

Goa introduces early cancer detection Foundation One Test

Test to be available via CSR initiative; samples sent to the US for analysis, results in two weeks

Team Herald

PANJIM: Goa is set to become the first state in India to introduce the Foundation One test, a major step in the early detection of cancer and the improvement of cancer treatment protocols. At present, the test, which costs lakhs of rupees, is only available in private hospitals.

Health Minister Vishwajit Rane explained that the test represents a focused and significant advancement in both early cancer detection and the refinement of the state's cancer treatment strategies.

The Foundation One test will be launched through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, with biopsy samples sent to the United States for analysis. Results will be available within one to two weeks.

Only the Foundation One test can pinpoint the treatment modalities, identifying good and bad pathways to give doctors the best chance of saving a patient's life
— Vishwajit Rane, Health Minister

Minister Rane highlighted the test's ability to help doctors identify the most suitable treatment protocols for individual patients.

He stated, "Only the Foundation One test can pinpoint the treatment modalities, identifying good and bad pathways to give doctors the best chance of saving a patient's life."

The Foundation One test analyses tumour tissue for genomic alterations linked to cancer,

HEALTH MINISTER'S SURPRISE VISIT LEADS TO SUSPENSION OF AMBULANCE STAFF

MAPUSA: Health Minister Vishwajit Rane ordered the suspension of two ambulance drivers and a Lower Division Clerk (LDC) for negligence. Rane revealed that the drivers deliberately broke down the ambulance to avoid responding to an emergency. During a surprise visit to the Outpatient Departments (OPDs), Rane observed a lack of discipline among staff. "Some staff members were seen chatting while patients waited outside. Doctors were not wearing coats or name badges. All staff involved in these disciplinary lapses have been issued show-cause notices," he said.

providing doctors with critical information to determine the most effective treatment options. The test typically costs a significant amount in private hospitals.

Additionally, Rane revealed that the Health Department is in the process of acquiring IStat

machines on lease for all 213 health centres in Goa. These portable blood testing devices provide results within minutes, allowing for more efficient healthcare delivery.

Rane also mentioned that government hospitals conducting blood tests have been instructed

GOVT TO OFFER SUBSIDISED CARETAKERS FOR PATIENTS

PANJIM: In an effort to improve patient care across Goa's government hospitals, the Health Minister announced that the government will provide subsidised caretakers for patients. The initiative is aimed at supporting economically disadvantaged individuals who cannot afford full-time caregivers, which often leads to patients being overlooked. "The subsidy is designed to make quality care more affordable for all patients, ensuring better support for those who need it most," Minister Rane said.

to routinely perform cancer and thyroid marker tests, enabling the Health Department to build a comprehensive cancer database for the state. "Cancer devastates families. Our goal is to offer comfort and improve the quality of life for the people of Goa," he said.

Part of banyan tree damaged at Porvorim

Team Herald

PANJIM: A part of the lone banyan tree at Vodakade, Porvorim was damaged allegedly by the contractor building the elevated six-lane corridor on Monday night.

Environmentalists alleged that the tree was partly damaged ahead of matter in the High Court of Bombay at Goa on Tuesday. This overnight conspiracy to bring down the tree in spite of the stay by the High Court against cutting of the tree at Porvorim Highway 66.

The tree is situated near Khapreshwar Temple. The Temple committee and the environmentalists have strongly opposed any attempt to translocate the banyan tree at Porvorim,

Carnival, Shigmo float parades in Porvorim called off

Team Herald

PANJIM: Carnival floats parade scheduled at Porvorim on Friday, February 28 has been cancelled this year due to ongoing construction work of six-lane elevated corridor.

The Porvorim Shigmo-sav and Carnival Committee has also decided to cancel the Shigmo floats parade scheduled on March 29 this year.

Controversial structure at St Inez Y-Junction razed, traffic eased

PICS: UPENDRA NAIK



The authorities with the help of manpower and earthmoving machinery on Monday cleared the controversial structure at the Y-junction at St Inez, Panjim. The demolition was carried out after the Court declared the building as illegal, which was posing danger to road users

Team Herald

PANJIM: In a major relief for traffic movement at the St Inez-Panjim area, the controversial structure at the St Inez Y-junction was finally demolished on Monday evening.

The demolition was carried out after the Court declared the building illegal. The large commercial structure had en-

croached upon the road, posing a danger to traffic. Located at a crucial junction, the structure had been obstructing traffic flow following road widening under the Smart City project. The Imagine Panaji Smart City Development Limited (IPSCDL) had been unable to take action earlier due to a court-imposed stay on the demolition.

Meanwhile, the petitioners, Thomas Monteiro and Caitan Mascarenhas accused the government of not providing them with sufficient time to challenge the order in a higher court. It may be recalled that during their site visit to the ongoing works in the capital city under the Smart City Mission on 1st April 2024, Justice Mahesh Sonak and Justice

Valmiki Menezes noticed this structure jutting out at the crucial Y-junction at St Inez. It was identified as an encroachment on government property. The judges have now stated that the State, or any of its concerned departments, must take immediate steps to remove it to ensure there is no hindrance to the smooth flow of traffic at this critical junction.

