

shorttakes

**MAN FOUND UNCONSCIOUS IN CAR, DECLARED DEAD AT CANSULIM PHC**

MARGAO: A 31-year-old man from Zuarinagar was found unconscious in a parked car and later declared dead at PHC Cansaulim. According to Verna Police, the deceased had been sitting in the vehicle since morning. When his friends checked on him around 12.30 pm, they found him unresponsive and rushed him to the hospital via a 108 ambulance. An autopsy confirmed the cause of death as aspiration pneumonitis. Further investigation is being conducted by PSI Mahesh Bhomkar of Verna Police Station.

**WORKER ELECTROCUTED WHILE FIXING UNDERGROUND CABLE, THREE BOOKED**

MARGAO: Suraj Kumar Saroj, a worker from Betim-Bardez, sustained severe burn injuries after being electrocuted while jointing an underground electric cable near KTC Bus Stand, Cuncoim. According to Cuncoim Police, three individuals—Subhadwip alias Raj (supervisor), Ram Janampal (contractor), and Nitin Ranade (contractor/employer)—failed to provide proper safety measures, leading to the accident. The injured worker is undergoing treatment at GMC Bambolim. PSI Kishor Velip of Cuncoim Police Station is investigating the case.

**SCOOTERS STOLEN FROM MARGAO, SANCOALE**

MARGAO: Two scooters were stolen from Margao and Sancoale recently. While the scooter (red-black), valued at Rs 76,500, was stolen from an open parking space near a residence at Mungul Grande, Margao, another scooter, valued at Rs 25,000, was stolen from an open parking space near Chandan Store, Shantadurga Temple, Sancoale. In the first case, the complainant, Tereza Fernandes, reported the theft to Fatorda Police, who have registered an offence under Section 303(2) of the BNS Act 2023 while a complaint was lodged by Ruturaj Gourish Naik, and Verna Police have registered an offence under Section 303(2) of the BNS Act in the second incident. Police are probing into the matter.

**TWO INJURED IN BUS-SCOOTER COLLISION AT VALSHE-SANGUEM**

MARGAO: A bus-scooter collision at Valshe-Sanguem, left two individuals injured on Wednesday. According to Sanguem Police, Prashant Gaonkar, a resident of Nundem, Sanguem, was driving a passenger bus in a rash and negligent manner, endangering human life. While travelling from Sanguem via Bhati towards Vaddem, he allegedly crashed into an oncoming scooter near Paik Dev Temple, Valshe. As a result, rider Tusha Lambor of Kumari, Sanguem, sustained an injury to her right hand, while pillion rider Dakshita Lambor suffered a grievous injuries to her right leg. Sanguem Police have registered an offence under Sections 281 and 125 of the BNS 2023. Further investigation is ongoing.

# Frequent leadership changes stall development in Curti-Khandepar

## Sarpanch, deputy voted out, panchayat to get fifth sarpanch in two years

Team Herald

PONDA: Locals in Curti-Khandepar have expressed frustration over the frequent changes in panchayat leadership, stating that the ongoing game of 'musical chairs' among panchayat members has stalled developmental projects in the village.

A no-confidence motion against Curti-Khandepar Sarpanch Abhijeet Gaude and Deputy Sarpanch Sajjida Sayyad, introduced last week, was passed on

Thursday by a vote of 6-1 and 6-0, respectively.

Residents believe that the recurring pattern of no-confidence motions

**MUSICAL CHAIR POLITICS**

has turned the position of sarpanch into an unstable post. Since the 2022 panchayat elections, Curti-Khandepar has already seen four different sarpanches. Naved Tehsildar was elected first, followed by Sanjana Naik, then Har-

ish Naik, and most recently Abhijeet Gaude, who was ousted. At the halfway mark of the current tenure, the panchayat is now set to appoint its fifth sarpanch.

Local resident Sandeep Parkar stressed the need for stability in leadership to ensure proper devel-

opment. "Every time the sarpanch changes, the village's priorities shift. The projects initiated by one leader never progress because the new sarpanch has different priorities," he said.

