

shorttakes

SECURITY GUARDS CATCH THIEF RED-HANDED AT MARGAO MUNICIPALITY

MARGAO: Security guards Viraj Velip and Satyawan Velip thwarted a theft attempt at the Margao Municipality building in the early hours of Wednesday. At approximately 5.20 am, a thief tried to break the lock on the building's back door. However, Viraj Velip caught the culprit in the act. He immediately informed his colleague, Satyawan Velip, who assisted in detaining the thief. The police were notified and the suspect was handed over for further investigation.

RAJASTHAN NARCOTIC SUPPLIER ARRESTED BY COLVA POLICE

MARGAO: Rakesh Meghwal, a resident of Bagdunda, Udaipur, Rajasthan, was apprehended by Colva Police in connection with the supply of narcotic drugs from Rajasthan to Goa, according to South Goa Superintendent of Police, Tikam Singh Verma. Verma informed that the accused admitted to supplying narcotic drugs, specifically ganja, to Sonu Kumar Chauhan in Goa. Colva Police Station has registered the offence under Section 20(b)(iii)(B) of the NDPS Act. Sonu from Navelim, aged 24, was caught red-handed with 2.401 kilograms of suspected ganja, valued at approximately Rs 2.4 LAKH on December 29, 2024. During questioning, Sonu revealed that Meghwal had supplied the drugs. A team led by PSI Prathamesh Mahale travelled to Udaipur on January 29, this year. On January 31, with the help of local police, Meghwal was apprehended at Gogunda Police Station.

SCOOTER THEFT SUSPECT ARRESTED BY QUEPEM POLICE

MARGAO: Maina-Curtorim police arrested Shabuddin Shaikh, aged 28, from Partavaddo, Ganimod-Quepem, in connection with the theft of a scooter and cash. Ana Joaquina Fernandes of Galli, Sao Jose de Areal, Salcete, reported the theft, which involved her scooter, valued at Rs 20,000 and Rs 8,000 in cash from the tool box. The suspect has been involved in previous crimes, according to the police.

COLVA POLICE ARREST SUSPECT IN LUXURY HOTEL THEFT CASE

MARGAO: Colva Police arrested Kasim Fayaz, aged 29, from Bangla Gudde, Kunkundoor, Udupi-Karnataka, currently residing in Cavelossim, in connection with a theft at a luxury hotel at Varca-Salcete. According to the complaint from Kashinath Raghunath Naik, an unknown person entered the hotel room of his son and daughter-in-law on February 2, stealing gold ornaments and cash. The stolen items included a gold chain with a cross pendant (35 grams), a gold ring with American diamonds (7 grams), a plain gold ring (3 grams), a silver ring and Rs 2,700 in cash, all valued at approximately Rs 3.6 lakh. Using CCTV footage and technical surveillance, the police identified Fayaz as the suspect. Upon his arrest, he was found with stolen gold ornaments, including a chain and ring, along with Rs 6,560 in cash. Further investigation is underway to determine his involvement in other property crimes.

TEENAGER DROWNS IN COLA BEACH, CANACONA

MARGAO: Sagar Lamani, aged 17, from Mangor Hills, Vasco, tragically drowned at Cola Beach, Canacona. Police were informed by the 108 ambulance service that Lamani had been brought dead to CHC Canacona. The duty doctor confirmed the cause of death as drowning. According to Lamani's elder sister, the family and friends had gone to Cola Beach for a picnic. While swimming in the water, Lamani accidentally drowned. He was rescued by foreign tourists and taken to the local hospital, where he was declared dead.

MAN DIES IN TRAIN ACCIDENT AT KULEM RAILWAY STATION

MARGAO: An unknown male, aged around 50-55, was run over by a train at Kulem Railway Station. The station's deputy manager informed the police about the incident. On arrival, officers found the body of a man, with no identification, lying between the railway tracks. The man, wearing a yellow round-neck jersey and blue jeans, had sustained injuries consistent with being run over by a train. The police inquiry revealed that the man was crossing the tracks when he was struck by the train. His body has been preserved at SGDH Margao for further medical and legal procedures, and efforts are underway to identify the deceased.