CCP Councillor seeks change in road construction plans

Team Herald

PANJIM: Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP) Councillor Nelson Cabral has written to the Public Works Department (PWD), urging them to re-tender the road from Mitra Bazaar Garden to Ferns Residency, Caranzalem, for hotmix asphalt instead of concreting it.

Earlier, Cabral had requested the Panjim Deputy Collector and other concerned authorities to expedite the process and alleviate the difficulties faced by residents, particularly the sick and elderly. The road also leads to the Taleigao cemetery.

According to Cabral, only a 100-metre stretch of the road remains pending, and the government has now issued a tender for the construction of a concrete road from DG Mart to Souto

Maior Road, at an estimated cost of over Rs 76.40 lakh. Cabral has been consistently seeking prompt action from the concerned authorities since March 2023.

He pointed out that the residents had already hotmixed a 60-metre stretch of the road using their own funds, leaving only 40 metres to be hotmixed. He argued that there was no need to concretise the road since the majority of the road had already been hotmixed by the affected residents.

Cabral has now requested the PWD to reconsider the scope of the tender for the remaining work and conduct a site inspection with him to revise the estimates based on the current scope of work. He also asked for the tender to be re-issued to ensure that public funds are used judiciously.

Tonca history-sheeter booked for making lewd gestures

Team Herald

PANJIM: Known for his alleged stalking and harassing female victims, a history-sheeter from Tonca-Caranzalem, riding a scooter, has been booked by the Panjim Police for making lewd gestures at woman near the Old Patto bridge on Sunday night.

The case has been registered after the victim girl posted on social media narrating the ordeal.

North Goa Superintendent of Police (SP) Akshat Kaushal has informed that after acquiring the CCTV footage of the vicinity the police have managed to zero in on the Tonca-Caranzalem resident, whose appearance matches that of the man in the video. The suspect has a criminal history of cases of sexual harassment and POCSO and is currently out on bail in a 2024 case.

Taking it to a social media platform, the victim girl wrote a long post in which she expressed disgust over the incident that while she and her friend were on a bike, a man approached them with an "Excuse me" statement, pretending to be polite. But as they looked closer, they saw him riding with one hand, while using the other for the obscene gesture.

Odisha man caught with ganja

Team Herald

CALANGUTE: The Calangute police on Monday arrested an Odisha native who was found in possession of suspected ganja worth Rs 1.73 lakh.

Police said they received a tip-off that the accused, identified as Michael Mandal, 26, would be coming to deliver narcotics to a prospective customer, following which they conducted a raid and nabbed the accused and seized nearly two kgs of suspected ganja from his possession. He has been booked under provisions of the NDPS Act. Further investigations are on. On Saturday, the Saligao police had arrested a Madhya Pradesh native, Rajaram Sitaram Banwasi, 36, with suspected ganja weighing 2.5 kgs worth Rs 2.5 lakh approximately.

Rights Commission asks Old Goa panchayat to take action against illegal stalls on footpaths

Team Herald

PANJIM: Taking note of stalls on footpaths, the Goa Human Rights Commission (GHRC) has recommended that the Se Old Goa village panchayat forthwith take steps to clear footpaths of stalls causing obstructions in front of the Vailankanni Apartments and Carl Centre at Old Goa.

The Commission has also asked the Old Goa police station to provide necessary protection to the panchayat to remove stalls. Further both, the panchayat and the police have been asked to submit action taken report to the Commission on March 21.

The residents of Vailankanni Apartments and Carl Centre, Old Goa had complained to the GHRC that the stalls situated on footpaths in front of

The residents of Vailankanni Apartments and Carl Centre, Old Goa had complained to the GHRC that the stalls situated on footpaths in front of their building was causing obstructions thereby violating their human rights. It was also disrupting their day-to-day work

their building was causing obstructions thereby violating their human rights. It was also disrupting their day-to-day work. The shop owners situated in the ground floor of the apartments had also complained that they were suffering loss as people were finding difficult to visit their shops due to stalls on footpaths.

In his reply, the panchayat secretary stated that the complainants had not filed any complaint in this regard to the panchayat of-

fice and hence no action was taken. He said on receipt of the notice from the Commission, the panchayat acted swiftly and requested the Old Goa police to stop illegal vendors occupying the footpath in front of Accordingly, a joint drive was carried by the panchayat and the police out to remove the hawkers, the secretary stated in his reply.

But during the hearing, the panchayat secretary stated that stalls were moving carts while, the complainants advocate Vassu Shirodkar pointed out that stalls were not moving carts and they were at fixed places.

Following this the two-member Commission comprising acting Chairperson Desmond D'Costa and Member Pramod V Kamat made the recommendations.

after the condition of five translocated trees were precarious. The Porvorim police later rushed to the site to do the panchanama, the environmentalists said.

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To our beloved
ROHAN KHAUNTE
(Minister for Tourism/
MLA Porvorim Constituency)

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Best wishes from
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