He pointed out that despite being planned two years ago under a central

government scheme, the proposed Umeed Centre for senior citizens remains unrealised. Additionally, he noted that the demarcation survey for crematorium land and the construction of a compound wall have been pending for over a decade. The construction of a new panchayat office also remains a distant dream.

Residents are now urging stability in panchayat leadership to ensure that long-pending developmental projects are finally completed.

**Man held for kidnapping minor girl**

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Bicholim Police have arrested a person from Bangalore for allegedly kidnapping and sexually abusing a minor girl.

The accused is identified as Suraj Devgire.

According to police, the minor girl and Suraj were traced at Srinivasapura, Karnataka and brought to Goa.

The alleged accused was presented before JMFC Bicholim which remanded him to seven days' police custody. The victim has been lodged in Apna Ghar.

**Mumbai woman remanded in multi-crore investment scam**

Team Herald

MARGAO: Deepali Parab, 42, a resident of Mumbai and the wife of Myron Rodrigues, was produced before the Sessions Judge in Margao, where the court granted a seven-day remand for further investigation.

The Goa Police Crime Branch arrested Deepali Parab in connection with an alleged multi-crore investment scam. Her husband, Myron Rodrigues, is the prime accused in the case, which involved defrauding numerous investors of crores of rupees.

According to the police, Parab's arrest followed a thorough investigation that uncovered her involvement in fraudulent activities linked to the scam. Investigations revealed that the main accused and his wife lured investors by promising high returns.

**Tourist's car rams parked vehicles and injures two**

CALANGUTE: A Karnataka-registered car (KA 05-MN 3073), driven by a tourist, crashed into two parked vehicles at Baga, Calangute, early on Thursday morning. The collision also left two labourers injured, who were walking nearby when the car hit them.

The driver, suspected to have been intoxicated, fled the scene near the Baga parking area, despite alert taxi drivers attempting to chase the vehicle, which had three occupants.

Following the incident, the occupants of the car allegedly visited a casino in Baga before abandoning the damaged vehicle outside a hotel in Calangute. The Calangute police have registered an offence.

**BEATING THE HEAT**



Buffaloes cool off in a waterlogged field in Siolim. The leaking Tillari Irrigation has turned the once fertile rice bowl of the village into a swamp

FROM PAGE 1

**British woman raped, molested in Delhi hotel after Goa visit; two arrested**

The incident, which took place on the night of March 11.

The woman, who had travelled to India a month ago, stayed in Maharashtra for a while before visiting Goa. She came to Delhi on March 11 to meet Kailash, 24, whom she had met through Instagram recently, said the police official. The British national had booked a room at a hotel in the area and had a few drinks with the man before he allegedly raped her and left.

When she tried to complain to the hotel staff, one of them, identified as the hotel's 27-year-old housekeeper, touched her inappropriately in the hotel lift, the official added.

On March 12, she went to a hospital following which the police learnt about the incident and registered a case under Sections 64 (rape), 75 (sexual harassment), 127 (2) (wrongful confinement) and 115 (2) (voluntarily causing hurt) of the BNS was registered at the Vasant Kunj North Police Station.

"We arrested the accused within a few hours of the incident. It was easier to track him since he had submitted documents in the hotel when he came to meet her there," said the police official.

The accused were produced in a court and remanded to judicial custody. The police said the survivor first spoke to the accused on the social media platform over a month ago, following which they started to chat frequently. Kailash, a resident of east Delhi, the police said, struggled to speak the English language and used a translation app to communicate with her.

Police teams are now checking the hotel's CCTV footage to establish the sequence of the events leading to the alleged crime. A special team, led by an ACP and under the supervision of the DCP, was formed to probe the case and have seized the accused's cell phone to verify if he contacted any other women on social media.

**TN replaces rupee symbol with Tamil letter in Budget logo**

Chief Minister M K Stalin accused the Central government of trying to impose Hindi in the State under it and claimed that NEP was a "saf-fon policy" aimed at promoting and developing Hindi and not the nation.

