

# Advocates allege fake residence certificates used to ink marriages, demand police probe

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Team Herald

**MARGAO:** The South Goa Advocates Association has petitioned the Superintendent of Police, South Goa, alleging that forged residence certificates are being used to register marriages at the Sub-Registrar's Office in Margao, compromising the integrity of the marriage registration process.

Association president Adv. Prasad Naik stated that the issue has come to their attention through multiple sources, and they are calling for immediate action. In their petition, the association has urged the police to register an offence and conduct a thorough and impartial investigation to identify and prosecute

**DODGY DOCUMENTS**

At least one party in a marriage must provide a valid residence certificate to prove residency in Goa

Forged residence certificates allegedly used to register marriages at the Sub-Registrar's Office, Margao

those involved in the fraudulent practice.

According to the petition, the registration of marriages in Goa requires the submission of key documents, including a residence certificate. At least one of the parties getting married must provide this certificate to establish residency in the state. However, it has been observed that certain individuals are obtaining forged residence certificates to facilitate marriage

registration, often for ulterior motives.

The petition further alleges that these forged residence certificates are being procured through agents or touts, some of whom falsely present themselves as advocates, tarnishing the reputation of the legal profession. Upon conducting inquiries at the Sub-Registrar's Office in Salcete, the association learned that the Sub-Registrar had already raised concerns about such

**ADVOCATES ALLEGE**

Agents/touts falsely presenting themselves as advocates to procure fake certificates

Sub-Registrar's Office had flagged concerns, but police inaction persists

Suspicious of unofficial patronage allowing fraud to continue

Complaint lodged with Fatorda police, but no action has been taken so far

fraudulent cases. However, despite these complaints, the police have reportedly failed to take action, leading to suspicions that these agents may be operating with unofficial patronage. The association has expressed concern that inaction by the police is encouraging criminal activities and raising questions about possible collusion between fraudsters and authorities.

Adv. Naik further stated that the association's claims are backed by documents obtained from the Sub-Registrar's Office under the Right to Information (RTI) Act. Copies of these documents have been submitted to the Superintendent of Police, reinforcing their demand for an urgent investigation.

In addition to fake residence certificates, the as-

sociation has also received information that other forged documents, including certificates for name corrections, are being processed at the Sub-Registrar's Office in Salcete. The association believes that a prompt and rigorous inquiry will help restore the integrity of the marriage registration system and prevent further harm to individuals and society.

Meanwhile, it has been learned that the Sub-Registrar's Office has lodged a complaint with Fatorda police regarding the matter. However, no action has been initiated so far. The association has reiterated the need for immediate police intervention to bring those responsible to justice.

# Govt pledges to fast-track conversion sanads, tackle NOC delays

Team Herald

**MARGAO:** Following numerous complaints about the prolonged issuance of conversion sanads due to delays in obtaining NOCs (No Objection Certificates) from departments like Forest, Agriculture, and TCP, authorities have decided to streamline the process.

Minister for Environment Aleixo Sequeira, addressing reporters, confirmed that efforts are underway to expedite the disposal of pending applications.

At a meeting held on Friday at the South Goa Collectorate, the Minister explained that the issue had been brought to the attention of Chief Minister Pramod Sawant. The delay in issuing conversion sanads, particularly due to the Forest Department's pending NOCs, has led to widespread dissatisfaction.

He also discussed the matter with senior officials from the Collectorate to determine how best to address and expedite the issuance process. As part of the solution, a consolidated list will be compiled, detailing cases pending at the Collectorate, Forest

It should not take much time for the TCP to review and approve the zoning, as a simple glance at the zone should suffice. The goal of the streamlining exercise is to reduce delays and accelerate the clearance of pending applications

**- Aleixo Sequeira, Environment Minister**

Department, Agriculture Department, and TCP.

The Minister highlighted that the TCP's involvement primarily relates to zoning issues. "However, it should not take much time for the TCP to review and approve the zoning, as a simple glance at the zone should suffice," he stated. He emphasised that the goal of the streamlining exercise is to reduce delays and accelerate the clearance of pending applications.

Additionally, the Minister noted that he is working to develop a system that would allow all panel members to convene before inspecting the properties in question, to further enhance the efficiency of the process.

