

Bhatlem pipeline burst: Taps run dry in Dona Paula, Taleigao for 22 hours

Team Herald

PANJIM: The bursting of a main water pipeline at Bhatlem on Sunday caused severe flooding in the area, forcing residents to scramble to save their belongings. The rupture also led to a 22-hour-long disruption in water supply, leaving residents of Taleigao and Dona Paula without water.

A senior official from the Public Works Department (PWD) confirmed that the incident had impacted water supply for nearly a full day.

"The pipeline has been repaired. It was fixed at around 9 am today. The water supply was affected for approximately 22 hours. However, it has now been restored," the official told **O Herald**.

Meanwhile, Imagine Panaji Smart City Development Ltd (IPSCDL) has clarified that the pipeline



SAGUN GAWADE

Work along the pipeline supplying water to Taleigao and Dona Paula, which burst on Sunday, is currently underway at Bhatlem

burst was not caused by any ongoing Smart City-related works. However, local councillor and former Corporation of the City of

Panaji (CCP) Mayor Uday Madkaikar expressed scepticism, questioning the timing and location of the incident.

"It is still not confirmed by the PWD why the pipeline got damaged. Though IPSCDL has stated there is no connection between their work and the rupturing of the pipeline, it remains a fact that they are carrying out construction work parallel to the pipeline. Many believe that the damage could have been caused by vibrations from heavy machinery used at the site," Madkaikar said.

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– Uday Madkaikar, CCP Councillor

using large machines like JCBs to dig the roads. The pipeline is 40-years-old and it has suddenly been damaged. This raises serious questions."

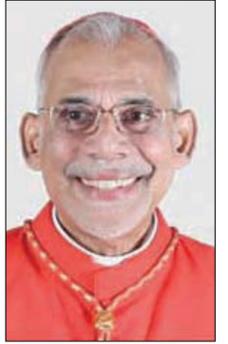
The flooding in Bhatlem has highlighted concerns over the city's water infrastructure, with many residents demanding a thorough investigation into the cause of the rupture.

Cardinal Ferrão re-elected as CCBI president

Team Herald

MARGAO: Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrão, Archbishop of Goa and Daman has been re-elected as president of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI), while Archbishop Peter Machado of Bengaluru has been elected as vice president and Archbishop Vincent Aind of Ranchi as secretary general. The elections took place during the 36th Plenary Assembly of the CCBI at XIM University, Bhubaneswar.

Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrão (72) was first elected as the president at the 31st plenary assembly held in Chennai in 2019. He was re-elected for a second term in 2023 at the 34th plenary assembly in Bengaluru. In addition to his leadership in India, he also serves as president of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC), a role he took on in January 2025. He is also the member of the



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dicastery for Evangelisation and secretariat for Synod of Bishops.

Gap analysis of govt hospitals across the State underway

Govt in talks with MCI for increasing seats in GMC: Rane

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Gap Analysis of the medical facilities in the government hospitals across Goa by the Health Department is currently underway.

According to Health Minister Vishwajit Rane, two senior doctors are conducting the gap analysis study of the health and medical facilities in the State, while three to four specialists have been put on board for carrying out the analysis of the Goa Medical College (GMC) and the Super Speciality Hospital.

Rane said that the doctors have been asked to submit a report to the department for taking necessary steps for improvement.

The analysis began in November through which the department will get a clue on how to reduce the

referrals from District Hospitals.

Rane said, "Hiring staff will not be the only solution. There is a need to find out what are the specific needs of the people and to complete these facilities in a targeted manner which is being done."

The analysis encompasses North Goa, South Goa District hospitals, ID Hospital and Tuem hospital. "We have hired experts, they will give suggestions and we will implement them," he said.

On increasing the medical seats in GMC, Rane said that the government is in talks with the Medical Council of India (MCI) for adding 100 seats. This will be discussed with the Chief Minister and a decision will be taken.

Rane has also announced that Cancer Hospital in Goa will be commissioned before December 2026.

