

shorttakes

**CUNCOLIM RESIDENT'S SCOOTER STOLEN FROM FATORDA OPEN PARKING AREA**

**MARGAO:** Seljan Vitus Colaco, a resident of Bettiem, Cuncolim, has lodged a complaint with Fatorda Police, reporting the theft of a Suzuki Access scooter valued at approximately Rs. 39,153. According to the complaint, the scooter was parked in an open parking area near the PWD Pump House in Fatorda when it was stolen by an unknown individual. Police have conducted a panchanama and the investigation is ongoing.

**MAN COLLAPSES AND DIES WHILE WORKING AT FARM IN SANGUEM**

**MARGAO:** Sanguem police reported the sudden death of 52-year-old Gango Zoro from Uguem, Sanguem, who collapsed while working at Deejay Farm. Police received information from Akshay Rekdo, who alerted them to the incident at the farm. Upon investigation, it was revealed that Zoro had been washing his hands and legs after work when he suddenly collapsed and lost consciousness. Emergency services confirmed his death on-site. The body has been sent for post-mortem examination at the South Goa District Hospital, Margao. LPSI Kavita Rawat of Sanguem Police Station is conducting the investigation.

**DUO BOOKED FOR ORGANISING BULL FIGHT AT COLVA**

**MARGAO:** Colva Police have filed a case against two individuals for organising a bull fight in violation of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. The incident occurred on 20th January 2025 at approximately 16:30 hours in an open paddy field near the Fisheries Department in Colva. The accused, Joel Fernandes of Socubhat, Per Seraulim, and Philip Kevin Rodrigues of Paroda, Quepem, allegedly encouraged two bulls to fight for public entertainment, subjecting them to cruelty in full view of the public. Further investigation is underway.

**UP NATIVE ASSAULTED OVER TAXI BUSINESS ISSUE AT MOPA AIRPORT**

**PERNEM:** The Mopa Airport Police has booked two persons from Pernem for allegedly assaulting a 28-year-old native of Uttar Pradesh over a taxi business issue at the airport.

According to police, Sandeep Bavkar, currently residing at Nagzar, Pernem, and native of Etah, Uttar Pradesh, lodged a complaint stating that on January 8, Manoj Shetye and Harshal Naik, both from Ozarim, Pernem, abused the complainant with filthy words, threatened to kill, restrained and assaulted him with fist blows and slaps over the issue of taxi business. An FIR has been registered and the case is being investigated by LPSI Sashanka Parab of Mopa Airport Police Station.

**DULER RESIDENT BOOKED FOR CHEATING RELATIVE OF GOLD ORNAMENTS**

**MAPUSA:** The Mapusa Police have booked a Duler resident for cheating her relative of gold ornaments which she had borrowed for wearing at a function.

According to police, Vidhay Vishant Salgaonkar, 48, from Parra, Bardez, lodged a complaint stating that in December 2022, the alleged accused identified as Kalyani alias Kanchan Jitendra Harmalkar, resident of Duler, Mapusa, requested her to lend her gold with a promise that she would return the same after using for a function. The complainant trusted the accused and gave the gold ornaments to the accused but the latter fraudulently mortgaged them in a bank and borrowed a gold loan instead. An FIR has been registered and the case is being investigated by PSI Ajay Dhuri.

**WEST BENGAL NATIVE HELD FOR STEALING MOBILE PHONE FROM ANJUNA HOTEL**

**MAPUSA:** Sahid Lal Mandal, 19, a native of West Bengal was arrested by the Anjuna police for allegedly stealing a mobile phone worth Rs 1.29 lakh from a hotel at Arpora. According to police, Rohit Sinha 40, from Dwaraka, New Delhi, lodged a complaint stating that the alleged accused effected entry into his room of Hotel La Sunila WSI, Baga, Arpora, and stole the mobile phone.

The stolen mobile phone has been recovered, police said, adding further investigation is in progress with PSI Saish Kinklekar of Anjuna Police Station.

**27-YEAR-OLD MAN ARRESTED FOR CHAIN SNATCHING IN CALANGUTE**

**CALANGUTE:** The Calangute Police have arrested 27-year-old Vijay Harvalkar from Sattari in connection with a gold chain snatching incident in Calangute. According to the police, Sandeep Vernekar, a 48-year-old resident of Calangute, filed a complaint stating that on January 1, near Inspiration Shack, the accused snatched a gold chain worth Rs 1.5 lakh from his customer and fled the scene. An FIR has been registered, and the investigation is being handled by PSI Vighnesh Naik.

**Police collaborate with journalists to raise awareness on cyber frauds**

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** As cyber fraud cases in India continue to soar, with over Rs 25,000 crore lost and more than one lakh complaints filed nationwide, the Goa Police have reported a worrying trend of unsuspecting victims being duped of lakhs of rupees every day in the state.

