

shorttakes

CURTORIM GEARS UP FOR CARNIVAL, SELECTS COMMITTEE OF ORGANISERS

MARGAO: At a recent organizational meeting, the Curtorim Cultural Committee elected its leadership for 2025, with Jacob Athaide being elected unopposed as President.



Held on Sunday, the meeting also saw the unopposed election of the following members: Maria Goretti Barreto as Vice President, Jose Travasso as Secretary, Joel Sequeira as Assistant Secretary, Wilson Luis as Treasurer, Brunie Lourenco as Assistant Treasurer, Savio Fernandes as Cultural Secretary, and Vivek da Veiga as Public Relations Officer (PRO).

ST TOME FEAST IN PANJIM

PANJIM: The annual feast of the Patron of St Tome Chapel, Panjim, will be celebrated on February 16. The traditional Fama, blessing of the banner (Maddi) will be held on February 6, after the Mass at 6 pm. The novenas will commence on February 7, at 5.30 pm, with the recitation of the Rosary and litany, followed by Mass with sermon and salves. The solemn Vespers will be held on February 15, at 7 pm. On the feast day, Masses will be at 6.30 am (Konkani), 8 am (English) and at 10 am the concelebrated High Mass (Konkani), followed by procession and veneration of the Saint's Relic.

53-YEAR-OLD MAN DIES AFTER FALLING FROM MANGO TREE AT BICHOLIM

PANJIM: A middle-aged man died after falling from a mango tree at Pale, Bicholim on Sunday, February 5. According to police, the deceased identified as Raju Gawde, 53, had climbed the tree near his house to pluck raw mangoes, slipped, fell and sustained grievous injuries. He was rushed to Public Health Centre (PHC), Dharbandora and from there he was referred to Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMC), Bambolim, but he was declared brought dead by doctors.

POLICE CONSTABLE ELECTROCUTED AT MOPA

PERNEM: A 36-year-old head constable attached to the Pernem Traffic Cell was electrocuted on Monday. Sources say that Hemant Mandrekar was watering the garden near his house in Mopa when he came in contact with a live wire and was electrocuted.

KOPPAL NATIVE FOUND DEAD NEAR MARGAO FIRE STATION

MARGAO: The Margao police have identified a male body found near the Margao fire station, as that of Yamanurappa Husen Sab from Basapattana-Koppal, Karnataka. Police visited Hospicio Margao following a call from the hospital that an unidentified male had been brought in dead by a 108 ambulance. During their inquiry, officers found an Aadhaar card in his pocket, identifying him.

HUMAN SKULL AND BONES RECOVERED AT FATORDA

MARGAO: The Fatorda police have recovered a human skull and two bones in a fully decomposed state. The remains were by Russell D'Souza of Old Market Circle, Fatorda, while he was cleaning an unused property opposite the Government Primary School in Ambaji, Fatorda. The police conducted a panchanama of the scene before transferring the remains to the South District Hospital morgue.

MAN FOUND DEAD IN RENTED HOUSE AT MARGAO

MARGAO: Muddapur Sharanappa Ambanna, 52, was found dead in his rented home in Rawanfond, Margao. Upon visiting the residence, investigators found that he had been living there with his family for the past four years. A police team conducted an inquest panchanama and an investigation is underway.

BURGLARS BREAK INTO FATORDA SHOWROOM, STEAL SAFE AND CASH

MARGAO: A group of four unidentified men broke into the office premises of Counto Automobile Private Limited in Fatorda and stole a safe containing cash, cheques, and documents. Rama Naik Shirodkar, an employee of the company, lodged a complaint with the Fatorda police, stating that the suspects gained entry by breaking open the showroom office door using tools and equipment. They then made off with a safe containing Rs 1,64,383 and other valuables.

NGO threatens to start people's movement to save Sinquerim hill

CCF's public meeting to decide on the next plan of action at Candolim today

Team Herald

CALANGUTE: The Calangute Constituency Forum (CCF) on Monday said it will be forced to start a people's movement to save Sinquerim hill at Candolim if the State government allows a five-star hotel group to develop the hill for commercial purposes.

The CCF has called a public meeting to decide on the next plan of action on February 5 5.30 pm in the Church Hall, Candolim.

CCF members at a press conference, said they had in a recent complaint to the chief minister and other authorities stated: "Villagers of Candolim along with CCF and people of Calangute constituency and surrounding areas are

VILLAGERS APPREHENSIONS & SUGGESTIONS

- Once the commercial project commences, the doors are going to be wide open for the destruction of the entire hill area
- The property belonging to the Comunidade of Candolim was acquired by the govt with the specific condition that no commercial development would take place on this land
- The Candolim VP opposed any form of development on this hill, which is a treasure trove of old heritage monu-

ments and 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

■ Govt should reconsider the decision to lease the hill for commercial development, failing which it will start a movement 'Save Sinquerim Hill For Next Generation'

coming together to express our grave concern regarding the recent decision by the State government which signed the supplemental lease agreement on August 13, 2024 with The Indian Hotels Company Limited permitting them

to carry out the development of Sinquerim hill for commercial purposes in a property bearing Survey No. 96/0 of Candolim on a land area of 3,00,000 sqms against lease amount of Rs 62,25,00,000 for a period of 50 years (plus 24

years on mutually agreed terms)."

