

shorttakes

LOCALS SUPPORT RESUMPTION OF MINING ACTIVITIES AT KALAY MINERAL BLOCK

PANJIM: The locals wholeheartedly supported resumption of mining activities at Kalay mineral block owned by Fomento on Wednesday. During public hearing organised by Goa State Pollution Control Board at Sarvajani Ganeshutsav Mandal Hall, Sanvordem, the locals expressed their opinion that the mining will help in employment generation and also economic revival. Later, speaking to reporters, Milindra Velip, Dy Collector, Sanguem, "The locals expressed their opinion in support of mining. Most of the people said that sustainable mining is required and it should continue. We will forward the minutes of the meeting to the mining department." The public hearing was conducted as per Environmental Impact Assessment Notification 2006, with respect to Block IV-Kalay Mineral Block with an area of 152.5073 ha, located at Village Santana of Sanguem Taluka, South District, Goa, for the production of 0.75 MTPA of Iron Ore by M/s. Fomento Resources Private Limited.

OLD MANDOVI BRIDGE CLOSURE RESCHEDULED IN VIEW OF ASSEMBLY SESSION

PANJIM: The Old Mandovi Bridge on NH 66 connecting Panjim to Porvorim will remain closed for all type of vehicular traffic from February 8 to 23, 2025, to facilitate its repair work. Earlier, the bridge was supposed to remain closed for all types of vehicular traffic from January 31 to February 15 to facilitate repair work of the bridge but the dates were changed in view of the two day assembly session commencing on February 6. According to a statement issued by Public Works Department (PWD), during this period, vehicular traffic will be diverted on New Mandovi Bridge. Traffic plan for the third bridge has not been altered. Work of overlaying of carpet along with safety measures and painting for New and Old Mandovi Bridge on NH-66 under NHO Annual Plan 2023-24 is in progress. The scope of work involves milling of the existing wearing course, laying mastic asphalt and bituminous concrete, the release added.

TAMIL NADU NATIVE HELD FOR ALLEGEDLY KIDNAPPING, SEXUALLY ABUSING GIRL

PANJIM: The Bicholim police arrested Navinkumar Gaundar, 26 involved in kidnapping and sexually abusing a minor girl case. The accused was arrested from Tamil Nadu while the victim has been sent to Apna Ghar for rehabilitation. The minor girl's father had filed a complaint before the Bicholim police in May alleging that the accused Navinkumar Gaundar from Tamil Nadu had kidnapped his teenage daughter. Accordingly the Bicholim Police formed a team who started the investigation and traced the accused and victim in Tamil Nadu and brought them to Goa. The accused has been booked under section 363 of IPC, section 8 of Goa Children's Act (GCA), section 64 (2)(1) of BNS and section 4 & 6 of POCSO Act. After recording the statements of the girl, she was sent to tge Apna Ghar.

SANGUEM RESIDENT ARRESTED FOR ISSUING THREATS

MARGAO: Quepem police have arrested Mithil Dessai, a resident of Colomb, Sanguem, in connection with an alleged extortion case involving a sum of Rs 7 crore. The complainant reported anxiety and mental distress caused by the accused, who reportedly made over 100 calls, including late-night ones, and sent threatening messages via WhatsApp. According to the police, the incidents occurred before 24 January, when Dessai allegedly abused the complainant and his family and demanded the extortion money. Dessai was arrested and remanded in police custody for one day by the JMFC, Quepem. Further investigation is ongoing, led by PSI Digamber Bondre of Quepem Police Station.

SANCOALE MAN DIES IN TRUCK-SCOOTER ACCIDENT

MARGAO: Rajesh Naik from Sancoale, tragically succumbed to his injuries following an accident involving a truck and his two-wheeler. The incident occurred near the Goan Maharaja Hotel at Verna when the truck, driven by Chanabasappa Godachi of Belgaum, Karnataka, collided with Naik's scooter from behind, dragging it along the road. Verna police arrested the truck driver, Godachi, who was reportedly driving rashly from Pirni junction towards Titan junction. Naik sustained severe injuries and was rushed to GMC Hospital, where he later died. Police have registered an offence under sections 281 and 106(1) BNS. An inquest was conducted, and the cause of death was determined as "haemorrhage and shock due to femoral vessel rupture and other injuries" sustained in the collision. The body was handed over to the family following post-mortem.

