

shorttakes

BIKE RIDER RAMS INTO CONTAINER TRUCK, SUSTAINS SERIOUS INJURIES

PANJIM: A two-wheeler rider, identified as Deepak Korgaonkar, sustained serious injuries after he rammed into a Rajasthan-registered container truck that was illegally parked on the highway at Karaswada on Saturday night. According to eyewitnesses, the accident occurred around 10.30 pm.

While the rider was shifted to North Goa District Hospital, the driver of the container truck fled from the scene. One eyewitness said that container trucks are frequently parked at the site where the accident took place. "Most of the time, the drivers park their large vehicles along the road and go to nearby hotels for food," he said. The witness further stated that Korgaonkar sustained injuries to his head, hands, and legs.

Another eyewitness confirmed that the accident occurred at around 10.30 pm on Saturday night.

A driver of a four-wheeler expressed concern, stating that the presence of large vehicles parked on the road causes problems for motorists. He demanded that a police officer be stationed at the site, as it has become an accident-prone area.

NEPAL NATIVE COLLAPSES AND DIES AFTER SWIM AT ARAMBOL BEACH

PANJIM: Nepal native Dipendra Thapa, 39 collapsed and died after swimming at Arambol Beach, near Sweet Water Lake, on Sunday.

According to police, the deceased was working as a chef in South Goa and had gone for a swim with his wife, Inta Thapa, and their six-year-old son. After returning to the shore, he was playing with his child when he suddenly collapsed.

No foul play is suspected, the police said, adding that an unnatural death case has been registered.

PONDA MAN ARRESTED FOR SNATCHING CHAIN OF BUSINESSMAN AT ARPORA

PANJIM: The Anjuna police have arrested a chain snatcher, identified as Deepraj Mulvi, 37, from Gaunem, Bandora, Ponda.

According to the police, Govindbhai Gavil, a businessman from Dadra and Nagar Haveli, filed a complaint stating that the accused arrived on a two-wheeler and snatched his gold chain worth Rs 2.64 lakh at Arpora, Bardez, on February 13.

A case has been registered, and further investigations are ongoing, led by PSI Saish Shetgaonkar of the Anjuna Police Station.

PEDESTRIAN INJURED IN ROAD ACCIDENT AT ARLEM, SALCETE

MARGAO: Wojtyla Nedlin Salvacao Fernandes, residing near White House in Arlem, Raia, Salcete, was injured after being struck by a scooter while standing on a Kaccha road waiting for a bus. The impact caused her to fall into a drainage, sustaining a head injury. The scooter rider, Socorro Pango, also from Arlem, Salcete, suffered a fracture to his left leg and other bodily injuries.

The Maina-Curtorim Police have registered an offence under sections 281, 125(a), and 125(b) of the BNS. According to the complaint lodged by Laxman Majik, Head Constable of Maina Curtorim Police Station, the incident occurred on February 21, around 1 in the afternoon near Anita General Store, opposite Livramento Church in Arlem, Raia, Salcete. Parth Bhanushali, the alleged driver of a car, was reportedly driving in a rash and negligent manner, endangering human life, as he proceeded from Ponda towards Margao. Upon reaching the area near Anita General Store, Bhanushali's car collided with a scooter, causing the rider, Socorro Pango, to be thrown forward.

The scooter subsequently collided with Wojtyla Fernandes, who was waiting by the roadside, resulting in her falling into the drainage and sustaining a head injury. Socorro Pango suffered a fractured leg and other injuries in the incident.

POWER SHUTDOWN

- **TALEIGAO:** On February 25, from 9 am to 1 pm at Aivao and surrounding areas
- **DONA PAULA:** On February 27, from 9 am to 1 pm at NIO Colony
- **DONA PAULA:** On March 1, from 9 am to 1 pm at La Citadel Colony

14 rescued at Calangute, Baga, Candolim beaches

Team Herald

CALANGUTE: Fourteen people were rescued from drowning off Goa's coastline over the weekend, including three triple rescues.

According to a lifesaving agency, at Calangute, lifesavers rescued two men, a 30-year-old from Maharashtra, who was caught in a rip current and a 27-year-old from Karnataka.

In a triple rescue off Baga beach, three males in their early 20s from Maharashtra were rescued using a rescue board, rescue tubes and on a jet ski by three lifesavers.

Another single rescue incident took place off the same beach, wherein a 38-year-old male from Mysore was saved with a rescue board. An eight-year-old Nepali boy, missing from Calangute beach, was found at Candolim and safely reunited with his family.

An inebriated 40-year-old Tamil Nadu man was swiftly rescued by a lifesaver off Candolim beach and was administered oxygen before being taken to the Candolim Primary Health Centre.

At Sinquerim, an individual complained of feeling breathless due to fluctuating air pressure. The person was stabilised with the help of a spine board by lifesavers. The lifesavers also provided first aid to a 64-year-old male UK national, who was bitten by a dog at Mober beach, while jogging along the beach and was sent for further treatment.