"There is an apprehension within the villagers that once this project begins, the doors are going to be wide open for the destruction of the entire hill area. The fact is the no-

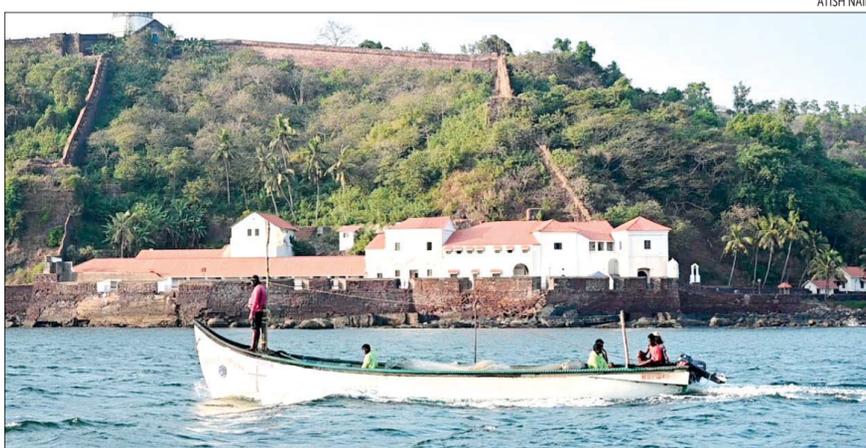
tification getting published in the gazette for change in the zone of surrounding areas which are acquired by top developers and business lobby."

"This property belonged to the Comunidade of Candolim and was acquired by the government with the specific condition that no commercial development would take place on this land. The Candolim panchayat has also consistently opposed any form of development on this hill. 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," the CCF said, urging the government to reconsider the decision to lease Sinquerim hill for commercial development, failing which it will start a movement 'Save Sinquerim Hill For Next Generation' with support from the people of Calangute and Goa.

The CCF in the complaint has also suggested that in keeping with the sentiments of local residents, the Sinquerim Hill could be developed as a world-class botanical garden. "This initiative would serve as a sustainable and eco-friendly tourist attraction while preserving the natural and historical integrity of the area," it said.

AGUADA'S SERENE CHARM



Fishermen sail past the renovated Aguada Jail Complex, now a tourist attraction, as they head out to sea for a fishing expedition. The formidable Fort Aguada towers over the mouth of the river

Trust wants immediate audit of Kala Academy to ensure public safety

Charles Correa Foundation prefers audit by IIT-Madras having expertise in working with and conserving old concrete

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Charles Correa Foundation has demanded immediate audit of the iconic Kala Academy building post renovation, preferably by IIT-Madras having the expertise in working with and conserving old concrete and to ensure the building's structural stability but also to ensure safety for the public.

The demand from the not-for-profit public charitable trust comes in view of the recent degradation and collapse of sections of the State's premier art and cultural institution post renovation.

In a press statement, Charles Correa Foundation, said, "We endorse the conclusion of the Task Force regarding the need for a structural audit of Kala Academy. It is an es-

sential step, we have asked for from the start. In view of the degradation of the structure in its recent history, and the collapse of sections of the building post renovation, it is imperative that such an audit is undertaken, not only to ensure the building's structural stability but also to ensure safety for the public."

"We agree and demand that this audit be carried out at the earliest, pref-

erably by IIT-Madras who have the expertise in working with and conserving old concrete. We sincerely hope that necessary measures are taken towards the restoration of the building," the Foundation said.

In September last year, a Task Force was formed to review the status of infrastructure work of KA building and to suggest recommendations for its improvement and upgradation.

HSSC seating arrangement for Panjim, Pilar and Navelim centres

PANJIM: The Goa Board HSSC final exams will begin from February 10 to March 1 for the general stream and from February 11 to February 24 for the Vocational stream.

The seating arrangements for the Panjim centre:

St Michael Higher Secondary School, Taleigao, CWSN 54932 - 54965 and Arts 54966 - 55248. Dr T B Cunha Government Higher Secondary School, Campal, Commerce 55249 - 55373. Don Bosco Higher Secondary School, Panjim, Commerce 55374 - 55565 and Our Lady of Rosary Higher Secondary School, Dona Paula, Science 55566 - 55853, 60869, 68826, 68827 & 68865 and Vocational 55854 - 55907.

Fr Agnel Higher Secondary School, Pilar centre:

Arts 56801 - 56884, Commerce 56885 - 56950, Science 56951 - 57011 and Vocational 57012 - 57107.