Rashtriya OBC Mahasangh flays govt for neglecting long standing demands

Stresses for a caste census to ensure justice for the Bahujan communities in the State

Team Herald

PONDA: Rashtriya OBC Mahasangh Goa president Madhu Naik expressed his dissatisfaction with the government for failing to address their long-standing demands, including reservations in postgraduate clinical courses at Goa Medical College (GMC).

Naik, along with a delegation led by former Union Minister Shrinivas Goud, met Water Resources Minister Subhash Shirodkar to discuss their concerns. During the meeting, Shirodkar assured the delegation that he would take up the matter with Chief Minister Dr

Pramod Sawant and Social Welfare Minister Subhash Phaldessai.

Speaking to the media, Naik stressed the need for a caste census in Goa, similar to the one conducted in Bihar, to ensure justice for the Bahujan communities in the state.

The delegation outlined several pressing demands, which include: 100-Point Roster-Based Reservation in postgraduate courses for OBC, Scheduled Tribe (ST), and Scheduled Caste (SC) students at Goa Medical College and Goa Dental College, Bambolim.

Establishment of an OBC Welfare Ministry in Goa,

KEY DEMANDS

- 100-Point Roster-Based reservation in postgraduate courses for OBC, ST and SC students at Goa Medical College and Goa Dental College, Bambolim
- Establishment of an OBC Welfare Ministry in Goa
- Construction of an OBC Bhavan as part of welfare initiatives
- Development of OBC Boys' and Girls' Hostels on the Goa University campus
- Sanction of Rs 20,000 for final rites and rituals for 18 OBC communities

similar to Maharashtra's OBC Ministry, which was created in 2017 following demands by Rashtriya OBC Mahasangh.

Construction of an OBC Bhavan as part of welfare initiatives, development of OBC Boys' and Girls' Hostels on the Goa Universi-

ty campus, for which the Ministry of Social Justice, Government of India, has already allocated a budget of Rs 15 crore.

They also demanded sanction of Rs 20,000 for final rites and rituals for 18 OBC communities, including the Bhandari Kharvi,

which have been excluded from the existing provision granted to OBC Dhangar, ST, and SC communities.

These demands form part of a broader list of 14 issues currently pending with the Goa government.

Water Resources Minister Subhash Shirodkar reiterated his commitment to raising the delegation's concerns with Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and Social Welfare Minister Subhash Phaldessai.

The meeting with Minister Subhash Shirodkar took place at his official residence in Altinho, Panaji. The panel included Shrinivas Goud, For-

mer Telangana Minister for Excise and Prohibition, Tourism and Culture, Sports and Youth Services, and Archaeology, Madhu Naik, President, Rashtriya OBC Mahasangh, Goa, Sarvesh Bhandodkar, General Secretary, Rashtriya OBC Mahasangh, Balraj Guttedar, Bhandari businessman and President of Gulbarga Jantata District, Karnataka, Krishna Murli, Representative from Bangalore.

The delegation hopes that their demands will be addressed promptly, ensuring greater welfare and representation for the OBC communities in Goa.

ARTISTIC TOUCH



An artist giving final touch to welcome arch of Shri Maruti Sansthan at Mala in view of the upcoming annual jatra on 7 February 2025.

Online impersonation scams continue in Ponda

Team Herald

PONDA: Cases of online fraud through impersonation continue to rise in Ponda, despite government awareness campaigns urging mobile users not to fall prey to unknown callers. Advisory messages are even being played as caller tunes to warn citizens, yet the incidents persist.

In a recent case on January 24, a woman from Prabu Nagar, Ponda, was duped of Rs 74,500 by an individual posing as a courier agent. The fraudster convinced her to download an application under the pretext of paying Rs 10 for a parcel delivery. Once the app was installed, the victim lost the large sum to the scam. Similar cases have been reported in the past, including one where a college principal was deceived.

