

Doctor arrested for 'sexual assault' on teen at Chicalim

Police said the incident occurred when the boy visited the naturopathy clinic of the accused, who allegedly abused and assaulted the victim several times

Team Herald

VASCO: The local police arrested a doctor for allegedly sexually assaulting a teenager on several occasions at his clinic.

Vasco Police stated that the 14-year-old boy had visited a 39-year-old doctor Shamsuddin Sayad, who runs a naturopathy clinic at Chicalim, as he had developed rash on his thighs.

"The doctor then asked the boy to undress and touched him inappropriately. He then called the victim to do a follow-up treatment on four other occasions and then allegedly sexual-

WHEN A DOCTOR TURNS INTO PREDATOR

- Police said the incident occurred between Nov & December when the boy, who developed rash on his thighs, visited Dr Shamsuddin Sayad, at his naturopathy clinic in Chicalim
- They said the doctor then asked the victim to undress and touched him inappropriately
- The accused called the victim to do a follow-up treatment on four other occasions,

- allegedly sexually assaulted the teen & asked him to maintain secrecy
- When the victim developed the persistent itch, his mom advised him to go back for treatment, the boy confided about the unpleasant happenings
- The matter was reported to the police on March 14 and on the following day, the doctor was arrested after medical reports confirmed sexual assault on the minor

ly assaulted the teenager and asked him to maintain secrecy over their relationship," the police said. The police said that the

incident happened between November and December and the boy had not divulged the details to anybody. However, when he de-

veloped the stubborn itch, his mother advised him to go back to the doctor for treatment and it was during this time that he refused to

go to the doctor and confided in his mother about the unpleasant happenings.

The mother with the help of an NGO reported the matter to the police on March 14. The victim was then sent for medical examination and the doctor was arrested the following day after the medical reports confirmed sexual assault on the minor. The accused was produced before the JMFC Vasco and remanded to five days police custody. He has been charged under section 4, 8 and 12 of the POCSO Act and section 8 (2) and 8 (9) of the Children's Act.

Caught smuggling liquor in K'taka, Goa excise inspector suspended

Team Herald

PANJIM: A Goan excise inspector, who is supposed to keep a vigil on bootlegging and smuggling of liquor, was apparently caught red-handed in Karnataka while trying to transport Goa-manufactured liquor, last week.

Excise Inspector Pramod Vishwanath Juvekar was on Monday suspended after Karnataka's Excise Department arrested him for allegedly transporting Goa-manufactured liquor in his car at Kagodu, near Sagar city, Shivamogga.

Commissioner of Excise Sarpreet Singh Gill issued the suspension order after the Karnataka Excise Department on Monday informed its Goa counterparts about Juvekar's arrest.

Juvekar hailing from Betul was arrested on Thursday, on the charge of transporting liquor in

a Goa-registered vehicle at Kagodu, Shivamogga in Karnataka. The Karnataka Excise department also seized the liquor consignment.

CAUGHT RED-HANDED

Following a tip-off, the Sub-Divisional excise officials conducted a raid. Juvekar was caught while he had parked his vehicle GA-08-F-3312 in a field near a crematorium at Kagodu, while waiting to deliver the consignment to a prospective buyer.

During the search operation, the excise officials seized 138.06 litres of Goa-manufactured liquor from Juvekar's vehicle. The value of the seized liquor is Rs 68,000. The excise officials have also seized the vehicle involved in the crime.

A case has been registered against Juvekar under Sections 8, 11, and 15 of the Karnataka Excise Act, 1965, along with Sections 32(A), 38(A), and 43(A) of the same Act.

The accused was produced before the Court and has been remanded in judicial custody.

Juvekar was posted in one of the liquor factories in Canacona taluka. Sources revealed that he had purchased the liquor and smuggled it to Karnataka on Holi eve, as the liquor often fetches double the rates and on festive occasions it is priced even higher in the neighbouring State.

The excise operation was led by Karnataka Deputy Superintendent of Excise Sheela Darjkar, along with Inspector Bhagyalakshmi and excise personnel Sandeep L C, Gurumurthy, Deepak, Mallikarjun and Sachin.

