

# AG assures HC: Petitioner's concerns on Porvorim corridor to be addressed

Submits suggestions made by amicus curiae appear to be reasonable, states every possible effort will be made to resolve issues placed on record

Team Herald

PANJIM: Advocate General Devidas Pangam on Thursday assured the High Court that all the suggestions given by the petitioner will be placed before the PWD principal chief engineer for consideration and for finding out a resolution while constructing the six-lane elevated corridor at Porvorim.

While hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) writ petition filed by Adv Moses Pinto and miscellaneous civil application by Eurico Mascarenhas, the AG

Pangam submitted that the suggestion made by amicus curiae Adv Abhijit Gosavi appear to be reasonable and the same will be placed before the PWD principal chief engineer for consideration and for finding out a resolution. He also submitted that every possible effort will be made to resolve the issues which have been placed on record by Adv Gosavi.



A joint meeting will be organised from time-to-time between the PWD principal chief engineer and the contractor along with other agencies, he said.

The Court appreciated the efforts of Adv Pinto and Adv Gosavi in bringing to their notice the ground realities of National Highway-66 elevated corridor project.

Adv Pinto placed on record

photographs to indicate the extent of inconvenience that is being caused as a result of such ongoing road work. The report dated March 12, 2025 was handed over to the Advocate General as well as to the contractor.

Adv Pinto suggested that the concerned authorities be directed to take immediate remedial measures to mitigate the hazards identified in this report. He



stated that the project contractor be instructed to comply with all safety regulations and contractual obligations under the supervision of an independent monitoring agency.

Adv Gosavi also placed some issues that require urgent attention. He suggested that the contractor should file a detailed plan of action in respect of implementation of drainage

system in place.

Also Coqueiro Junction to Damian de Goa service road section be immediately hot mixed to allow smooth movement of traffic and to deploy traffic personnel to ensure proper flow of traffic and avoid traffic congestion in the area.

The matter has been posted for further consideration on April 7.

# Goa signs MoU with Portuguese organisation to promote heritage, art

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Goa government through the Department of Art and Culture, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Fundação Oriente in Lisbon, on Wednesday.

This agreement establishes joint actions in cultural, educational, and historical areas between the Goa government and the Fundação Oriente, focusing on activities in India, and Portugal.

The Goa delegation was led by Minister for Art and Culture Govind Gaude, while Fundação Oriente was represented by the Chairman of the Board of Directors, Carlos Monjardino, and Board Member João Amorim.

This agreement aims to strengthen cultural, educational, and historical ties between Goa and Portugal.

The agreement was signed at the Fundação Oriente's headquarters in Lisbon by Suneel Anchipaka and Dr Carlos Monjardino, intend to go further promoting and strengthening the cultural, educational, and historical ties between Goa and Lisbon, benefiting both regions and enriching their mutual understanding.

The MoU will be valid for a period of three years extendable upto three years subject to mutual consent of both parties. The MoU signed outlines the general understanding between the parties and is intended to express the parties' mutual interest in exploring the cultural exchange and artistic collaboration; language and education; heritage conservation, research, publications and literary projects and films and media projects.

# Social activist Polgi booked for hurting religious sentiments

Team Herald

VASCO: The Mormugao Police on Thursday booked social activist Xencor Polgi following complaints from several devotees of His Holiness Padmashree awardee Pujya Sadguru Braheshanandacharya Swami.

The complainants alleged that Polgi made objectionable remarks about the recently held Goa Spiritual Festival, organised by the Satguru Foundation at Baina Beach.

The complaint claims that Polgi intentionally outraged religious sentiments by making derogatory remarks against Swamiji, accusing him of supporting political leaders and promoting enmity on religious grounds. It is also alleged that Polgi circulated these statements on social media, potentially disturbing public harmony.

A large number of devotees gathered at the Mormugao Police Station on Thursday afternoon, demanding Polgi's immediate arrest.

# Tourists attack taxi driver in Calangute

Team Herald

CALANGUTE: A taxi driver was allegedly assaulted by a group of tourists at Naikawaddo, Calangute, on Wednesday after one of them fell off a two-wheeler, reportedly after being struck by the tourist taxi. The vehicle was also vandalised in the incident.

According to Calangute police, the incident occurred at around 4 pm when a tourist, riding a two-wheeler with a woman pillion rider, collided with the side rear-view mirror of the taxi and fell onto the road. The group of tourists, who were on four

two-wheelers, became enraged with the taxi driver and allegedly began assaulting him with their helmets when he stopped to assist the fallen tourist.

To escape the attack, the taxi driver reportedly fled the scene, leaving his vehicle and passengers at the site of the accident. The tourists then allegedly smashed the windscreen and damaged the rear-view mirrors of the taxi. The vehicle had picked up passengers from Mopa Airport and was en route to drop them at their hotel in Calangute.

