

# PIL seeks to remove gaddas encroaching Old Goa pavements

## Most of 250 carts in Old Goa VP jurisdiction trading illegally: Petitioner

Team Herald

PANJIM: Basavaraj Naraboli, a resident of Carambolim has filed public interest litigation (PIL) writ petition in the High Court of Bombay at Goa seeking to remove carts (gaddas) which have encroached footpaths at Old Goa.

Petitioner has stated that there are more than 250 carts in the jurisdiction of Old Goa Panchayat and most of them are trading illegally. The carts are erected on the footpath in front of panchayat office while in some places they have been converted into shops.

In a response to an application filed under Right To Information (RTI) Act, the Se Old Goa Village Panchayat has confirmed that there are about 250 gaddas. The carts are two-metre-long and one-metre wide and most of them have been



issued permanent electricity connection. The pedestrians are unable to use the footpath due parking of the carts on public footpaths, the petitioner has stated.

Although a specific space has been designated for carts in Old Goa, they are parked on footpaths. This also results in traffic congestion during rush hours and causes inconvenience



The kiosks encroached pavements at Old Goa. **GADDAS GIVEN PERMANENT POWER CONNECTIONS: SE OLD GOA VP**

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er, the Village Panchayat has issued licences to some of the gadda owners to sell tobacco related products. Adv Vibhav Amonkar is representing the petitioner.

# Bhatlem road closed for Smart City works

## Residents, commuters directed to use alternative routes for three days

Team Herald

PANJIM: In more trouble brewing for commuters, residents and others in the capital city, the Imagine Panaji Smart City Development Limited (IPSCDL) has issued an advisory that the stretch of road spanning from Ram Mandir to Sitabai Complex at Bhatlem will be completely closed for all vehicular movement from February 21 to 23, to carry out the ongoing Smart City works.

During the road closure, residents and commuters will not have access to the road and alternative routes will have to be used.

To minimise inconvenience, the Imagine Panaji Smart City Development Ltd (IPSCDL) has announced traffic diversions:

Commuters traveling from St Inez and Taleigao to 4 Pillar Junction via Bha-



**TRAFFIC DIVERSION FROM FEB 21 TO 23**

▶ Commuters travelling from St Inez and Taleigao to 4 Pillar Junction via Bhatlem will have to take a diversion through Altinho

▶ Those commuting from Panjim and St Cruz to Ram Mandir Junction will have to re-route via Rua de Ourem

tem will have to take a diversion through Altinho. Similarly, those commuting from Panjim and St Cruz to Ram Mandir Junction will have to re-route via Rua de Ourem.

The Imagine Panaji Smart City Development Limited has appealed to residents, businessmen and daily commuters to co-operate to facilitate the successful

execution of critical inter-connection work.

The Imagine Panaji Smart City Development Limited has already submitted that all roads in Panjim will be made operational by March 31, while work of footpaths, beautification and other ancillary works of landscaping, tree plantation, etc, will be completed by June 30 this year.

## CLEARED AT LAST

UPENDRA NAIK



The Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP) cut down the decaying tree near Thomas Garage in St Inez. (Inset) O Herald in its February 15 edition had highlighted that the branches of the tree had begun to drop, posing risk to passersby

# 3 fake online networks busted

## Fake tickets for water sports, hotel bookings and sex toys were on the comen's menu

Team Herald

PANJIM: Gullible tourists were taken for a ride by the comen by trying to sell fake tickets for water sports, hotel bookings and sex toys. The tricks of the comen's trade did not last long as the three fake major networks using digital platforms to lure and deceive tourists in Goa and exploiting their trust and financial transactions, were busted by the North Goa Police.

In the first case, a water sports scam operated by three fraudsters from Delhi was unearthed. The investigation teams received multiple complaints via 1930 cybercrime portal and email, alleging that individuals were fraudulently selling tickets for water sports activities in Goa. The victims complained that after making payments, they often discovered that the operators did not exist. In other cases, the services provided were significantly different from what was advertised. Following investigation, FIRs were registered at Panjim and Porvorim Police Stations which led to

**CASE 1:** A water sports scam operated by three fraudsters from Delhi was unearthed. The victims said after making payments, they discovered that the operators did not exist

**FIRs registered at Panjim and Porvorim. Mayank Jain, Harish Jain and Shashank Verma, all from Delhi arrested**

**CASE 2:** Dilip Kumar Vishwakarma, a Karnataka native arrested in Bidar in connection with fake hotel bookings. Victim complained of being scammed. FIR registered by Calangute Police, accused arrested

**CASE 3:** Shubendhu Kumar Das, a Bengal native apprehended for committing fraudulent sale of sex toys. Despite receiving payment, the company never delivered the product. Upon verification, it was found that the business address did not exist

arrests of Mayank Jain, Harish Jain and Shashank Verma, all Delhi natives.