Off Agonda beach, two Goan men, both aged 28, and a 30-year-old male from Bihar were saved. Three individuals from Mapusa - a 30-year-old male and two females aged 25 and 29 - were rescued at Mandrem after being pulled by strong currents.

Ex-cricketer removes illegal road, but rubble remains in NDZ at Cavelossim

Locals wonder whether GCZMA will penalise violator for polluting environment

Team Herald

MARGAO: Even after former India cricketer Ashish Nehra's representatives claimed that the unauthorised road built in a No Development Zone (NDZ) in Cavelossim had been dismantled, questions persist about further action. While the road has been removed, concerns remain over the fate of the rubble and whether authorities will impose any penalties.

The Cavelossim Panchayat recently conducted an inspection of the site following reports that the Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) had discharged the



FILE PHOTO

show cause notice against Nehra after he complied with removal orders. However, uncertainty lingers over whether GCZMA will take any further steps regarding the NDZ violation. Sarpanch Dixon Vaz, along with ward Panch Jesus D'Costa and panchayat secretary, visited the site after Nehra's representatives informed them of compliance with directives. "We have conducted an inspection to verify the situation. The road has been removed, though some

“We have conducted an inspection to verify the situation. The road has been removed, though some work remains, and rubble stones are still lying in the area. This matter will be discussed at the upcoming Panchayat meeting – Dixon Vaz, Cavelossim sarpanch

work remains, and rubble stones are still lying in the area. This matter will be discussed at the upcoming Panchayat meeting," Vaz stated to the media.

Asked about possible further action, he said the Panchayat would communicate with GCZMA. "We will wait for their response on whether they intend to impose any penalties," he added.

D'Costa noted that while the Panchayat had taken steps to address the issue, there had been attempts to misrepresent the situation. "The stones have been removed and dumped in one place. We will take up the matter in the meeting," he said.

The road's construction had sparked controversy, especially since villagers had previously raised concerns over fires destroying vegetation and alleged tampering of sand dunes in the area.

Pilgao man denies apologising to High Court

Team Herald

BICHOLIM: Anil Salelkar, a resident of Pilgao has denied that he apologised to the High Court for wrong information regarding mining activity even as Vedanta Limited produced an affidavit where Salelkar had made false statements under sworn affidavit that he had no role to play in the transport blockade of iron ore from Bicholim mineral block.

Salelkar said that he had filed a miscellaneous civil application in the High Court seeking to stop iron ore transportation during night. "I wanted to stop ore transportation in Pilgao during night. The High Court told the mining company to stop it. It was my prayer," he said refusing to speak about his affidavit tending apology to the Court.

On the other hand, the Vedanta Limited stated that Salelkar had tendered unconditional apology to the Court. Salelkar, who is a former worker of Sesa Mining Corporation Ltd, had previously publicly vowed to obstruct ore transportation, it said.

Salelkar in his affidavit admitted to him making false and incorrect statements, the company said. But when Vedanta Sesa Goa lawyers argued that Salelkar was driving an individual agenda with vested interest under the garb of the PIL and faced with evidence of his direct involvement in illegal blockades, he had no option but to withdraw his intervention and undertake that he would not obstruct transportation in any manner, the company stated in a press communique.

RoRo ferries likely by March end

Team Herald

PANJIM: The launch of the new roll-on roll-off (RoRo) ferries has been rescheduled during the last week of March this year, a senior government official said on Friday.

Speaking to O Herald, River and Navigation Department (RND) Director Vikram Rajebhosle said, "The new vessels are deck-mounted. Currently the ferries use shaft and propeller systems beneath the waterline but new ferries will have deck-mounted propulsion system. This new system eliminates the risk of ropes getting entangled in the propeller, which is a common issue for traditional ferries. In case of any malfunction, the propulsion system can be hydraulically shifted below the deck, eliminating the need for a dry deck," he said.

"This innovation will reduce the downtime typically experienced during the monsoon season when ferries are taken to the River Navigation Department (RND) workshop every 15 days for repairs related to entanglement," said Rajebhosle and added that the government has decided to run two vessels which are coming from Austria on the Ribandar-Chorao route.

He said the Ribandar jetty is likely to be operational by March 15 ahead of the launch of the new two ferries.

Last year, River and Navigation Department (RND) Minister Subhash Phal Dessai had unveiled plans to introduce roll-on roll-off ferries (RoRo) on the Ribandar-Chorao route within six months. However, it got delayed due to the non-arrival of the boats.

STINKY SITE



UPENDRA NAIK

St Inez Creek's water is highly contaminated, causing a foul smell. Despite the Water Resources Department (WRD) spending Rs 37 crore on desilting, the creek continues to be polluted

No relief for internet service providers from High Court

Association requests delay amid fears of disruption to services; says consumers will suffer

Team Herald

PANJIM: The High Court of Bombay at Goa has refused to grant interim relief to the All Goa Internet Service Providers Association (ISPs), which had petitioned the Court to direct the Electricity Department to refrain from cutting internet cables from electricity poles. The hearing has been adjourned to March 18, and the Electricity Department has confirmed that it will resume the removal of cables.