SHUBHAM ELECTED UNOPPOSED AS GUIRIM SARPANCH

CALANGUTE: Shubham Raut Dessai was elected unopposed as the new sarpanch of Guirim panchayat on Wednesday. The election was held following the resignation of former sarpanch Babaji Gadekar, in accordance with an internal arrangement among panchayat members. Saligao MLA Kedar Naik, who was present during the election, announced that roads passing through the fields in Guirim will be elevated within the next year to prevent submergence during the monsoon. "The PWD is working on the estimates, and the tender should be ready in three months," he said.

DR WISEMAN PINTO TO CONDUCT INT'L RESEARCH STUDY IN CYTOPATHOLOGY

PANJIM: Dr R G Wiseman Pinto, professor of Pathology, former dean Goa University and president of Asian Society of Cytopathology will be conducting International Research Study titled 'Clinical Scenarios wherein Cytopathology is superior to Histopathology'. There are many clinical situations wherein cytopathology is superior and the doctors who are participating in this study include Dr Jerzy Klijanienko (France), Dr Henryk Domanski (Sweden), Dr Megha Joshi (USA), Dr Komala Pillai (South Africa), Dr Tomoo Itoh (Japan), Dr Bernard Majak (Norway), Dr Nadezda Melnikova (Russia), Dr Bo Ping (China), Dr Do Ming Trong (Vietnam), Dr M Zillur (Bangladesh) besides Indian doctors. This international research study is for the platforms of International Academy of Cytology, Indian Academy of Cytologists, Asian Society of Cytopathology and the website pathoindia.com.

DELFINA LUIS ELECTED UNOPPOSED AS CAVELOSSIM DEPUTY SARPANCH

CAVELOSSIM: Delfina Luis was elected unopposed as the new Deputy Sarpanch of Cavelossim village panchayat at a meeting held on Tuesday in Cavelossim. Daklu Ghadi, Extension Officer (EOP) of the Salcete Panchayat Block Development Office, presided over the election. It may be recalled that former Deputy Sarpanch Rinku Lobo had recently resigned as part of a mutual seat-sharing agreement among the ruling panchayat members.

17 years on, Curti crematorium land not yet demarcated, lacks compound wall

Locals allege land encroached upon by migrants; sarpanch says demarcation will be held soon

Team Herald

PONDA: It's been 17 years, the crematorium land at Curti has not been demarcated as yet nor has a compound wall been built. The locals claimed that crematorium land has been encroached upon by the migrants.

It may be recalled that around 17,000 square metres of land was purchased by Curti-Khandepar Panchayat for a crematorium on hilly area at Deep Nagar for Hindu, Muslim, Catholics and other communities.

The locals in the past had brought to notice how some migrants park

FLASHBACK

■ Around 17,000 square metres of land was purchased by Curti Khandepar Panchayat for a crematorium on hilly area at Deep Nagar for Hindu, Muslim, Catholic and other communities

■ The locals had brought to notice how some migrants park their vehicles

their vehicles on the crematorium land taking full advantage of the unlocked entry gate.

The issue dominated in past gram sabhas with locals even alleging that unau-

thorised burial of bodies is taking place and demanded that the Panchayat frame rules to prevent unauthorised burials.

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Demarcation of the crematorium land is a must as there is no compound wall and this could lead to a communal conflict in future

— Sandeep Parkar, a local

“The demarcation of crematorium land will be held soon. The issue was pending before the Directorate of Settlement and Land Records and final hearing was held. After publishing the matter, the Directorate of Settlement and Land Records would demarcate the land. Around 17,000 square metres have been acquired for Hindus, Muslims and Catholic communities

— Abhijeet Gaude, Curti Khandepar Sarpanch

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Curti-Khandepar Sarpanch Abhijeet Gaude said, "The demarcation of cre-

matorium land will be held soon. The issue was pending before the Directorate of Settlement and Land Records and final hearing was held. After publishing the matter, the Directorate

of Settlement and Land Records would demarcate the land. Around 17,000 square metres have been acquired for Hindus, Muslims and Catholic communities.”

On allegations of encroachments on crematorium land, he said, "After demarcation by the Directorate of Settlement and Land Records, the panchayat will come to know the exact situation. Once the land is demarcated, the panchayat will clear encroachments if any and construct a compound wall."

APPOINTMENTS

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POLLUTED FLOW



SAGUN GAWADE

Chicken waste dumped into the water body along the Mercedes-Bambolim stretch has caused the area to stink

Bison spotted roaming in broad daylight, Dhavalim locals panic

Want Forest Department to urgently initiate action

Team Herald

PONDA: Bison roaming freely has become a common sight for the residents of Ponda taluka. And Monday was no different, as panic struck Dhavalim-Kavlem residents as they spotted the wild animal roaming freely along the main road near a school that too in broad daylight.