Director General of Police (DGP) Alok Kumar expressed concern over the rising number of cyber crimes and stressed the need for coordinated efforts between the police, media, and other stakeholders to combat this growing threat.

The Goa Police, in collaboration with the Goa Union of Journalists (GUJ),

organised a Cyber Awareness session for journalists, both members and non-members, to spread knowledge about the dangers of cyber crime and how to avoid falling victim to it.

"Cyber crimes are increasing across the country, and in the last few years, unsuspecting victims have lost a staggering Rs 25,000 crore to cyber frauds. In Goa, too, several victims lose lakhs of rupees every day to such crimes," DGP Kumar said. "Goa Police are working hard to control these cases, and in the last six months, we've launched several new initiatives to tackle the menace. I urge the press and media to help us in this endeavor," he added.

**Shiroda locals protest unfair pellet transportation**

**Accuse company of bias in job allocations; demand fair share for local truck owners**

Team Herald

**PONDA:** Tensions erupted in Shiroda after locals clashed with company officials over the transportation of iron ore pellets. The dispute centered around the lack of business opportunities for local truck owners and unemployed youth.

The unrest began on Wednesday morning, with villagers staging a protest demanding that the pellet transportation business be given to local truckers. Later in the evening, the situation escalated as protesters blocked the road leading to the company gate.

Deputy Collector Shubham Naik, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DYSP) Shivram Vaigankar, and Police Inspector (PI) Vijaynath Kavlekar were called in to mediate. Discussions



between the villagers and company officials continued, but no resolution was reached until late evening.

One of the protesting truck owners, who wished to remain anonymous, expressed the frustration felt by the community, stating, "The company has been harassing us for over a year. Last year, we staged a protest over the poor rates for trans-

porting iron ore pellets, and now we're facing the same issue again. They refuse to give us transportation trips, and this is affecting our livelihoods."

The truck owners also alleged that the company has been unfairly allocating transportation jobs, with large operators receiving a disproportionate share of work. "The company is giving 75%

of the business to just a few truck owners who have 25 trucks, while the remaining 75 truck owners are only getting 25% of the business. This is grossly unfair," said another local trucker.

Further exacerbating tensions, villagers voiced concerns over the long-standing environmental impact of the company's operations. "The pollution from

the company has been a constant problem for years," said a local resident. "We suffer from dust pollution, and the company has never provided any compensation for the damages caused. They also don't offer any jobs to local youths," he added.

In addition to the environmental and employment grievances, allegations were raised that local politicians were exploiting their positions to secure transportation business from the company, depriving the locals of opportunities. "Some politicians are grabbing the business for themselves, leaving us with nothing," said a villager, who requested anonymity.

They have demanded 100% of the transportation jobs be allocated to local truck owners and unemployed youth.

**Calangute forum protests commercial plans for Sinquerim hill**

**CALANGUTE:** The Calangute Constituency Forum (CCF), a local non-governmental organisation (NGO), has lodged a formal complaint with the Chief Minister and other relevant authorities, objecting to the State government's recent decision to permit the commercial development of Sinquerim Hill by a starred hotel group.

In a strongly worded statement, the CCF asserted, "This property belonged to the Comunidade of Candolim and was acquired by the government under the explicit condition that no commercial development would take place on this land. However, the virtual lease signed with resort contradicts this condition and endangers the cultural, historical and ecological fabric of the area."

The Forum highlighted the unique significance of Sinquerim Hill, describing it as a vital ecological and cultural landmark. According to the CCF, "Sinquerim Hill is not only a treasure trove of old heritage monuments but also an essential ecological zone contributing to the environmental balance of the village. Allowing commercial activities in this area poses a direct threat to the hill's biodiversity and the overall environmental balance of Candolim."

**ARTISTIC TRIBUTE**



Art exhibition featuring paintings and sculptures to celebrate the birth year of Goa's legendary writers, the late Ravindra Kelekar and the late Manohar Rai Sardesai, is organised by Directorate of Art and Culture at Kala Academy, Campal

**Goa Dairy's new MD aims to boost milk production**

Team Herald

**PONDA:** Naveen Kumar, Managing Director of Goa Dairy, appointed by the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), visited the primary milk societies in the villages of Ibrampur and Ozari in Pernem on Wednesday, where he met with local dairy farmers and listened to their grievances.

During his visit, Kumar was

warmly welcomed by the Presidents of the milk societies, Sudhir Dhavaskar from Ibrampur and Yogesh Vazarkar from Ozari, alongside Sarpanch Ashok Dhavaskar and several members of the Ibrampur Panchayat. A large number of milk producers and farmers also attended the meeting.

