

School year for classes 6-12 to start in April, summer vacation in May

Team Herald

PANJIM: The academic year for classes from standard 6 to 12 for schools in the State will begin from April instead of June, this, says an announcement from the government.

The Directorate of Education has announced that from the academic year 2025-26, the new academic session for Class 6 to 10 and Grade 12 will commence from 1st April in all government, government-aided, and unaided recognised schools across the state.

Director of Education Shailesh Sinai Zingde in a circular stated that classes for these grades will be conducted in April until 11:30 am. Students will then have their summer vacation from May 1 to June 3, with schools resuming regular timings from June 4, 2025.

"The heads of the institutions are enjoined upon to take appropriate action to commence the academic year from April 1," the circular stated.

Commenting on the decision, Secretary for Education Prasad Loliienkar said "Beginning the academic year in April would make the month academically productive for students and help balance the number of instructional days in both terms."

He explained that, under the current system, students



“The heads of the institutions are enjoined upon to take appropriate action to commence the academic year from April 1

– Shailesh Sinai Zingde, Director of Education

“Beginning the academic year in April would make the month academically productive for students and help balance the number of instructional days in both terms

– Secretary for Education Prasad Loliienkar

attend school in April after their exams, but since these are not instructional days, their time in school is often unproductive.

Loliienkar also assured that holiday dates, particularly for Chaturthi and

Christmas, would remain unchanged.

He further pointed out that several boards, including CBSE and ICSE, already commence their academic year in April. Additionally, states like Maharashtra and

Mizoram have also opted for an April start.

The changes, he said, were made in view of the National Education Policy (NEP), as school timings in Goa cannot be altered due to many institutions operating morning and evening sessions for different student groups, such as elementary and high school students.

A meeting of school headmasters has been scheduled for Friday, 30th January 2025, to discuss the implementation of the revised academic calendar.

Teachers' body opposes changes

PANJIM: The All Goa Secondary School Teachers' Association (AGSSTA) has strongly opposed the proposed changes, warning that they will negatively impact students, teachers, and the overall education system in the State.

Speaking to **O Herald**, AGSSTA President Savio Suraj Victoria questioned the feasibility of the new schedule.

"According to the timetable sent by the board, the exams are ending on March 29. How can we decide about the promotion of the students? The SSC exams end on March 28. The reduced timings until 11:30 am are only for the current session. In the future, they will extend it to a full day," he said.

He also questioned how states like Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh could hold exams in January when they have winter vacations.

"I do not know where this idea has come from, because neither in the NEP nor in the NCF is it mentioned that the academic year must start in April," Victoria added.

Criticising the centralisation of decisions, he asked: "If all decisions are to be taken by the central government, then what is the need for a state board? Why should we follow the CBSE pattern when states have been given the freedom to decide based on their geographic and climatic conditions?"

“According to the timetable sent by the board, the exams are ending on March 29. How can we decide about the promotion of the students? The SSC exams end on March 28. The reduced timings until 11:30 am are only for the current session. In the future, they will extend it to a full day, I do not know where this idea has come from

– Savio Victoria, AGSSTA President

Teacher booked for allegedly assaulting Class X student

Team Herald

MAPUSA: The Mapusa police on Wednesday registered a case against a teacher of a school from Bardez taluka for allegedly assaulting a Class X student.

As per the complaint filed in this regard by mother of the 16-year-old boy, the teacher Shama Borker allegedly assaulted him with metal ruler, pinched and slapped him in a fit of rage.

The complaint further states that the boy was assaulted as he sought permission from the teacher to get drinking water.

The incident occurred in the school premises on January 24.

A case has been registered under Section 118 (1) of BNS of 2023 and Section 8 of Goa Children's Act.

ECO ELECTRICITY



A student from Lokmanya Tilak Vidyalaya, Kavlem, demonstrates electricity generation from waste materials at the ongoing Sci-Fi Science Film Festival at old GMC (INOX), Panjim

APAAR ID now mandatory for inter-school transfers, migration

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Directorate of Education has made it mandatory to quote the APAAR ID for all inter-school transfers and student migration, effective immediately.

