicing, were engulfed by the flames along with other equipment, including a diesel generator, a paint booth, and a compressor. Firefighters confirmed the fire was under control after a three-hour battle.

Verna Station Fire Officer (SFO) Dilesh Gaonkar reported that the station received an alert at 3.06 pm. Initial efforts by one fire tender revealed the fire's massive scale, prompting reinforcements from fire stations in Margao, Vasco,



and Ponda. Fire tenders from Panjim were also dispatched but later turned back as the blaze was controlled by evening.

The fire department deployed a team of personnel, including SFO Gaonkar, Divisional Fire Officer Francisco Mendes, and firefighters from multiple stations, who worked tirelessly to contain the flames.

SFO Gaonkar said, "The fire destroyed over 33 vehicles and caused significant damage to equipment. No

casualties were reported. An inquiry is underway, and we will submit our report to the concerned department."

According to the fire department, the blaze began in a patch of dry grass approximately 200 metres from the service centre before spreading to the parked vehicles awaiting servicing. The cause of the fire is still under investigation, and foul play has been ruled out by Verna police, who have registered the

incident and launched their own inquiry.

Local residents and staff from nearby establishments joined the firefighting effort, helping control the flames until additional fire personnel arrived. However, the fire gutted several cars beyond recognition, making it difficult to identify the registration numbers.

IDC Chairman and MLA Aleixo Reginaldo Lourenco called it an eye-opener and claimed there was 'no ma-



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jor damage'. He said the vehicles had been 'lying there' for the past couple of years and they had issued notices for their removal. "We will take action against the company. We have instructed all companies to clear grass and take precautions," he told reporters.

A fire official from Margao noted a rise in fires

originating from dry grass burning, especially in Salcete's villages. Such incidents often escalate quickly, causing extensive damage, as seen in this case. An initial fire report has been prepared, and efforts are ongoing to identify the vehicle owners and assess the complete extent of the damage.

WHEELED WRECKAGE



SAGUN GAWADE

Abandoned two-wheelers including the ones involved in accidents and attached by traffic cell, have been parked along the newly constructed footpath opposite the Panjim Police Station

Goa records over 15k traffic violations in 20 days

Team Herald

PANJIM: In the first 20 days of the new year, Goa has witnessed 15,625 traffic violation cases, according to Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Prabodh Shirwaikar. Of these, 2,300 cases were registered in Panjim alone.

SP Shirwaikar revealed that the violations include 347 cases of driving under the influence of alcohol, 951 of overspeeding, 2,675 for helmetless riding, and 372 for using mobile phones while driving. Other offences include 535 cases for driving without a seatbelt, 250 for carrying excess pillion riders,

Offences	Number of cases
Over speeding	951
Using mobile while driving	372
Driving under influence of alcohol	347
Driving without seat belt	535
Carrying excess pillion rider	250
Driving without helmet	2,675
No parking	960
No entry	2,010
Dangerous parking	2,893
Unauthorised parking	554
Tinted glass	302
Overtaking	269

and 960 for pay-parking violations. A total of 2,893 cases were booked for dangerous parking and 554 for unauthorised parking.

Additional violations recorded include 27 cases of red-light jumping, 302 for

having tinted glass, 269 for improper overtaking, 245 for driving without number plates, and 742 for improper number plates.

Addressing reporters, SP Shirwaikar noted that ongoing Smart City work in Panjim has significantly reduced parking spaces, leading to a surge in double parking. He urged the public to avoid double parking and make use of the electric bus services provided by the Kadamba Transport Corporation Limited (KTCL).

Two booked for assaulting UP native over taxi issue

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Team Herald

PERNEM: The Mopa Airport Police have registered a case against two residents of Pernem for allegedly assaulting a 28-year-old man originally from Uttar Pradesh, over a dispute related to the taxi business at the airport.

According to police reports, Sandeep Bavkar, who currently resides at Nagzar, Pernem, and hails from Etah, Uttar Pradesh, filed a complaint regarding the incident. Bavkar alleged that on January 8, 2025, Manoj Shetye and Harshal Naik, both residents of Ozarim, Pernem, verbally abused him with obscene language, issued death threats, and physically assaulted him with fists and slaps. The altercation reportedly stemmed from a disagreement over the taxi business.

An FIR has been registered, and the case is being investigated by LPSI Sashanka Parab.

Govt declines affidavit on Vedanta mine EC appeal

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Goa government has declined to file an affidavit in response to an appeal before the National Green Tribunal (NGT), Pune, challenging the Environment Clearance (EC) granted to Vedanta Limited for operating the Bicholim mine.

The appeal, filed by activist Swapnesh Sherlekar and others, seeks to quash the EC issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) on January 23, 2024, allowing Vedanta to mine 3 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) of iron ore over a lease area

of 478.5206 hectares in Bicholim taluka.

During a recent hearing, Advocate General Devadas Pangam informed the Tribunal that he does not want to file a response. Meanwhile, the MoEF&CC requested a one-week extension to submit its affidavit. The Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB) managed to file its affidavit despite technical diffi-

culties during the e-filing process.

The NGT granted the appellants two weeks to file their rejoinder to Vedanta Limited's affidavit. The case is now scheduled for further consideration on February 20, 2025.

The appellants argue that the clearance was issued without proper consideration of environmental concerns.

APPOINTMENTS

WANTED

(URGENTLY REQUIRED IN DISPATCH DEPT.)

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Verna - Goa



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Union Minister inaugurates loop port connectivity flyover

Launches six infrastructure projects worth Rs 4,200 crore

Team Herald

VASCO: Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the loop port connectivity flyover connecting Ravindra Bhavan, Baina, to Mormugao Port Authority (MPA) Gate No. 9, on Tuesday. Gadkari also launched six major infrastructure projects worth Rs 4,200 crore during the event, which was attended by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, ministers, MLAs, and other dignitaries.

Speaking on the occasion, Gadkari stated that the eight-kilometre-long flyover-cum-cable-stayed road overbridge would ease traffic congestion and spur development. He highlighted that the first loop of this project, connecting Varunapuri to Sada Junction, had been inaugurated in January 2022.

"This flyover will save time, reduce traffic jams, and minimise coal pollution, benefiting locals while improving logistics for the Mormugao Port," Gadkari said.

Gadkari urged the Goa government to inspect the width of roads and take action against encroachments by government offices to enhance road safety. He called for notices to be issued to encroachers and offered his Ministry's support by providing machinery, including bulldozers, for demolition purposes.

The minister also asked Chief Minister Pramod Sawant to convene a meeting to resolve disputes in the flying zone. While acknowledging the Indian Navy's claims over certain areas of land, he opined that the Navy's compound wall had encroached onto the national highway. He recommended an inspection to

measure the land and remove all encroachments from such areas.

Emphasising the need to address accident-prone zones and black spots, Gadkari urged the State government to prioritise making Goa 'accident and pollution-free'. He cited alarming national road accident statistics, noting that five lakh accidents occur annually in India, resulting in 1.8 lakh deaths.

During the event, Gadkari also laid the foundation stone for several key projects, including the construction of a flyover from MES College Junction to Bogmalo Junction, a vehicular underpass (VUP) at Queeny Junction, and four-laning works from end of Zuari approach to start of Margao bypass; from Navelim to Cuncoim; from Bendorem to Pollem and from Ponda to Bhoma.