The DMK has also asserted that Tamil Nadu would not tolerate 'Hindi colonialism' replacing British colonialism, while the Union government has accused the State government of being "dishonest" and "ruining the future of the students" in the State for politics.

The logo for the budget, released by the government on Thursday, carried 'ru', the first letter of the Tamil word 'Rubaa', which denotes the Indian currency in the vernacular language. Tamil Nadu Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu is scheduled to table the budget on Friday.

The logo also had the caption "everything for all", indicating the ruling DMK's assurance of an inclusive governance model.

The symbol change triggered a political slug-

fest, with the BJP leaders attacking the DMK, and the ruling party members asking if any rule barred such a depiction. DMK MLA Ezhilan Naganathan justified the move and said there was nothing wrong with using the mother tongue.

Slamming the Stalin government's move, BJP TN chief K Annamalai asked the chief minister how stupid he could be to do it.

"The DMK Government's State Budget for 2025-26 replaces the Rupee Symbol designed by a Tamilian, which was adopted by the whole of Bharat and incorporated into our Currency. Thiru Udhay Kumar, who designed the symbol, is the son of a former DMK MLA. How stupid can you become, Thiru @mkstalin?" he said in a social media post.

He also shared the logo of the 2024-25 TN budget that had the Devanagari symbol.

Responding to Annamalai's criticism, DMK spokesperson Saravanan Annadurai said no law "opposed or stopped using Ru in Tamil".

"Then why such anger," he asked in a post on X. Thiru BJP leader and former State unit chief Tamilisai Soundararajan also attacked the DMK.

"We feel very sorry for the attitude of the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister (Stalin) and the Tamil Nadu government," she told PTI Videos.

"They are against national integrity, national unity," she charged.

BJP State vice president Narayanan Thirupathi claimed that Stalin has proved that he would "stoop down" to any level to hide the "failures" of his government in the last four years.

"It is not only laughable but also childish and immature to do this and people would laugh at this silly attitude. It's time people say goodbye to @arivalayam. It is interesting to note that the 'r' symbol was designed in 2010 by a Thamilzhan and that, too, a son of former @arivalayam during the UPA rule in which @arivalayam was also a part," Narayanan said in a post on X.

S G Suryah, BJP state secretary, said the Rupee symbol was not designed and adapted by the BJP but by Congress and the DMK-led UPA regime.

"The DMK should stop sowing the seeds of separatism in the minds of the people of Tamil Nadu. The Tamil Nadu government backtracked from PM-SHRI Schools after giving the initial nod to implement it," he said.

The DMK has argued that the Centre wants to 'impose' the north Indian language on Tamil Nadu through the implementation of the 3-language formula in the NEP and asserted that its government in the State will not follow the 3-language formula but only stick to its decades-old 2-language policy of Tamil and English.

The three-language formula in NEP 2020 recommends that students learn three languages, at least two of which must be native to India. It has not specifically mentioned Hindi. This formula applies to both government and private schools, giving States the flexibility to choose languages without any imposition.

According to a government portal, the rupee symbol is an amalgam of Devanagari "Ra" and the Roman Capital "R" with two parallel horizontal stripes running at the top representing the national flag and also the "equal to" sign.

"The Indian Rupee sign was adopted by the Government of India on July 15, 2010," it said.

Meanwhile, IIT Guwahati Professor D Udaya Kumar, who had designed the Indian rupee symbol, on Thursday refused to be drawn into the

controversy over language and said it is a mere coincidence that his father was a DMK MLA.

**Navy seeks fresh NOC to keep flyover within prescribed height limits**

"The NHAI has been intimated that they cannot go ahead with the present height as they are against ICAO parameters. They have been asked to re-apply again with changes," confirmed the senior naval officer on the condition of anonymity.

Petitioner Pant was guarded after news of the letter to NHAI spread in South Goa. "NHAI has been going ahead with their work without NOC for a long despite requests from the Navy to approach them. Now that the letter has been sent to them, it needs to be seen whether they will oblige or resume work without the NOC."