It may be recalled that a few days ago a bison was found roaming in Ponda town on two occasions at night.

After noticing the bison frequenting their residential area in the afternoon that too near a school and bank, the residents of Dhavalim panicked. Reacting to the issue, the Kavlem Panchayat official said that the local body will write to



the Forest Department to adopt safety measures.

There have been recent instances wherein wild animals.

Devraj Upadye, a local, demanded that the Forest Department urgently initiate action into the matter.

Another local feared that there is school located nearby and the wild animal

roaming freely, poses risk to students. The bison also crossed the road from Gadadev Ghunti. Fortunately, the animal was spotted after school hours.

Local panch member Satwashila said the bison was spotted in her area and this poses risk to children and locals as well. She said, "I had informed

the panchayat to immediately inform the Forest Department to adopt safety measures."

The locals said that the bison should be driven into the deep forest as these animals are spotted on the main road with some even suggesting adequate provision of water for these animals along the forest border to prevent them from straying into the village and town area.

Kavlem Panchayat secretary Mayur Gaonkar said, "The Panchayat will inform the Forest department regarding the movement of bison in residential areas. A bison is learnt to have separated from a herd and is roaming freely in the village and the Forest Department should adopt safety measures."

Unsolved chain snatching incidents spark concerns in Salcete

Team Herald

MARGAO: A surge in chain-snatching incidents across South Goa, particularly in Salcete, has sparked concern among residents, especially senior citizens. In 2024, South Goa police registered eight cases of chain snatching, with only five detected so far, compared to ten cases and six detections in 2023.

The increase in chain snatchings has caused alarm, with many residents, particularly the elderly, becoming prime targets. In one incident, a senior woman had her gold chain worth Rs 90,000 snatched in broad daylight in Lavedebhat, Quepem, on September 22, 2024.

The rise in these crimes has been accompanied by common posing as police officers to steal cash and gold. In one case, two fake policemen convinced a senior citizen to hand over his gold, which was replaced with metal chains, and stole Rs 68,000 in cash.

Reports of chain-snatching continue in areas like Margao, Maina-Curtorim, and Fatorda, creating fear among women who are targeted while walking or wait-

CASE FILES – 2024

■ **Avedem-Quepem:** Two unknown men snatched a gold chain worth Rs 90,000 from Inacina Francisco Fernandes at around 10:45 am

■ **Davorlim:** Two unknown individuals engaged a 63-year-old woman in conversation outside her home before snatching her mangalsutra worth Rs 1.90 lakh

■ **Aquem-Margao:** A motorcycle rider snatched a woman's mangalsutra and other gold ornaments worth

Rs 1 lakh while she was walking along the road

■ **Fatorda:** Two common posing as police officers tricked 72-year-old Santosh Virdikar, stealing his gold ornaments worth Rs 2.5 lakh and Rs 68,000 in cash

■ **Aquem-Margao:** Two fake policemen also deceived Mira S Kamat and her sister-in-law, Pusha Deshpande, stealing two gold chains weighing 20 grams each, worth Rs 1.60 lakh

■ **Cuncolim:** A scooterist

snatched gold ornaments worth lakhs of rupees in two separate incidents but remains unidentified

■ **Assolna:** A senior citizen was waylaid by a scooterist who snatched her gold chain and fled

■ **Quepem:** 74-year-old Bella Travasso was injured while foiling an attempt to snatch her gold chain

■ **Fatorda:** CCTV footage captured a motorcycle-borne thief snatching a chain from a woman riding a bike.

ing for public transport. While traditional snatchers on two-wheelers are still active, the trend of fake officers tricking victims has become a growing concern.

Local residents have called for more police presence, better street lighting, and increased surveillance to combat these crimes. Despite efforts, police have struggled to solve the cases, with only a small fraction of the incidents being detected.

In 2023, five chain-snatching incidents were reported in Salcete alone, and police suspect gang activity in the area, with thieves using diversion tactics to grab gold ornaments from unsuspecting victims. Despite continuous police patrols, chain snatchers remain elusive.

A senior police inspector revealed that investigations are ongoing, with officers exploring links between the cases due to similarities in the modus operandi.