# Estranged husband held for setting ablaze 2-wheeler used by wife

Team Herald

**MAPUSA:** The Mapusa police on Saturday arrested a 26-year-old estranged husband on the charge of setting a two-wheeler used by his wife ablaze.



The accused identified as Tamsil Shaikh from Dangui Colony, Mapusa allegedly put fire to the parked

two-wheeler at Ektanagar, Khorlim. The bike belonged to his wife's friend but was used by her.

Another bike belonging to Rocky Pereira of Siolim and used by Somesh Shirgaonkar and which was parked adjacent to her two-wheeler was also gutted in the blaze.

The Mapusa police have registered a case against Tamsil Shaikh under section 326 (F) of BNS and ASI Anand Sawant is conducting investigations under the guidance of Mapusa PI Nikhil Palkar.

# BOVINE'S BEACH DAY



As the sun beats down, a cowherd takes his buffalo companion to Arossim beach for a leisurely stroll and cooling dip

CENTINA FERNANDES

# GKF calls out Sahitya Akademi for marginalising Roman and Kannada Konkani

Team Herald

**MARGAO:** The two-day seminar organized by the Sahitya Akademi, which focuses solely on the promotion of the Devanagari script, is facing criticism from the Global Konknni Forum (GKF) for being irrelevant to Goa.

The Forum argues that Goa is home to a vibrant Konkani literary tradition written in two primary scripts—Roman and Devanagari—and that a one-script policy undermines the richness of Konkani literature.

The GKF stated that the Sahitya Akademi's exclusive focus on Devanagari goes against the Akademi's core principles of uniting India's diverse literary and cultural traditions through literature. The Forum emphasized that Konkani's literary richness is derived from the use of multiple scripts and that the exclusion of other scripts from recognition diminishes this di-

**The Global Konknni Forum has called for the Sahitya Akademi to consider all five scripts used for Konkani—Devanagari, Roman, Kannada, Arabic, and Malayalam—for grants, awards, and research funding**

versity.

Jose Salvador Fernandes, Secretary of GKF, pointed out that the Sahitya Akademi's General Council had, in its meeting on February 26, 1976, passed a resolution recognizing Konkani as an independent modern literary language. However, he noted that despite this recognition, the Sahitya Akademi's Konkani Advisory Board, which is dominated by supporters of Devanagari, passed a controversial decision in 1981 declaring Devanagari as the "official" script for Konkani. Fernandes described this move as unjust and contrary to the intent of the original 1976 resolution.

He further questioned how the Advisory Board, whose role is purely advisory and not le-

gally binding, could make such a significant decision when the 1976 resolution had not specified any script for Konkani. He argued that the adoption of Devanagari as the official script was done without considering the historical and literary evolution of Konkani in other scripts.

According to Fernandes, this one-sided decision has stunted the growth of Konkani literature in other scripts, particularly Roman and Kannada, leading to divisions within the Konkani-speaking community and limiting the potential for a more inclusive literary tradition. The Forum maintained that promoting a single script does not enrich the language but instead creates unnecessary barriers to

its development.

Fernandes further emphasized that while Devanagari is widely used for Konkani, it is not the only script in which the language thrives. He pointed out that Roman and Kannada scripts are also significant in the Konkani literary world. Despite this, the Sahitya Akademi has largely ignored literature in these scripts, effectively disregarding an entire section of the Konkani-speaking population.

As an organization dedicated to promoting Konkani literature, the Global Konknni Forum has called for the Sahitya Akademi to consider all five scripts used for Konkani—Devanagari, Roman, Kannada, Arabic, and Malayalam—for grants, awards, and research funding. The Forum believes that this inclusive approach would align with the Akademi's mission to foster linguistic diversity and enrich India's literary landscape.

# Cases of public property damage decline in South Goa, only two registered in 2024

Team Herald

**MARGAO:** Cases booked under the Prevention of Damage to Public Property (PDPP) Act, 1984 have significantly declined in South Goa, with only two cases registered in 2024. In comparison, no cases were recorded in 2023, while two cases were filed in 2022, of which one was detected.

According to a senior South Goa police official, cases under the PDPP Act have dropped since 2016 due to strict monitoring and preventive measures. "In 2014, there were 18 cases, but due to stricter enforcement, the number dropped to 5 in 2015. Since 2016, we have kept a close watch on suspected offenders, which has led to a consistent decline in such incidents," the official said.