In another case, an unknown fraudster impersonated a police officer and swindled a local resident from Marcaim. The Mardol

Police have registered a case under Sections 318(4) and 319(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023, along with Section 66D of the Information Technology Act.

According to the complaint filed by Pingu Pandurang Narvekar, the accused introduced himself as Mata Prasad, a constable in the CISF, and contacted the victim via Instagram.

The fraudster lured the complainant into purchasing a Honda Activa scooter for Rs 67,000, claiming that all the documents were in order and the vehicle was ready for sale.

Trusting the scammer, the victim transferred Rs 67,000 through Google Pay but never received the scooter. The accused subsequently became unresponsive, leaving the victim defrauded.

Authorities continue to urge the public to remain cautious while dealing with online transactions and unknown contacts.

PMC begins clearance of abandoned vehicles

Team Herald

PONDA: The Ponda Municipal Council (PMC), in collaboration with traffic police, has launched an operation to clear abandoned vehicles that have been occupying prime parking spaces in the city.

This initiative follows a municipal resolution in which PMC officials identified 22 abandoned vehicles and issued notices to their owners. While some owners voluntarily removed their vehicles, many left them in public spaces, obstructing traffic and reducing available parking. The PMC has now taken action to clear these vehicles.

Officials have confirmed



that the clearance drive will continue in phases, targeting more such abandoned vehicles. The removal of these vehicles is expected to ease traffic congestion and create more parking spots in Ponda city. Additionally, this step will facilitate the implementation of the municipality's planned pay-and-park scheme.

The PMC has already demarcated several parking zones under the pay-parking system. However, the presence of abandoned vehicles had hindered the project's progress in some locations.

“These abandoned vehicles not only give the city an unkempt look but also obstruct traffic and parking. Clearing them will improve the city's appearance and enhance traffic movement.”

— Anand Naik, PMC Chairperson

Local resident Naresh Naik welcomed the initiative, stating, "This is a much-needed step by the PMC and traffic police. As Ponda is the taluka headquarters, many people visit the city for official work, but parking has been a major issue due to abandoned vehicles occupying prime spaces."

Illegal scrapyards cleared, Ponda municipality reclaims encroached land

Team Herald

PONDA: After several years, the Ponda Municipal Council (PMC) has successfully reclaimed its open space, following the clearance of a controversial illegal scrapyards that had encroached upon it in Varkhandem, Ponda. Workers were seen diligently loading wooden scrap materials to clear the area that had been occupied by the illegal scrapyards, which was filled with scrap wood and furniture.

On January 8, the PMC, led by Chairperson Anand Naik, Chief Officer Yogiraj Gosavi, and ME Vishant Naik, conducted an inspection of the illegal scrapyards situated within the PMC's open space. During this inspection, the officials made alarming discoveries. They found over 126 jars of expired, maggot-infested onion

and garlic paste, which were being repackaged. Concerned about potential health hazards, the officials promptly notified the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Following this, a raid was conducted, resulting in the destruction of the contaminated paste, valued at Rs 70,000, at the PMC's garbage treatment plant in Kerya.

A week later, on 17 January, the scrapyards caught fire at midnight, prompting panic among local residents who were calling for the immediate removal of the illegal operation due to the fire risk it posed to nearby homes and parked vehicles.

The PMC issued a warning to the operators of the illegal scrapyards, demanding that it be cleared within seven days. The scrapyards has since been removed. Chairperson Anand Naik stated.

Mind games and manipulation: Goa resident loses Rs 7 lakh in elaborate 'task-based' Whatsapp scam

Team Herald

PANJIM: A victim (name withheld) lost Rs 7 lakh over six days in a well-orchestrated scam that was executed on messenger applications. The scam, orchestrated through WhatsApp and Telegram groups, used a manipulative combination of trust-building tactics, 'tasks', and escalating payments to lure the victim into a web of deceit.