In a circular issued on Thursday, Director of Education Shailesh Sinai Zingde stated "With the aim of utilising the APAAR ID as the primary identifier of the student, it is mandatory to quote the APAAR ID in inter-school transfers and migration here onwards."

Zingde further emphasised that the APAAR ID is also essential to access government benefits such as free textbooks, mid-day meals, and other welfare schemes. He

urged the heads of all educational institutions to expedite the process of generating APAAR IDs for their students.

The APAAR ID, introduced under the 'One Nation, One Student ID' initiative, is designed to provide a unified and accessible academic experience for students across the country. It tracks students' academic progress and achievements while also facilitating seamless transfers and achievements between schools. The system simplifies the admission process and allows students to access and manage their academic records digitally. Additionally, it enables the smooth transfer of credits when a student moves to a different school anywhere in India.

Four held for assaulting tourists at Palyem

Team Herald

PERNEM: The Mandrem police on Thursday arrested four persons on the charge of grievously assaulting three tourists from Vengurla, Maharashtra at Bhoma, Palyem on Wednesday evening.

The police gave the names of assailants as Brijesh Narayan Vast (30) of Vast Vaddo, Arambol; Floyd Inacio Lawrence D'Souza (34) of Girkarwaddo, Arambol; Sunil Vithu Gawada (43) of Madhla Waddo and Dipesh Ulhas Polji (26) from Maina Waddo, Korgao, Pernem. The accused had allegedly assaulted Richard D'Souza, Anand Bicholkar and Allwyn Fernandes, all hailing from Vengurla following an argument over drinking

in a public place at Bhoma, Palyem, Pernem.

The police said that all three were discharged from the hospital. A case has been registered against the four accused persons in this connection.

POWERFUL PRAYER IN DESPERATE TIMES OF NEED

Shoulder wound of Jesus... Oh loving Jesus, meek Lamb of God, I, a miserable sinner, salute and worship the most sacred wound of Thy shoulder, on which Thou did bear Thy heavy cross, which tore Thy flesh and lay Thy bones as to inflict an anguish greater than any other wound of Thy most blessed body. I adore Thee, oh Jesus most sorrowful. I praise and glorify Thee, and give thanks fully to Thee for the most holy and sacred and painful wound. Beseeching Thee by that exceeding pain, and by the crushing burden of Thy heavy cross to be merciful to me, on towards heaven along the way of Thy cross. In Jesus' name (make request) Amen to all. **This powerful prayer must be said for requests and most urgent help. After you have said it, ask for requests, then you must publish it right away for request to be granted. Thank you for hearing my prayers I have a lot of faith that my prayer has already been answered. God Bless. Amen. S.J.

TANISHQ
A TATA PRODUCT

WANTED
SHOP 100 Mtr* AREA
IN PORVORIM
CHOGAM ROAD

IN PONDA
PROMPT MARKET
ON LONG LEASE or
RENTAL BASIS

share your details on whatsapp
8770408216

MISSING

TITO MANUEL FERNANDES
AGE: 79

If you have any information please contact the nearest police station Or
9673723238 / 9673539165

HE WAS LAST SEEN WEARING
A CHECKS SHIRT
NEAR VARCA CHURCH
@ 18:00-18:30.
on 28-01-2025

107th BIRTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS OF PADRE CHICO MONTEIRO

THE TRUSTEES OF PADRE CHICO MONTEIRO MEMORIAL TRUST

are happy to announce that there will be a Holy Mass, followed by a

on 1st February 2025, 4.00 p.m at the Lar de Estudantes, Altinho, Panaji, Goa.

Chief Guest: **Rev. Fr. Ramiro Luis**
Asst. Prof. of Psychology in St. Xavier's College, Mapusa.