Following the incident, the taxi driver lodged a complaint

at Calangute police station. Three of the tourists, identified as Manish Tomar (40), Vijay Rajput (47), and Dhruv Rajput (21), have been booked by the police.

A large number of taxi drivers later gathered at the Calangute police station on Wednesday night, demanding strict action against the tourists. "Tourists come to Goa and think they can beat up the locals and get away with it. These types of incidents are increasing. There has to be strict action against such tourists. It is fortunate that the passengers inside the car were not injured," taxi drivers said.

# Kenyan woman arrested for running global sex trafficking racket

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Crime Branch of Goa Police has arrested Nancy King'ori, alias Alian, a Kenyan national, for allegedly running an international human trafficking racket.

According to police, the case came to light when the victim, also a Kenyan national, lodged a complaint on March 3 stating that the accused had procured her and forced her into prostitution since November 18, 2024.

Police sources revealed that the accused Alian procured young women from Kenya on the pretext of providing them jobs in the hospitality industry in Goa, confiscated their passports and then forced them into flesh trade.

"Alian would then upload

**MODUS OPERANDI**

- Alian allegedly procured young women from Kenya on the pretext of providing them jobs in Goa
- Confiscated passports of victims, forced them into flesh trade
- Uploaded the photos of girls on Massage Republic to solicit clients mostly Arabs, African and Indian men
- Charged between Rs 10,000 to Rs 30,000

the photos of the victim girls on Massage Republic and add her contact number to solicit clients online," said a cop and added that most of the clients were Arabs, African and Indian men who were charged from Rs 10,000 to Rs 30,000.

"The victims were kept in the North Goa coastal belt and were shifted between Goa, Mumbai and Bangalore," said the cop.

The case came to light when the victim managed to contact an NGO in Kenya who in turn requested ARZ to extend a helping hand and rescue the victim. A complaint was filed with the Crime Branch and SP Rahul Gupta then dispatched a team to Bangalore, rescued the victim and arrested the accused.

A special team led by LPSI Pragati Malik and staff

from the Crime Branch Police Station arrested King'ori and brought her to the Crime Branch Police Station in Ribandar on March 13.

The accused was produced before the Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) in Mapusa, which remanded her to seven days of police custody.

The investigation is ongoing under the supervision of PI Prashal PN Dessai, DySP Crime Rajesh Kumar, and SP Crime Rahul Gupta, IPS.

"The Crime Branch has done a commendable job by arresting the accused from Bangalore as this will deter others from trafficking women from foreign countries, said Arun Pandey, founder and Director of ARZ.

# Full-fledged mining to restart in Goa within 6 months: Union Min

Team Herald

PANJIM: Union Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy on Thursday said that full-fledged mining activities in the State will restart within next six months, strictly adhering to the norms and directions set by the Supreme Court.

The State government is proceeding with mining operations while addressing concerns such as environment, revenue generation and employment generation, Reddy said.

He was speaking to media persons after the launch of the 1st Tranche of Auction of Exploration Licence Blocks. Roadshow on 5th Tranche of Auction of Critical Mineral Blocks and Hackathon 2025 on 'Mineral Targeting Using AI' was also launched by the Union Minister at a function at Dona Paula.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant disclosed that Goa has identified one or two critical minerals, and exploration for them will commence soon.

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# Ponda set for grand Shigmo festival parade on March 15

Team Herald

PONDA: The much-anticipated Shigmo festival parade, featuring traditional Shigmo performances, folk dances, and themed floats, is set to commence in Goa from March 15, beginning in Ponda. The procession will start at 4:30 pm from Tisk-Ponda.

The parade is expected to draw large crowds eager to witness the vibrant performances of Shigmo troupes dancing to the rhythmic beats of dhol and tasha drums. Folk dance artists will also showcase their talents during the procession. Additionally, intricately designed floats based on mythological themes remain a major attraction for spectators of all ages, including children. Artists dedicate two to three months in advance to the preparation



of these elaborate floats. As part of the festival's commencement, Ponda Shigmo Festival Working Committee Chairman Ritesh Naik, Chairperson Anand Naik, and several committee members sought blessings at the Zareshwar temple in Ponda. On March 12, they carried out a traditional

procession from Mardol to the Mahalsa temple, where they offered 'Naman' (prayers) to Goddess Mahalsa, marking the beginning of the festivities scheduled for March 15.

The parade is expected to feature 14 Romtamel (Shigmo) troupes, 32 float groups, and 11 folk dance troupes. Additionally, nu-

merous participants will compete in the fancy dress competition in both junior and senior categories.

Apart from the parade, Shigmo and folk artists will be felicitated, and cultural programmes are scheduled over two days at Ponda Bus Stand, ensuring a grand celebration of Goa's rich cultural heritage.

HAPPY HOLI

Amul Milk

AMUL DOODH PEETA HAI INDIA