The application filed by the ISP Association was heard for the first time by the High Court since its submission. Advocate General of Goa, Devidas Pangam, explained the Court's stance, stating, "The applicants' lawyer re-

quested more time for further hearings and sought an order to prevent any action against them. However, the Court did not grant any such order." He added that the Court had given the ISPs the opportunity to approach the relevant authorities with their grievances.

During the hearing, Advocate General Pangam explained that the ISPs had not applied for permission to install cables after the new regulations came into force in 2024. "The ISPs did not have permission from any competent authority before 2024 to install these cables, and they have not paid any licence fees to any authority," he said.

Following the Court hearing, the Executive Engineer (EE) of the Electricity Department, Kashinath

Shetye, confirmed that the department would proceed with removing the cables. "None of the operators have settled their dues, including licence fees and form fees. We gave them 15 days, and now we will proceed with action under the Land and Revenue Code against the violators," Shetye stated.

In response, the ISP Association appealed to the Electricity Department to halt the removal of cables, asserting that they are willing to comply with all regulations. "We are ready to follow the rules. The reality is that there are exams and offices dependent on internet services, and if the cables are cut, it is the end consumers who will suffer," said Marvin Britto, President of the ISP Association.

Villagers stop foresters from going ahead with Cotigao construction

Team Herald

CANACONA: The villagers of Cotigao along with Assembly Speaker Ramesh Tawadkar on Sunday stopped construction work being carried out by the Forest Department at Piplamal, here.

SAVING ENVIRONMENT

The Forest Department had started excavation work with JCBs to build a house in Piplamal, near the Cotigao sanctuary. When the work was going on, the villagers became restive and immediately contacted the Sarpanch Vrinda Velip and requested her to come to the construction site.

The sarpanch assured them to come to the site, but failed to do so.

The irate villagers questioned the forest guard and asked him to produce the work order. On seeing the agitated villagers, the guard fled from the spot saying that would go to the office and bring the order. Interestingly, at the same

time there was a gram sabha at the Cotigao village panchayat and the villagers rushed there and raised the issue.

The Sarpanch then informed the Canacona MLA and Speaker Ramesh Tawadkar about the incident and who immediately reached the spot, but no workers from Forest Department was present at that time.

The Speaker assured the villagers that the department would not go ahead with the construction if it was against the wishes of the people.

Forest Department official Ashwita Desai immediately arrived at the site and said that what they are doing was completely legal and advised the people to help them to preserve the forest.

RTI activist Kalpesh Gaonkar alleged that the Forest Department was using JCBs which had no details and that the work was started on Sunday being a holiday and demanded that locals be taken into confidence before embarking on any such projects.

KES Shri Jayantilal H Patel College, Mumbai wins National Moot Court contest

Team Herald

PANJIM: The KES Shri Jayantilal H Patel College, Mumbai triumphed at the third edition of the Justice G D Kamat Memorial National Moot Court Competition 2025 organised by the V M Salgaocar College of Law (VMSCCL), Miramar. It was awarded a cash prize of Rs 50,000.

Christ University, Bangalore, who was declared runner-up was awarded a cash prize of Rs 25,000 with trophies and merit certificates.

The valedictory ceremony was held at Z Square Banquets, Panjim on Sunday with retired High Court Judge Justice Utkarsh V Bakre was the chief guest. VMSCCL Principal Dr Shaber Ali G, VMSCCL management committee Vice President DSES Bhaskar Nayak, Mem-



ber of G D Kamat Charitable Trust Ulhas Kamat, faculty coordinator Dr Sonal Sardessai and student coordinator Savni Prabhudesai among others.

The final round was judged by senior advocate R G Ramani and senior advocate Surendra Desai and Dr Shaber Ali G.

The special prizes were also awarded. The Best Mooter was bagged by Disha Lalit Jain from Pravin Gandhi College of Law, Mumbai and Best Research-

er was secured by Nandana Suresh from Government Law College, Thiruvir. They were awarded cash prizes of Rs 15,000 and Rs 10,000, respectively, along with trophies and merit certificates.

Shahaji Law College, Kolhapur secured the Best Memorial title and a cash prize of Rs 15,000, and a trophy and merit certificates.

In his valedictory address, retired Justice Bakre praised all the participants for displaying excellence throughout the compe-

petition. He also recalled memories of being a part of VMSCCL and expressed that Justice G D Kamat Moot

Court Competition brings out the true talent and skills of budding lawyers and felt that it is the best in India.

Bhaskar Nayak described the final round to be a feast of articulation, argumentativeness and professionalism. He encouraged aspiring lawyers to aid in bringing justice to society by taking up Pro-Bono cases.

Ulhas Kamat, on behalf of the Trust congratulated the organisers and recalled how Justice G D Kamat revolutionised Mundkari and Agricultural Tenancy in Goa thereby helping many of the downtrodden.

In all, 26 teams representing prestigious institutions nationwide participated.

APPOINTMENTS

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