

Junk vehicles continue to occupy prime parking spaces in Panjim

Private owners, govt depts among defaulters, GOACAN urges CCP Commissioner to hold joint meeting of officials to sort out long-standing issue

Team Herald

PANJIM: Abandoned cars, bikes and other automobiles have turned into a nuisance as they continue to occupy prime parking spaces in the capital city. Among the violators include several private owners and government departments.

Several such vehicles have been rusting for months together thereby occupying important public spaces in Panjim but have also turned into a health hazard, stated Goa Civic and Consumer Action Network (GOACAN) and expressed concern that they could also be a source of mosquito breeding, fire hazards and hide-out for anti-social elements.

In a letter to the Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP) Commissioner Clen Madeira, the GOACAN has submitted photographs of some of these vehicles located at the Patto parking area wherein a cursory glance gives a poor impression of the arrangements made by the CCP to collect fees through the pay parking contractor.

The GOACAN found out that there is no mechanism in place for the pay parking contractor of the CCP to report on a weekly basis that there are abandoned vehicles in the designated parking areas nor is the traffic police and the Directorate of Transport being informed of the same.

The GOACAN is of the view that at a time when crime is on the increase in the State, it is important that proper steps are taken to report abandoned



EYESORE
 ■ Rusting for months, these vehicles clog important public spaces
 ■ Serve as hideout for anti-social elements
 ■ Fertile breeding ground for mosquitoes



DEFAULTERS TO BE RE-ISSUED NOTICES

It may be recalled that in November 2024, the North Goa District Magistrate's office issued a proclamation to auction unclaimed vehicles in a bid to free up parking spaces and eliminate potential mosquito breeding ground. The notices had called upon persons with interest in any abandoned or unattended vehicles located in Bardez and Tiwadi to submit their claims within six months to respective

Deputy Collector or Sub Divisional Magistrate offices. Sources revealed that notices were issued to violators who had abandoned vehicles for a long time however the efforts to clear parking spaces are in vain. It is reportedly learnt that the Transport Dept is likely to re-issue notices to defaulters and is considering over reducing the six-month waiting period for claims, ensuring that such vehicles do not choke parking spaces in future.

vehicles to the appropriate authorities so that the necessary action is taken in the matter. It is also important that a fine be imposed on those government departments and private parties who have abandoned their vehicles in the pay parking areas.

The GOACAN has requested the CCP Commissioner to convene a joint meeting of the officials of the Directorate of Transport, Goa Traffic Police, Directorate of Health Services, Directorate of Fire and Emergency Services, District Police and the

pay parking contractor to work out a reporting mechanism for abandoned vehicles so that timely action is taken by all concerned in the interest of proper parking and traffic management in the Panjim city. Copies of the GOACAN

letter have been sent to the North Goa Collector, Director of Transport, Urban Development, Fire and Emergency Services and Consumer Affairs, Deputy Director of NVB-DCP, Superintendent of Police (SP) North and SP (Traffic).

History-sheeter nabbed for sexually harassing woman

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Panjim police arrested Goan Pednekar, 27, a resident of Tonca-Caranzalem, for allegedly sexually harassing a woman on February.

According to the police, Pednekar, a habitual offender with multiple cases of stalking, sexual harassment, and robbery against him, was apprehended in Belagavi, Karnataka, after fleeing Goa following the incident.

The offence occurred at approximately 10.30 pm near a restaurant in Patto, Panjim, where Pednekar allegedly masturbated while riding a two-wheeler and made lewd remarks to-

wards the victim, who was also on a two-wheeler with a friend.

The woman later raised the issue on social media and formally lodged a complaint with the police. Following this, Panjim Police registered a case and formed a dedicated team under the supervision of Superintendent of Police (North Goa) Akshat Kaushal, IPS, to track down and arrest the accused. The investigation team included SDPO Panjim Sudesh Naik, IPS Probationary Arun Balgotra, and PI Vijay Chodankar, among others.

After committing the offence, Pednekar went into hiding in an attempt

to evade arrest. However, police investigations led to the discovery of his location in Belagavi. A team was dispatched to Karnataka, where he was successfully apprehended and brought back to Panjim Police Station on March 2.

Further investigation has revealed that Pednekar has a criminal history, having previously been booked for house trespass, theft, assault or use of criminal force against a woman with intent to outrage her modesty, stalking, sexual harassment, and offences under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

Inter-state drug racket busted, duo held

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Anti-Narcotics Cell (ANC) of the Goa Police has arrested Devadatta Nayak from Odisha and Brenzil Kadam from Verma for allegedly possessing ganja worth Rs 15 lakh.

According to police sources, the ANC received a tip-off regarding a large consignment of ganja being delivered in and around Panjim. A trap was laid, leading to the apprehension of Brenzil Kadam late on Sunday evening, along with Devadatta Nayak, who was accompanying him.

During initial interrogation, Kadam allegedly revealed that he procures large consignments of ganja through his interstate connections and distributes them to small-time peddlers on a commission basis. These peddlers further sell the drugs to addicts, students and migrant youth in Margao and Vasco.

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Drunk tourist beaten for pestering women

PANJIM: A heavily intoxicated tourist was assaulted and handed over to the police by outraged locals after he allegedly harassed two women and threw money at them near Club National in Panjim.

The incident took place when the two women, who were in the city to attend the Carnival celebrations at Panjim Square, were waiting for their friends. The tourist, after exiting a casino, allegedly attempted to lure them by flaunting cash and making inappropriate comments.

Local bystanders quickly intervened, confronting the man before handing him over to the police. The incident has been strongly condemned by members of the North Goa Youth Congress.

Employment scheme for children of freedom fighters

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Department of Home (General) has notified amendments in the scheme framed for providing employment in government to the children of Freedom Fighters (FF) as announced in the budget speech 2013-14.

The State government desired that the continuity of the scheme is essential to bestow the benefits under the scheme to the children of freedom fighters registered with the Department of Home.

As per the amendment of clause 3, 10 per cent vacancies to the children of freedom fighters Clause 3 (a) and 3(c) of the said scheme shall be read as 10 per cent of the vacancies under direct recruitment quota under Group 'C' shall be filled from freedom fighters category.

Oppn leader vows to back Neura villagers against railway station

Team Herald

PANJIM: Residents from Sant Andre constituency on Monday met Leader of the Opposition Yuri Alemao and raised their concerns over the proposed railway station project at Neura.

Residents of Neura and Mandur in their memorandum have stated that they strongly object to the railways proposal, as it will not only cause irreparable damage to the eco-sensitive khazan land consisting of fertile farmland, but will also harm water bodies.

Yuri assured the residents that he will take up their issue opposing the proposed Konkan Railway Station before the Neura at appropriate authority.

"I assured the concerned residents of Neura and Mandur that I will vigorously take up their issue opposing the proposed Konkan Railway station at Neura. We must protect the ecologically sensitive



Residents of Sant Andre constituency submitting their memorandum to Leader of the Opposition Yuri Alemao

“The government should not go ahead with such projects when there is no consent from the locals and when locals have resolved against the project in gram sabha”
 - Yuri Alemao

khazan land and precious water bodies in the region. I will take a step to ensure that their voices are heard and concerns addressed, preserving the environmental integrity of our Goem," Alemao said.

The Opposition Leader told the villagers that he will write to the Union Rail-

way Minister in regards to the railway station at Sao Jose De Areal in Velim constituency and at Neura.

"The government should not go ahead with such projects when there is no consent from the locals and when locals have resolved against the project in gram sabha," said Yuri.

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