Theme of the Celebration: *"Reminiscences of Padre Chico as an Anchor of young minds"*

We cordially invite relatives, friends, well-wishers, beneficiaries of the Trust, Laristas and the general public, to participate in the Celebration.

Galaxy Advt. 9823244657

Three canoes reduced to ashes at Caranzalem beach



Team Herald

PANJIM: Three canoes were completely gutted after a major fire broke out in dried grass at the Caranzalem beach on Thursday evening.

According to the fire fighters, the fire broke out on a patch of dry grass between 3.30 and 3.45 pm near the beach and began to spread wildly where multiple canoes were kept.

The fire fighters who received a call at 4 pm made a quick turnout and managed to control the fire but by then three canoes were

completely burnt.

Firemen however doused the flames and managed to save four other canoes from going up in smoke. The estimated loss is yet to be ascertained, said officials and added that probe is on to find out the exact cause of the fire.

Opposition flays government over brief Assembly session

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Opposition has criticised the government for scheduling only a two-day Assembly session next month, questioning how meaningful discussions can take place when the first day is likely to be devoted to the Governor's address.

Last month, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant announced that, as the first session of the year, proceedings would begin with a customary address by Governor P S Sreedharan Pillai.

Speaking to **O Herald**, Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) Vice President Sunil Kawthekar said, "It is not a two-day session because the first day will be taken up by the Governor's address, which is just a script provided by the government. Legislators will have only one day to discuss numerous state issues. This is a clear move by the BJP government to scuttle democracy. They want to bulldoze democracy as they believe in Nazism. They do not want to face public issues in the as-

“It is not a two-day session because the first day will be taken up by the Governor's address, which is just a script provided by the government. Legislators will have only one day to discuss numerous state issues. This is a clear move by the BJP government to scuttle democracy. They want to bulldoze democracy as they believe in Nazism. They do not want to face public issues in the assembly

– Sunil Kawthekar, GPCC Vice President

“Nothing can be done in just one day. They simply want to rush through the session. The government is avoiding questions raised by the opposition, such as AAP's concerns over job scams and corruption. Important public issues will not be addressed

– Amit Palekar, AAP president

sembly. Otherwise, what is the point of holding a one-day session? Even ruling MLAs will not have time to speak about the problems in their constituencies."

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) President Amit Palekar also criticised the decision, stating, "Nothing can be done in just one day. They simply want to rush through the session. The government is avoiding questions raised by the opposition, such as AAP's concerns over job scams and corruption. Im-

portant public issues will not be addressed."

Palekar further alleged that the government fears accountability, saying, "The irony is that they talk about the Constitution, but they are undermining its very mandate. The right of MLAs to ask questions is being taken away."

Meanwhile, Goa Assembly Speaker Ramesh Tawadkar recently announced that the Chief Minister has agreed to convene a longer budget session in March.

GRAND OPENING TODAY AT 3.30 p.m.

Don't fly DUBAI visit & Shop at
FIRST TIME BIGGEST EVER
EXHIBITION IN GOA

Goa
SHOPPING FESTIVAL

Life Style Shopping Festival Exhibition

SGPDA GROUND MARGAO

31st To 9th FEBRUARY 2025
Time : 10.30 am to 9.00 pm

PRODUCTS ON DISPLAY: Home, Office Furniture from Oval Furniture, Kitchenware, Sikha home Products, Prestige, Powermax Fitness, Sofa Sets & Home Furniture Mobilia Furniture, 1st Time House of Air Conditioning and Refrigerators, Imported Curtains, Shower Curtains, Solar Water Heater, Lazy World Bean Bags, Rainbow Electronics, Invertors, Asian Group, Galaxy CCTV, Italian Blanket, Delmont Food Products, Money Counting Machine, Ladies Fashion, Toys, Garments, Imported Watches, Magic Mop, Ladies & Gents Shoes, Children Clothes, Imported Jeweleries, Bedsheets, Herbal Products, Children Funitures, Educational Cd's, Door Mats, Bombay Halwa, Mens Wear, Health care Products & many more.