

shorttakes

MAN BOOKED FOR SELLING 'ILLEGAL' E-CIGARETTES AT ARAMBOL

PANJIM: Mandrem Police have booked a 31-year-old Abdul Azeez for allegedly selling illegal e-cigarettes at a shop near Mount Carmel Church, Arambol and seized 11 e-cigarettes from him. According to police, the seizure was made following a raid conducted at a shop styled as "MOBI PUFF" opposite Mount Carmel Church, Arambol, and it was found that the alleged accused resident of Korkhankar Wada, Arambol, and native of Kasaragod, Kerala, was selling e- cigarettes. An FIR has been registered and the case is being investigated by PSI Pratik Garudi.

DABOLIM ACCIDENT VICTIM SUCCUMBS TO INJURIES

VASCO: A scooter rider from New Vaddem, Vasco, who sustained grievous injuries in an accident at Dabolim, died while undergoing treatment at Goa Medical College and Hospital, Bambolim. According to the police, the deceased identified as Mahadev Madar along with pillion rider Mabusab Nadaf was proceeding from Dabolim Junction to Varunapuri on a scooter. When he reached near Dabolim Airport, he lost control of the vehicle and hit the road divider. Both sustained injuries and were rushed to GMC, but Madar succumbed to the injuries. The post-mortem certified the cause of death due to "Head injury consequent to blunt force impact by surface and/or object. However, viscera is preserved for chemical analysis". The body was handed over to the family for final rites. Vassco PSI Nikhil Dessai is conducting further investigation.

CAMURLIM RESIDENT ARRESTED FOR ALLEGEDLY MOLESTING A WOMAN

PANJIM: The Colvale Police have arrested Godwin Fernandes from Darbarwado, Camurlim, for allegedly outraging the modesty of a woman. According to police, the accused allegedly took photographs of a woman and inappropriately touched her while she was spreading wheat outside her home. An FIR has been registered and investigations are on, the police added.

PARKED MOTORCYCLE STOLEN IN MARGAO

MARGAO: Aniceto Luis, a resident of Nuvem, lodged a complaint with Fatorda Police stating that an unknown person/s stole his motorcycle worth Rs 1 lakh, parked in an open space, opposite a hospital near the KTC bus stand. The police have visited the site and registered an offence under Section 303 (2) BNS 2023. ASI, Hiralal Gaude of Fatorda Police Station is conducting further investigation.

MAN FOUND DEAD IN LOUTOLIM

MARGAO: Maina-Curtorim Police found a decomposed body of a male in a locked room at Orgao-Loutolim. The police said that on receiving information from a resident, a team was sent to the site. The police said that when they visited the spot, they found the front door of the house was locked from inside. They managed to break open the door with the help of Verna Fire Brigade personnel. On entering the house, they found a male body lying on bed in a decomposed state. The police said the deceased was identified as M Vaz of Orgao. The police conducted the panchanama and the body was referred for post-mortem examination at South Goa District Hospital, Margao. Maina-Curtorim PSI Praful Giri is conducting further investigations.

LATERITE STONES 'EXTRACTED' FROM CORANGUINIM, SANGUEM: COMPLAINANT

MARGAO: Shyam Sawant, a geologist from Directorate of Mines and Geology, lodged a complaint with Curchorem Police that prior to March 17, unknown accused person illegally extracted and transported laterite stones from Coranguinim, Sanguem, without obtaining any permission from competent authority and thereby causing loss to the State Government to the tune of Rs 50,00,000 approximately. The police registered an offence under Section 303 (2) BNS 2023 and Sec 4(1) and 4(1A) of the Mines and Minerals Development and Regulation Act 1957 r/w Rule 3 and 38 of Goa Minor Mineral concession Rule 1985. Curchorem PSI Prajyot Bakhale is conducting further investigation.

PATNA YOUTH SUCCUMBS WHILE UNDERGOING TREATMENT IN GMC

MARGAO: Twenty-year-old Ankit Verma from Patna expired while undergoing treatment in the Goa Medical College at Bambolim after consuming an unknown substance at Baina Beach. According to the police sources, during inquiry it was revealed that the deceased was shifted to SDH Chicalim in an ambulance from Baina, as he complained of not feeling well he was shifted to GMC for further treatment. Ankit expired while undergoing treatment in the casualty ward. The body has been preserved in the morgue for. PSI Stanley Gomes is investigation the case.