Stop 'criminal waste' of water at GMC, AAP tells govt

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Goa on Monday demanded immediate action from the government to stop the "criminal waste" of potable water at the Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMC), Bambolim, and to prepare an emergency plan to address water shortages in Taleigao, Santa Cruz, Bambolim and surrounding areas.

Speaking to media persons outside the GMC, Bambolim, AAP State president Adv Amit Palekar pointed out that for the last six months, gallons of precious potable water have been gushing out of cracks between pavement blocks on the footpath connecting the old GMC complex and the new Super-specialty block.

While the twin water tankers located behind the kiosks, meant to store clean drinking water, continue to discharge massive amounts of water through an open pipe, Goa Medical College (GMC) administration and the Public Works Department (PWD) responsible for potable water supply have outright refused to take responsibility, he said.

Adv Palekar accused the State government of displaying negligence in handling the State's worsening water crisis.

"The Health Minister loves to make surprise visits to GMC, posing for the cameras and pretending to be concerned about governance. Yet, he has somehow missed this massive, blatant wastage of potable water happening on the

While the twin water tankers located behind the kiosks, meant to store clean drinking water, continue to discharge massive amounts of water through an open pipe at alarming force, Goa Medical College (GMC) administration and the Public Works Department (PWD) responsible for potable water supply have outright refused to take responsibility
- Amit Palekar
AAP State president

very premises of the state's biggest hospital! Does he not see the flood of water when he walks through GMC? Or is he only interested in PR stunts?," Adv Palekar asked.

AAP leader from Taleigao and party's general secretary (communications) Francis Coelho, said, "This is the true face of the Goa government. Their priority is not to serve the people. Their priority is to absolve themselves of accountability, to pass the blame, and to do absolutely nothing to fix real problems. This is the systemic rot that defines how the government functions at all levels."

"Chief Minister Pramod Sawant had promised 24x7 water supply by December 2024. Today, in March 2025, we see him backtracking and lowering his ambitions to merely providing four hours of water per day. This is not just a failure; this is a betrayal of the people of Goa," Coelho said.

ENSURING SAFE PASSAGE



PWD contractors clear the landslide debris to construct a retaining wall along the new bypass road at Bicholim-Sankhali to ensure safe travel for commuters

GHRC issues notice to SP South over denial of cremation rights

Police under scrutiny for blocking family's last rites on ancestral land

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Goa Human Rights Commission (GHRC) issued notice to the Superintendent of Police (SP), South calling his reply and to remain present in person to provide details of denial to carry cremation of a woman who expired and her family was denied the right to conduct her last rites in their family property as it was a custom followed by them.

A complaint was filed by 86-year-old Ganesh Gauns Dessai, who claimed that police under pressure from a retired police officer did not allow the family to hold his wife's last rites in their property at Avedem, Que-

pem. Gauns Dessai in his complaint has stated that he had approached the Commission in the interest of justice and to protect fundamental human rights from abuse of power by the authorities, which resulted in denial of cremation rites to his deceased wife Sumitra on his ancestral land in Avedem village of Quepem Taluka.

The incident occurred on February 25 this year when Sumitra passed away and his family sought to perform the final last rites in their traditional ancestral property at Avedem, where according to Gauns Dessai, all his forefathers were traditionally cre-

matting funeral rites without any dispute.

"For generations, my ancestors and family enjoyed their respective shares and have performed last rites on their respective portion of ancestral land without any exception or interference. This is the first case in history where such an inhumane violation has occurred," he stated in his complaint.

The complainant said that the sacred and emotional importance of the land cannot be overstated. Final rites are deeply sentimental and religious. No person would perform such an important and heart touching ceremony on land that does not belong to them. Merely

performing funeral rites does not in any way give property ownership rights to anybody. It was a purely an act of personal vendetta orchestrated by the opponents with the active support of the Quepem police. However, instead of allowing a peaceful funeral, a large police force was deployed without any legal order, restraining my family from performing my wife's last rites, Gauns Dessai said.

Gauns Dessai has urged the Commission to conduct a detailed inquiry into the police action, to summon all those involved in blocking his religious and human rights and to restore his religious and property rights.