ON THE EDGE



SAGUN GAWADE

An angler dangerously sits on a pier of a culvert along the Santa Cruz-Taleigao road

Davorlim panchayat to demarcate boundaries

Team Herald

MARGAO: The Davorlim village panchayat has resolved to initiate the demarcation of village boundaries, as conveyed to the villagers during its recent gram sabha meeting.

During the session, chaired by Deputy Sarpanch Vidhadar Arlekar, villagers voiced several concerns, including unauthorized activities on comunidade land, tenant verification, and the protection of natural resources such

as springs and water bodies. The acting sarpanch informed the gram sabha members that the village panchayat body, in its monthly meeting, had passed a resolution to request a surveyor for marking the village

limits. However, gram sabha member Andrew Rebello questioned the necessity of boundary demarcation, emphasizing the urgent need to act against the increasing number of unauthorized constructions in the village.

Tillari Canal repairs complete, water to Bardez likely today

Team Herald

PANJIM: Water Resources Department (WRD) Minister Subhash Shirodkar on Monday announced that water is expected to reach Bardez by Tuesday following the completion of repair work on the breached Tillari water canal at Kudase village in Maharashtra.

Speaking to reporters at Altinho, Shirodkar stated that after the repair work, no further breaches are expected in the canal for the next four months. He reassured that the condition of the canal in Goa is better than in Maharashtra, reducing the likelihood of any breach on the Goan side.

"There is no likelihood of seepage in the canal. We have also fixed responsibility on the contractor for the next five years. When the Chief Ministers of Maharashtra and Goa met around eight months ago, it was decided that approximately Rs 400 crore would be allocated by Maharashtra for the canal's repair," he said.

Shirodkar added that the repair work is likely to be taken up in the next season, with the Maharashtra government expected to approve the project within the next two months.

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– Subhash Shirodkar, WRD Minister

mated the repair cost at around Rs 400 crore. Of course, since there is also a tendering process, there is likelihood that the work will not commence this season," he explained.

To ensure the canal's stability, Shirodkar has instructed authorities to conduct regular patrolling of the Tillari canal to monitor any potential seepages, ensuring that even minor leaks are promptly repaired.

He further assured that water for treatment plants such as Siolim and Pilerne will be made available within four to five months.

Bardez taluka has been facing an acute water shortage since the main canal breach occurred a fortnight ago.

Inflated water bills add to woes of Xaxttikars

Team Herald

MARGAO: Several residents and water consumers in Salcete taluka were left shocked and frustrated upon receiving water bills that covered the last three to four months.

This irregular billing has caused a great deal of stress, as consumers now find themselves struggling to pay a large sum for the past few months all at once.

The delayed issuing of water bills has led to widespread frustration, dis-

rupting personal budgets and raising concerns about potential service interruptions or late fees.

Many consumers speaking to the media, explaining that the recent bills show charges for water usage spanning the last three months, causing confusion and inconvenience.

Anthony Fernandes, a local resident, expressed his disbelief at the issue and questioned the authorities' failure to issue water bills on a monthly basis.

"Many consumers are already struggling to balance

their salaries with daily necessities. To suddenly receive such high water bills has created anxiety among residents," he said.

The problem has turned into more than just an inconvenience—it's a financial burden. Without monthly bills, consumers are unable to track their water usage, plan their finances, or make timely payments. The lack of communication from the utility company has left many wondering whether this issue is affecting their neighbors or if they are being un-

fairly singled out.

Moreover, when bills are issued after several months, the total amount due increases significantly. For instance, if a consumer's usage falls below a certain threshold in a given billing period, the Government of Goa allows for charges to be waived. However, if the billing period exceeds one month, the total consumption is higher, making the scheme inapplicable.

Jose Mendeira, another resident, pointed out that the current billing peri-

od runs from October 2, 2024, to January 21, 2025, with a payment due date of February 14.

He emphasized the need for swift action from the concerned authorities to resolve the issue, send out any missing bills, and ensure this doesn't happen again in the future. Additionally, he stressed the importance of accurate meter readings being reflected in the bills.