The police have reportedly

YEAR-WISE BREAKDOWN OF PDPP ACT CASES	
2024: 2 cases registered	solved)
2023: No cases registered	2013: 12 cases registered (5 solved)
2022: 2 cases registered (1 detected)	2012: 9 cases registered (2 solved)
2015: 5 cases registered (3 solved)	2011: 14 cases registered (2 solved)
2014: 18 cases registered (7	

been monitoring individuals with a history of such offences, calling them in for questioning and issuing warnings.

Advocate Prasad Naik explained that damaging public property, whether movable or immovable, is a punishable offence under the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act, 1984.

"Mischievous fire or explosive substances to destroy public property is a serious offence. Those convicted can face im-

prisonment for up to five years and a fine," he stated.

He further clarified that public property includes assets owned, possessed, or controlled by the government, local authorities, or state and central corporations.

With continued police vigilance and legal awareness, officials hope to maintain the declining trend in cases related to public property damage in South Goa.

# Margao traffic cell seeks suspension of permits for three city buses

Team Herald

**MARGAO:** The Margao Traffic Cell has recommended the suspension of permits for three city buses for violating permit regulations.

According to reports, PI Sanjay Dalvi of the Margao Traffic Cell has sent a letter to the Road Transport Authority (RTA) requesting action against the buses involved in the violations.

The move follows a dramatic street brawl between bus conductors and drivers on the main road at Aquem, Margao, over passenger pick-ups and route violations. The clash, which lasted for over 30 minutes, disrupted traffic and created chaos. Margao police later arrested eight individuals, including bus drivers and

conductors, under Section 151 of the CrPC as a preventive measure. They were later released on bond by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate.

Traffic cell sources revealed that the three buses were parked at an unauthorised stop, leading to altercations among conductors and drivers. This is not the first such incident, with the Margao Traffic Cell previously recommending the suspension of eight bus permits for similar violations.

Locals have questioned why authorities continue to allow buses to park at the unauthorised Aquem stop, which frequently leads to traffic congestion and disputes. Many of these buses halt for extended periods to pick up passengers arriving from Margao Railway Station.



# IS THE POLICE ALLOWING THE OVERSEAS JOB SCAM ACCUSED AGENT TO GO SCOT FREE?

These agents operating in Goa deceive our youth, but it's not the youth's fault. Many young people face family pressures, caring for parents, spouses, children, and siblings, with some shouldering the responsibility of building a home. Given the typically large family sizes in Goa, they seek better opportunities abroad, including in the USA. That's when these agents exploit them. Despite numerous complaints, there's been no inquiry into these agents' activities. I urge the Goa Government to take action against these agents, who charge exorbitant fees of around Rs 15 lakh and put people in trouble. All illegal agents should be held accountable and face the consequences of their actions

**- Milagres Fernandes, social activist**

It has been at least seven days since the overseas job scam was exposed. Two Goans were deported from the USA via Amritsar. However, till date, the accused job agent has not been arrested, since he says he is not in Goa. Herald Media asked citizens if they believe the police is allowing the agent to go scot free even as he can easily be traced with the help of technology

We understand that some of our youth are desperate for jobs, but they shouldn't fall from the frying pan into the fire. If you want to work abroad, verify everything thoroughly before proceeding. For those in Goa, only work with agents who are legally registered and follow legitimate processes. Be sure to check the agent's license and documents. At the same time, the government must crack down on illegal agents operating in Goa. Regular checks on licenses and verification of their overseas connections are crucial. It's essential for the government to verify these details from the agents to streamline the process and prevent our youth from getting cheated

**- Savio Coutinho, social activist**

We understand that earlier too there have been many cases, where agents have cheated people with the promise of overseas jobs. If the present government has the will, it will not take them time to streamline this. But the government priorities are different. Here they are after the activists, they are busy with selling properties or they are interested in banning dogs. We do not understand their priorities. They have to pay urgent attention to such cases where Goans are being cheated. The number of such agencies which cheat the youth have gone up considerably. One thing can be proved from these scams is that employment is a big factor. Because people are unemployed they fall prey to such job scams

**- Elvis Gomes, social activist**

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