Congress, student activists demand probe into alleged GU exam paper leak

Team Herald

PANJIM: Social activists, along with members of the National Students' Union of India (NSUI), Youth Congress, and the Goa Pradesh Congress, lodged a formal complaint at Agassaim Police Station on Monday, demanding an investigation into the alleged leakage of a university examination paper by an assistant professor.

Speaking to reporters after filing the complaint, Adv Prasenjeet Dhage alleged that an assistant professor from the Department of Physics had stolen the test paper to pass it on to favour a particular student.

"He made a duplicate set of keys and stole the question paper from the department locker to help a student secure the top position in the university exam. However, suspicions arose when the student, who was not academically bright, topped the examination. Later, when the professor illegally entered another faculty member's cabin, he was caught," Dhage claimed.

He further alleged that the matter was reported to the Vice-Chancellor of Goa University but no action was taken against the accused.

"This means that the Registrar and Vice-Chan-

cellor helped cover up the crime," he added.

NSUI Goa President Naushad Chowdhari criticised the university administration, stating that the incident had eroded students' trust in the institution.

"Students have lost faith in the university. We have filed a complaint against the Vice-Chancellor and the Registrar because they are equally involved. Upon learning of the incident, they should have cancelled the examination and conducted a re-examination, but they failed to do so," Chowdhari alleged.

Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) General Secretary Manisha Usgaonkar also condemned the alleged misconduct, drawing attention to the broader implications for academic integrity.

"It is disheartening that while the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) speaks of making India a 'Vishwaguru', we are forced to come to the police station to lodge a complaint about such malpractice. We strongly condemn this. The Vice-Chancellor and the Registrar should have filed a complaint against the accused professor for fabricating duplicate keys and stealing test papers," Usgaonkar stated.



Curti locals demand urgent cleaning of Nagzar nullah to avert monsoon flooding

Team Herald

PONDA: Concerned residents of Nagzar, Ponda, have urged the authorities to take immediate action to clear the accumulated garbage and other waste in the nullah beneath the culvert. They fear that if left unchecked, the blockage could lead to severe flooding during the upcoming monsoon season.

According to locals, flooding has been a recurring issue in the area, with several houses and even the temple on the nullah's bank being submerged in previous years.

Temple committee president Ulhas Naik, accompanied by Vishwanath Dalvi, recently inspected the site and found that debris, including dry wood logs, often gets lodged beneath the culvert, obstructing the water flow. The res-



idents pointed out that the existing sewage line exacerbates the issue, further hindering the smooth movement of floodwater and accumulating more waste. They demanded that the

sewage line be rerouted either underground or at road level to prevent blockages.

Additionally, locals highlighted that several dry trees have fallen into the nullah basin, and a section

of the retaining wall has collapsed, increasing the risk of flooding.

With the monsoon approaching, residents are calling for urgent intervention to prevent yet another year of devastation.

Biker booked for knocking down pedestrian

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Agasaim Police have booked Anil Kumar Gosalia, 60, for allegedly driving in a rash and negligent manner, knocking down a 65-year-old man from Bambolim thereby causing grievous injuries.

According to police, on March 4, the accused hailing from Margao, was proceeding from Panjim towards Margao.

When he reached Holy Cross Church, he hit Fulaki Gause from Bambolim, Tiswadi.

Fulaki sustained grievous injuries and was shifted to Goa Medical College and Hospital at Bambolim for treatment.

An FIR has been registered against the accused and the case is being investigated by Sunil Murganar of Agasaim Police Station.

Seafarers heave sigh of relief as govt releases pension backlog

Team Herald

MARGAO: Seafarers, widows and other beneficiaries can heave a sigh of relief as the government has sanctioned funds to disburse pension to them.

The Central government has approved Rs 3.5 crore in funding to cover pension disbursements to beneficiaries which will include arrears for the months of December, January and February.

Recipients of the scheme, who normally receive Rs 2,500 monthly, have gone without payments for three months due to delays in fund allocation to the Office of NRI Affairs.

While speaking to the media about this, Director of Non-Resident Indian (NRI) Affairs Anthony D'Souza confirmed that his office has received the govern-

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