In another case, a Karnataka native has been apprehended in connection with fake hotel bookings. A victim complained of being scammed after booking a homestay in Goa through a Facebook group dedicated to homestays and hotels. The complainant made an advance payment to one Dilip Kumar Vishwakarma, who then blocked all further communication. On receiving the complaint, an FIR was registered by the Calangute Police and during the investi-

gation, the police uncovered multiple complaints against the accused from across the country. Using technical intelligence (TechInt), the accused was traced and arrested in Bidar, Karnataka.

In the third case, a Bengal native was apprehended from committing fraudulent sale of sex toys. A complainant stated that an e-commerce website falsely claimed to have local presence. Despite receiving payment, the company never delivered the product. Upon verification, it was found that the business address did not exist.

Following the complaint, an FIR was registered by the Panjim Police. Further investigation revealed multiple complaints from victims across the country. These fraudsters were actively targeting tourists in Goa, taking advantage of their online purchases and lack of local knowledge. Acting swiftly, the police team tracked down and apprehended the accused Shubendhu Kumar Das from Kolkata, West Bengal.

North Goa Police has been actively cracking down on cyber fraud and online scams.

# Activist Kankonkar gets police summons, dares CM to arrest him

Team Herald

PANJIM: Activist Rama Kankonkar, who was summoned to the Panjim Police Station in connection with a public statement against the Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, has dared the head of the government to arrest him.

Kankonkar has claimed that the Police tracked him through Google, picked him from Marcel and brought to the police station.

Stating that he was kept there for nearly half a day for questioning, the activist said that he has given his

**“Please arrest us, we have nothing left now. This is frustration and I am ready to get arrested and ready to stay in jail for whatever number of years -Rama Kankonkar, activist**

statement to the police, demanding that the complaint be withdrawn.

Speaking to mediapersons after coming out of the police station, Kankonkar said, “Please arrest us, we have nothing left now. This is frustrating and I am ready to get arrested and ready to stay in jail for whatever number of years.”

In his statement to police, Kankonkar stated that he would continue to stand firm on his statement.

It may be recalled that Kankonkar on Wednesday in a video had said that a migrant is threatening Goans openly and the Home Department is not doing anything about it. Kankonkar's statement

was a reaction to an incident in Sancoale panchayat where a person speaking in Hindi pointing to the local Panch in the Panchayat premises had threatened that “he will bury them alive”.

The activist later made a remark against the Chief Minister following which he was summoned to the Panjim Police Station.

Meanwhile, Kankonkar's wife Rati accused the Chief Minister of overstepping his position which is meant to help and support people, by using the police against Rama.

## Sao Matias VP asks locals to pay taxes

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Sao Matias village panchayat has asked residents to pay house tax, garbage user fees and professional or commercial fees as soon as possible.

In a public notice, the panchayat has said, “This is to inform all residents in the jurisdiction of village panchayat Sao-Matias that the office of village panchayat has started collecting house tax, garbage user fees, profession/commercial taxes etc. In this regard, you are hereby requested to pay the above said taxes and user fees, as soon as possible.”

# Controlling stray population: Eight-day drive aims to make Bardez rabies free

## Another drive to identify dogs of banned breeds in Goa soon: Minister

Team Herald

PANJIM: In a bid to make Bardez rabies free and control the dog pollution, a massive eight-day special free vaccination, sterilisation drive for stray and pet dogs will be organised in the taluka from February 21.

This was announced by Minister for Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services (AHVS) Nilkanth Halarnkar. He said after an intensive surveillance in Goa, three cases of rabies in animals were recorded in 2023 and two in 2024. The cases of stray dog bites on beaches in Bardez taluka and rabies cases have prompted the AHVS to start the mega drive.

The minister said hundreds of volunteers will undertake the task of



vaccinating, sterilising and creating awareness among the locals. In all 1,500 persons with 32 vaccination teams will be involved in the exercise.

The drive will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant.

Halarnkar said the AHVS with the help of Mission Rabies completed 100 per cent vaccination and sterilisation.

**“After an intensive surveillance in Goa, 3 cases of rabies in animals were recorded in 2023 and 2 in 2024. The cases of stray dog bites on beaches in Bardez and rabies cases have prompted the AHVS to start the drive - Nilkanth Halarnkar, Minister for Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services**

ing the exercise successful.

Dr Murugan Appupillai, Director at Mission Rabies said that the campaign has been organised for quick action to completely eradicate rabies from Goa. Halarnkar said that the department will soon begin a drive to identify the dogs of banned breeds in Goa. Halarnkar made it clear that owners of such pets will have to sterilise and register their pets. “These banned breeds are dangerous for humans, as seen in Panjim and Anjuna cases,” he said. The Minister said, “Already the Centre has done a census and some may have hidden their pets from it. We will take police protection and our veterinary doctors will identify and sterilise the pets of ferocious breeds,” he said.

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