The letter from the Navy to NHAI, according to senior officers, is indicative that not only were NOCs not asked but that the Union Minister of Road for Transport Nitin Gadkari was given wrong information to his Unstarred Question No 1655 on August 1, 2024 when he was asked to state, "whether the Union government had taken into consideration the height restriction in and around Dabolim Airport for planning /approving the said project and if so the details thereof."

The answer to the Question was: "Yes Sir, the proposal has been prepared taking into consideration applicable norms including that of height restrictions in and around the Dabolim Airport."

"The main reason to get the airport closed was to help the real estate lobby that is waiting to pounce. They would then not need to get permission from the Navy," said a jubilant South Goa MP Viriato Fernandes.

"People are being taken for a ride by constant promises that the airport will continue. If so, why is a flyover being built without the mandatory NOC from the Navy," wondered Fernandes.

"They are so desperate to get the airport closed for good that the NHAI actually provided false information to the Transport Minister to my questions in Parliament. Looks like they are not aware that I can raise a Privilege Motion against their minister for giving me a wrong answer," Fernandes added.

"The High Court has come to our rescue many times and now the Navy is doing their bit for us. It is sad that Central agencies have to help us because our own government is incapable," remarked Chetan Kamat, President of All Goa Taxi Association.

He asked: "Do they want to finish all of us who depend on the airport?"

Despite numerous attempts, the phone of Project Director of NHAI, Goa, C O P Furtado was switched off.

The NHAI started building the four-lane flyover from Zuarinagar to Bogmalo without the NOC of the Indian Navy, leaving aviation experts to believe that commercial flight operations to the airport would be doomed as approximately 1.8 to 2.2 kms of the flyover stretch from MES College to MO Goa falls under the Obstacle Limitation Surface (OLS).

Since the NHAI had not responded to four letters from the Indian Navy, retired commander of the Indian Navy Atul Pant approached the Goa Bench of the Bombay High Court.

# Goa Police signs MoU with Rashtriya Raksha University for training and research

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Omvir Singh on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) to enhance police training, research, and innovation.

The MoU was signed on behalf of RRU by its Vice-Chancellor, Prof Dr Bimal N Patel. The primary objective of this agreement is to leverage the expertise of Rashtriya Raksha Univer-

sity to introduce up-skilling programmes, training initiatives, and innovations in security, particularly in research, innovation, incubation, training, and online education.

Under this collaboration, Goa Police and RRU will work together to enhance law enforcement capabilities through education, training, and research. The key areas of partnership include affiliation and certification, academic and research programmes, training support, online

and offline activities, and collaborative research.

A police department statement highlighted that this comprehensive initiative aims to combine academic expertise with practical policing requirements, ensuring that Goa Police remains at the forefront of modern and effective law enforcement strategies.

The signing ceremony was attended by DIG HQ Ajay Sharma, along with officers from Fire and Emergency Services and 108 Ambulance Service.

## 4 booked for alleged dowry harassment

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Colvale Police have registered a case against four persons for allegedly harassing and assaulting a woman over dowry demands between March and May 2024.

The alleged accused identified as Siddik Akbar Shah, Farida Khatoun, Shagir Ahmed Shah, all from Cuchelim, Mapusa, and Chandani Shah from Colvale allegedly subjected the complainant, a resident of Bicholim, to cruelty.

**Thief posing as customer snatches gold chain at Colvale**

Team Herald

COLVALE: A thief posing as a customer, entered a grocery store in Porvorim and snatched a gold chain of the shopkeeper and fled. The gold chain weighed 4.5 gms said police and added that they have launched a hunt to trace the accused.

**Woman arrested in Mandrem with ganja worth Rs 11.6 lakh**

PANJIM: The Mandrem Police have arrested a woman drug peddler for allegedly possessing suspected ganja worth Rs 11.6 lakh. The accused, a resident of Candolim and a native of West Bengal, was taken into custody, police said. Further investigation is in progress.

**APPOINTMENTS**

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