

Class XII examinations begin with mixed reactions from students

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Class XII examinations conducted by the Goa Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education (GBSHSE) commenced on Monday, with students largely finding the first paper manageable. However, some candidates and parents expressed concerns over the tightly packed schedule. Students appearing for the exams reported that the English paper was relatively

easy, though a few raised concerns about back-to-back papers without any breaks. Speaking to **O Herald**, Savi Sinari, a student from the Commerce stream, said, "I wrote the English paper today, and it was amazing. We were given enough time to prepare for other papers as well, so it was very convenient for us." Another student, Kunal Malgimani, shared her thoughts, saying, "The board exams started today, with English as the first



paper. Like others, I was nervous because our exams have come in February." Priyamesh, a student from People's Higher Secondary School, stated, "Today was the first paper, English, and it was very good. We had time to study, and the questions were from

the syllabus and what we had studied. Though the exams were advanced, we got enough time to prepare." Another student commented that the exam schedule was fair, allowing adequate time to focus on each subject. "The paper today was okay," she added. However, some parents expressed concern about the demanding exam schedule. One parent, who had come to pick up her child, said, "The students have to sit for back-to-back papers. They

should have at least one day off in between. They have to do a lot of studying." Candidates were required to arrive at the examination centre by 9 am, with exams commencing at 9.30 am for all streams, including Arts, Commerce, Science, and Vocational. The GBSHSE has also reminded candidates that late arrivals will be penalised. The exams will conclude on March 1, with a range of subjects scheduled for the final day.

Illegal explosives for hunting seized in Valpoi, one arrested

Team Herald

VALPOI: Valpoi Police have arrested a man for storing crude bombs intended for hunting wild animals. SDO Bicholim Jivba Dalmi received information about the illegal storage of explosives. Acting on this, a police team obtained a house search warrant and along with forensic experts and the bomb disposal squad, searched a rented room at Hathwada-Valpoi. The house, owned by Sabdar Aga of Muslimwada, was rented out to tenants. During the search, police found five crude explosive

bombs, four metal mini swords, and one stainless steel chopper in the room occupied by Zakir Hussain. Upon questioning, he admitted the explosives were for hunting wild animals. The accused, Zakir Hussain, son of Abdul Wahab, a resident of Chimbhel-Tiswadi, was arrested under Section 288 of BNS, Sections 3 and 4 of the Explosives Act and Section 9 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. The operation was led by PI Videsh Shirodkar, assisted by PSI Prathemesh Gawas, PC Govresh Naik and PC Prashant Sutar. Further investigation is ongoing.

Electronic evidence is becoming more relevant now, says lawyers' assn

Team Herald

MARGAO: Stating that the importance of scientific and electronic evidence in legal investigations and trials has increased significantly in recent years, the North Goa District Advocates Association said that consequently, the use of electronic evidence in legal proceedings has become more relevant. Adv Santosh Bharme, President of the North Goa District Advocates Association, emphasised that in today's society, many offences are committed through electronic and digital means. This shift has made the role of scientific and electronic evidence increasingly crucial in legal proceedings. To explore the subject in depth, the North Goa District Advocates Association, in association with the Panjim Lawyers Forum, organised a lecture "Electronic Records to be Used as Evidence in Legal Proceedings" on February 7 at the Altinho Court complex in Panjim. The lecture aimed at educating the legal fraternity

on this growing area of importance. Dr Pooja Kavlekar, District Judge-2 and Additional Sessions Judge, South Goa, Margao, the guest speaker for the session, shared her insights into the application of electronic records as evidence in legal cases. The lecture saw over 200 participants, including senior advocates Surendra Desai, Suresh Lotlikar, Jayant Mulgaonkar, Sudin Usgaonkar, as well as those from across Goa, the Director of Prosecution, Public Prosecutors, Assistant Public Prosecutors, and law students. The session began with a welcome address by Adv. Santosh Bharme, President of the North Goa District Advocates Association. Adv Sonali Nagvenkar, Treasurer of the Association, introduced the guest speaker, while Adv Vishvesh Kamat, Secretary of the Panjim Lawyers Forum, proposed the vote of thanks.

MORE GOA NEWS ON PG 7

Jet-ski blaze and multiple rescues keep lifesavers busy



Team Herald

CALANGUTE: A jet-ski caught fire at Baga Beach on Sunday evening due to a mechanical malfunction, causing alarm among beachgoers. The blaze was swiftly extinguished by water sports operators using seawater. Fortunately, no injuries were reported. Over the weekend, lifesavers rescued ten individuals, including six foreign nationals, from drowning at various beaches across Goa. At Baga Beach, two Kazakhstani women, aged 22 and 37, were rescued, while a five-year-old boy from Karnataka, who had been separated from his family, was safely reunited with them. At Calangute Beach, two Bengaluru men, aged 23 and 28, struggling in a lateral rip current, were pulled to safety. Lifesavers also reunited two missing children with their families, administered first aid to two individuals, and foiled an attempted robbery. At Candolim Beach, a 32-year-old woman and a 34-year-old man from Kolkata were rescued using a rescue board and

tube, while a 60-year-old Russian tourist was also saved from drowning. At Ashwem Beach, a Russian mother and daughter, aged 68 and 38, were caught in a rip current but were rescued by lifesavers using a jet-ski. Similarly, at Arambol Beach, a 63-year-old Russian woman was swept 50 metres offshore before being rescued. Meanwhile, at the adjacent sweet water lake, a US national and a French woman were targeted by thieves while swimming. A lifesaver on patrol intervened, apprehending the suspects and handing them over to the police. At Baina Beach, a four-year-old stranded boy was brought to the lifesaver tower by beachgoers. After public announcements, his family was located, and he was reunited with his parents after identity verification. Two separate incidents involved 21-year-old men who suffered injuries in rocky areas. One, from Maharashtra, was hurt at Palolem Beach, while the other, from Haryana, sustained a similar injury at Dudhsagar Waterfalls. Both received first aid from lifesavers.



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