The farmers shared their concerns regarding the challenges they face in the milk business,

and Kumar engaged in detailed discussions about the various issues affecting milk production. Speaking on the occasion, Kumar expressed his commitment to visiting other milk-producing institutions across Goa in the near future to better understand the broader challenges.

Kumar also took the opportunity to honour Amita Naik, a milk producer and young entrepreneur from Ibrampur,

for her contributions to the industry.

Addressing the farmers, the MD remarked, "Competition exists in every field, and the milk business is no exception. There is more competition in milk sales than in milk collection. However, if milk producers and the Goa Milk Association work together, we can ensure mutual prosperity for everyone involved."

**High drama over "missing" PMC toilet at Varkhandem-Ponda**

**Locals claim toilet complex was built on gifted land in 1986 to curb open defecation; civic officials excavate the plot looking for remnants of the toilet; PMC has no record of the building; Pondaites demand probe into missing records**

Team Herald

**PONDA:** A heated controversy erupted at Varkhandem as locals and officials of the Ponda Municipal Council (PMC) clashed over claims about a missing public toilet block. The locals allege that a two-seater toilet block for men and women, reportedly constructed in 1986, had once existed on the site, while PMC records neither confirm the structure's existence nor possess any related documents.

The issue came to light when a local builder applied for Town and Country Planning (TCP) permission to construct a building on the plot in question. This led to an objection by Sudesh Naik, a resident of Varkhandem, who alleged that the plot once housed a PMC-owned public toilet. In response, PMC halted the builder's proposal and initiated an investigation to verify the claims.

To resolve the dispute, PMC officials, led by Municipal Engineer Vishant Naik, conducted a site inspection. Using a JCB machine, they excavated the area to uncov-



er any remnants of the alleged toilet structure. However, the excavation did not reveal any clear evidence, such as foundations or structural remains, according to PMC officials.

Engineer Naik clarified, "There are no records or evidence of a toilet block in PMC's archives, nor were any foundations discovered during the site inspection."

Varkhandem resident Sudesh Naik, however, maintained that a public toilet had indeed existed on the site. He claimed that the original owner of the land had executed a gift deed transferring the plot to PMC for the toilet construction in



1986 to curb open defecation. He presented old photographs and copies of letters he had sent to PMC over the years, requesting repairs to the alleged collapsed structure.

Naik alleged that the toilet fell into disrepair and eventually collapsed due to neglect. He also accused PMC of losing critical records related to the facility and urged for the formation of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the disappearance of records and reclaim the land for public use.

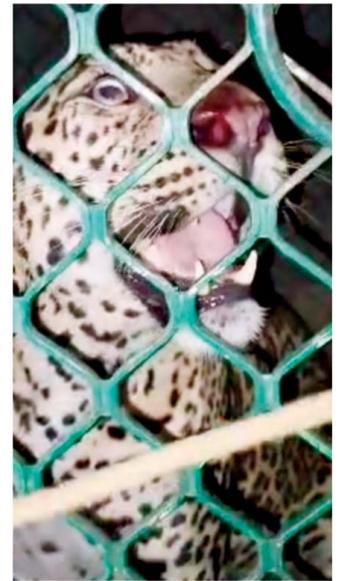
Naik stressed the historical significance of the toilet, stating, "At that time, most houses lacked

toilet facilities, and several locals used this public convenience. It served an essential purpose in the community."

The controversy has left the PMC under scrutiny, with locals demanding answers about the missing records. Naik suggested the PMC Chief Officer file a formal complaint to investigate the missing documentation and ensure transparency.

For now, the fate of the disputed plot hangs in the balance, as locals await PMC's final decision on whether the site had indeed housed a public toilet and how the matter will be resolved.

**Leopard captured in Bicholim; residents blame mining for increased sightings**



Team Herald

**BICHOIM:** Bicholim residents heaved a sigh of relief after the Forest Department captured a leopard that had been sighted in the area over the past few days.

Acting on multiple complaints from villagers, Forest Department officials placed a cage at Dhabdhaba and managed to trap the elusive wild cat.

The villagers had earlier reported the leopard straying into their locality and expressed concerns for their safety, urging the Forest Department to intervene. Previously, a leopard was injured in the area after being hit by a speeding car but managed to retreat into the forest. In another incident, locals spotted leopard crossing a road. Residents strongly believe that the recent surge in leopard sightings is linked to the resumption of mining activities in the region. They argue that mining operations, particularly the 24-hour three-shift schedules, are severely disrupting the natural ecosystem of leopards, driving them into human-dominated areas.

The Forest Department has yet to confirm whether mining activities are directly responsible, but locals remain steadfast in their opinion that the disturbance to wildlife habitats is to blame.