The scam began in October 2024, when the victim was added to a seemingly harmless WhatsApp group. The initial tasks were simple: follow a couple of WhatsApp channels and share screenshots with a 'Receptionist' named Chaya. For completing these tasks, the victim was instantly credited Rs 150 via UPI, building a false sense of legitimacy. The victim was then moved to a Telegram group for more

- 1 Never join random WhatsApp or Telegram groups promising monetary rewards
- 2 Do not make payments to unknown UPI IDs or accounts
- 3 If something feels too good to be true, it probably is

GOA POLICE ADVICE...

- 4 Verify the numbers on Whatsapp group by calling them up, or via apps such as Truecaller to get an idea about the people behind the group
- 5 Report suspicious activities immediately to the Cyber Crime Cell on 1930 or cyber-crime.gov.in.

"lucrative financial opportunities," where each completed task promised monetary rewards.

Soon, the victim was introduced to a so-called 'bounty task', requiring an upfront deposit to unlock higher rewards. For example, deposit Rs 2,000 and get Rs 2,800 (New Member Benefit), deposit Rs 5,000 and get Rs 6,500+ and deposit Rs 9,000 and avail Rs 11,700+.

Lured by the promise

of guaranteed returns, the victim deposited Rs 2,000 and was guided through an elaborate series of steps by a 'Teacher' named Varun. The virtual account on a fake trading platform reflected a balance of Rs 3,000, further cementing the scam's credibility. Following a withdrawal code shared by the 'Receptionist', Rs 2,800 was credited to the victim's bank account which proved to be a small bait to reel in a bigger catch.

After this, the victim was offered a new set of 'welfare tasks', now requiring higher deposits, with the lowest being Rs 5,000. Believing in the scheme, the victim deposited Rs 5,000 and was led through another series of tasks by a second 'Teacher' named Abhishek. The demands escalated exponentially. For task 1, Rs. 5,000 deposited, task 2, Rs 22,000 deposited and task 3 Rs 68,000 was deposited. The victim was warned

that failing to complete the tasks would result in the loss of previously deposited amounts, creating immense psychological pressure. After Task 3, the victim's virtual account balance updated incorrectly, showing a zero balance for two members in the group, including the victim, while other two members claimed that they have got the benefit. Abhishek claimed a 'data issue' required a 'repair task', demanding another Rs 68,000. Terrified of losing everything, the victim complied.

As the scam progressed, the victim was coerced into making additional payments to 'unlock' the virtual account balance, Rs 1.26 lakh for the second part of the 'repair task', and Rs 1,45,750 to 'reach the withdrawal threshold'.

The virtual balance now reflected Rs 6 lakh. However, during the withdraw-

al process, the victim was informed that a 'Merchant Protection Freeze' required a further payment of Rs 2.35 lakh. After paying this amount, another obstacle appeared, a 'tax' of 25 per cent on the total amount, amounting to Rs 2,31,887.50. The victim's request to deduct the tax at source was denied, citing 'international financial requirements'. This demand finally broke the victim's trust, and the victim realised they had been trapped in a well-orchestrated scam.

Frightened and devastated, the victim immediately lodged a complaint on the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal. The modus operandi, known as a 'task-based fraud', is a growing menace in the cybercrime landscape, preying on unsuspecting individuals with the lure of quick money, according to the police.

APPOINTMENTS

Xaverian Education Society
Fr. Agnel College of Arts & Commerce
 Pilar, Goa 403 203

VACANCY

Applications are invited within 10 days of issue of this advertisement from Indian Nationals for the following unreserved post

Multi Tasking Staff (MTS) Examination Section
 - Contract Basis

Essential Qualifications:
 Passed SSC Examination from a recognised Board/Institution
 Desirable: Multi-tasking skills such as knowledge of operating office machines including computers

Age limit: Not exceeding 45 years (relaxable for Government Servants upto five years in accordance with the instructions or orders issued by the Government from time to time)

Scale of pay and terms and conditions of service: as prescribed by Goa University, Directorate of Higher Education and other competent authorities as revised from time to time.

Knowledge of Konkani is Essential: Knowledge of Marathi is desirable
 For further details visit College website- www.fragnelcollege.edu.in

30-01-2025 Dr. Fr. Fredrick Rodrigues
 Offg. Principal