As customers, residents believe it is their right to receive regular and accurate billing information.

Goa exports 28.5 tonnes of buffalo meat to Middle East

Team Herald

PANJIM: After almost 21 years, Goa Meat Complex has debuted in the international buffalo meat export market by sending shipments to the Middle East. The development has come as part of a partnership between Goa Meat Complex and Sunface Agro Foods Private Limited.

Speaking to **O Herald**, Goa Meat Complex MD Rajesh Kenny said, "A total of 28.5 tonnes of frozen buffalo meat was loaded in a consignment to Iraq on Wednesday."

"Right now the complex is working in a single shift. Only buffaloes are being slaughtered and that too which have become a liability on farmers. Raw materials come from outside the state as there is not much supply from Goa. Currently around 100 animals are being slaughtered. It is part of the agreement signed with Sunface Agro Foods Private Limited," he said.

Quraishi Meat Traders' Association President Manna Bepari said, "We are happy to hear that export has started as it has stopped around more than 20 years back. It will

benefit both - meat complex and the state. We want the government to support it. There is a tripartite agreement among Goa Meat Complex, Quraishi Meat Traders' Association and Sunface Agro Foods Private Limited."

In November 2022, the Goa Meat Complex, Usgao, had signed a tripartite agreement with the Sunface Agro Foods Private Limited, Hubli, and the Quraishi Meat Traders' Association, Mapusa, to slaughter a minimum 50 animals per day in the abattoir.

As per the agreement, the Sunface Agro Foods Private Limited is supposed to export meat to Middle East countries, where there is demand for buffalo's meat.

Christmas day tragedy: Watersports boat operator banned for three years

Team Herald

Tourism Dept clamps down on paramotor flying activities

The State Tourism Department has taken strict action against unauthorised paramotor flying activities conducted at Keri Beach. As per Section 22 of the Goa Registration of Tourist Trade Act, 1982, a fine of Rs 1 lakh has been imposed on the person engaged in the unauthorised activity, to be paid within 30 days. Failure to comply will attract additional penalties, and the amount will be recovered as arrears of land revenue if unpaid. The Tourist Police Unit has been directed to monitor and ensure that the violator does not engage in unauthorised activities in the future, said the Department in a press statement issued.

permissions and overloading. As a result, Coutinho was barred from operating the vessel for three years, and all fees paid are forfeited. During the investigation, the Coastal security police had found

that the owner of the boat had not obtained any valid permission from the Authority to carry out tourist activities, business of boating water sports at Calangute.

The Department of Tourism had issued a show cause notice to Coutinho as to why action should not be initiated against her under Rule 3 of the Goa Tourist Places (Protection and Maintenance) (Boat Rides/Parasailing and Watersports Activities) Rules, 2005 and the Goa Registration of Tourist Trade Act, 1982.

MAX. TEMP 32.5 °C
MIN. TEMP 21.6 °C

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We are fully equipped for Smart City disasters!

Starting Tomorrow
ROTARY CLUB OF MAPUSA
Rotary (R.I. District 3170) PRESENTS
Rotary Trade Fair
Cum Food Festival
5th to 9th February
11 am to 9 pm
Opp. Bodeshwar Temple, Mapuca
THE COMPLETE FAMILY SHOPPING EXHIBITION
Consumer's Shoppe
9822034871 / 9820135650

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. Beseeking 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. **FF**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
SUDESH MADHU PARSEKAR
PANCH MEMBER OF ANJUNA CAISUA VILLAGE PANCHAYAT
Best wishes from:
Sarpanch: Laxmidas Chimulkar. Dy. Sarpanch: Smita Khorjuvekar.
Panch members: Dinesh Patil, Surendra Govekar, Anup Mandrekar, Pratima Govekar, Romalind Mendonsa, Nikita Govekar, Shital Naik, Agnes Carvalho.
Secretary: Rui Cardoz, Talathi & Staff of V.P. Anjuna - Caisua, Bardez - Goa.
Social Workers: Sandesh Khorjuvekar & Subhash Naik