Seating arrangement for Navelim centre:

Shree Damodar Higher

Secondary School of Science, Margao: Arts 61193 - 61196, 61201 - 61446.

Vidya Vikas Mandal's Ramacrishna Madeva Salgaocar Higher Secondary School, Margao: Commerce 61538 - 61912

Rosary Higher Secondary School, Navelim: Commerce 61913 - 62212, Science 62213 - 62900, 68829 - 68830

Mount Mary's Higher Secondary School, Chinchinim:

Arts stream seat numbers 61447 - 61537, 68828

Vocational seat numbers 61197 - 61200, 62901 - 62937, 62940 - 62941, 62943 - 62946, 62949 - 62977, 62979 - 62986, 62988, 62990, 62993 - 62998, 63000, 63002 - 63009, 63011 - 63017, 63019 - 63021, 63023, 63026 - 63032, 63034 - 63035, 63037 - 63042, 63045 - 63057, 63059, 63061 - 63065, 63068 - 63082, 63084 - 63085, 63087 - 63088, 63090 - 63092, 63094 - 63097, 63101 - 63111, 63113 - 63116, 63120 - 63121, 63124 - 63128, 63132 - 63135, 63137 - 63142,

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Damodar English Higher Secondary School, Gudi, Paroda:

Vocational 62938 - 62939, 62942, 62947 - 62948, 62978, 62987, 62989, 62991 - 62992, 62999, 63001, 63010, 63018, 63022, 63024 - 63025, 63033, 63036, 63043 - 63044, 63058, 63060, 63066 - 63067,

63083, 63086, 63089, 63093, 63098 - 63100, 63112, 63117 - 63119, 63122 - 63123, 63129 - 63131, 63136, 63143, 63148, 63150, 63154, 63156, 63159, 63161 - 63162, 63168, 63174, 63177, 63179, 63181 - 63182, 63186, 63190, 63192, 63197, 63206, 63213 - 63215, 63217 - 63246, 63253 - 63254, 63262 - 63264, 63266, 63269, 63273, 63275, 63277, 63281 - 63282, 63286, 63288 - 63289, 63300 - 63301, 63305 - 63323, 63325, 63330, 63333, 63335, 63344, 63347 - 63348, 63350 - 63355, 63358 - 63360, 63364, 63367, 63369 - 63381, 63385 - 63387, 63389 - 63391, 63393 - 63395, 63402 - 63405, 63407, 63409, 63411 - 63413, 68831, 68832

Note: Vocational students of Damodar HSS, Gudi, will be answering at Damodar HSS Gudi, Paroda. The rest of the Vocational students will be answering at Mount Mary's HSS, Chinchinim as per the above details.

Lady cop suspended for embezzlement of funds

Team Herald

BICHOLIM: An internal audit has uncovered brazen misappropriation of nearly Rs 17.30 lakh in traffic violation fines which had allegedly vanished from the coffers of Bicholim Police Station.

According to sources, this misdeed has led to suspension of the cop identified as Pooja Gawas. However, to do damage control the police department has ordered conduct of audit across all the police stations.

The sources said that the lady constable in spite of coming under suspicion managed to get a transfer to the Colvale Escort Cell.

The sources said that the action was taken as glaring mismatch was observed between official bank deposit receipts and internal records with the Traffic Police.

In one instance, a cash deposit slip submitted to the SP Traffic Headquarters showed a deposit of Rs 82,000, while an identical copy from the police station itself record-

ed a significantly higher amount of Rs 2.82 lakh. This caused the higher up to suspect systematic fraud and prompt inquiry was ordered.

It was also found difference in the cash amount collected and deposited. Following this, the SP (Traffic) raised a quarry and a departmental inquiry was ordered.

The alleged misappropriation of funds occurred from February to December last year, the sources added.

According to the protocol, the motor vehicle challans collected in cash are supposed to be handed over to the dealing hand of the police station, who is responsible for tallying the amount and ensuring proper bank deposits from time to time.

The Traffic Cell collaborates with police stations to manage violations such as drunken driving, over-speeding and helmetless riding among other motor vehicle offenses. All fines are either deposited in banks or recorded through digital transactions.

Mayem villagers demand MLA's support in opposing law college

Team Herald

BICHOLIM: Two days after the Mayem gram sabha strongly opposed the acquisition of land for the proposed international law college, local villagers submitted a memorandum to MLA Premendra Shet on Tuesday, seeking his intervention to contest the project.

The memorandum, signed by nearly 250 villagers, expressed their concerns that the proposed development may result in deforestation,

loss of biodiversity, and ecological imbalance in the region, jeopardising the agriculture and livelihoods of those who depend on farming.

The villagers highlighted that Mayem currently lacks adequate infrastructure, including roads, water supply, and waste management, and that the proposed project would further exacerbate these issues. They emphasised the rich cultural and historical significance of Mayem, which they believe must be preserved.

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