WOMAN DIES BY SUICIDE AT AMONA

MARGAO: A 23-year-old woman from Cotta-Amona, Quepem and native of Uttar Pradesh died by suicide in rented room. The Quepem Police said they received phone call from PCR Panjim informing them that the woman died by suicide and accordingly a police team was rushed to the spot . The police conducted the Panchanama and the Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) was informed about the incident since the woman died within seven years of marriage. The body has been preserved at South Goa District Hospital, Margao for medico legal formalities. Autopsy certified the cause of death as "asphyxia as a result of hanging". Quepem LPSI Rifha Barretto is conducting further investigation.

power shutdown

- **CURTORIM:** On March 20, from 9 am to 7 pm. Affected areas are Tembim and Monzon Aframent.
- **CURTORIM:** On March 21, from 9 am to 7 pm. Affected area is Vagulem PWD Tank.

Russian attacked by stray dogs on Benaulim Beach

Lifesavers chase away canines and administer first aid to the woman, who was later taken to a hospital for treatment; locals raise safety concerns

Team Herald

MARGAO: In yet another stray incident, a Russian tourist was chased and bitten by a pack of six stray dogs while strolling on Benaulim Beach during the Holi weekend.

The incident, which occurred in the evening, highlights the ongoing issue of stray dog encounters affecting international tourists along the coastline. Lifesavers promptly intervened, chasing away the dogs and administering first aid to the woman. She was subsequently taken by 108 medical emergency personnel to a hospital for further treatment. This incident is part of a growing trend of stray dog attacks on South Goa beaches, which have raised

MARCH 15, 2025

Stray dog attacks rattle beach-goers, bite into Goa's tourist experience

JANUARY 29, 2025

Stray dogs attack foreign tourist at Mobor

concerns among locals and tourists alike. The beaches in Salcete in particular have emerged as a hotspot for such incidents, reporting a number of cases, with tourists suffering from injuries. The lifesavers have also responded to such cases wherein there have been times when the local fish-

ermen or shack staffers have rushed to the aid of the tourists. The issue has drawn attention from local authorities, with Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte expressing concern over the stray dog menace in public spaces.

Tourism stakeholders have called for stricter measures to ensure visitor safety amidst concerns that the affected tourists may not visit Goa again, thereby creating a dent on Goa's reputation as a favourable tourist destination. In Cavelosim, for example, a log book

has been maintained detailing the accounts of tourists who have been bitten by stray dogs so far.

"While the safety of tourists and locals must remain a priority, it is equally important to address the issue humanely. A balanced approach that ensures public safety while treating stray animals with compassion is the need of the hour. Goa's authorities, tourism stakeholders, and the community must work together to find sustainable solutions before the situation escalates further," said a concerned citizen from Benaulim.

Digital art expo on Australian 'Songline' underway at Pilerne

Team Herald

CALANGUTE: Australian deputy consul general in Mumbai Christian Jack recently inaugurated 'Walking Through A Songline', an immersive and digital art exhibition on the storytelling traditions of Australia's First Nations' people at the Museum of Goa (MOG) in Pilerne.

The exhibition will be open for public viewing till April 4.

Presented by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the National Museum of Australia and produced by the Melbourne-based Mossster Studio, the exhibition uses digital craft to take a relook at Australia's epic Seven Sisters Songline, an ancient tale of pursuit, survival of the continent's First Nations' people and cosmic connections. Interpreting the work of more than 100 artists, the exhibition transports visitors into the heart of Australian First Nations' storytelling, drawing unexpected parallels with Goa's own prehistoric art, like the Usgalimal petroglyphs in Quepem.

Highlighting the exhibition's broader significance, Christian Jack said, "We are thrilled with the response 'Walking Through A Songline' is receiving in Goa."

Illegal plots being developed at ind estate, allege Bethora locals

Threaten to approach court if authorities fail to initiate action

Team Herald

PONDA: Alleging that illegal plots are being developed on the land at the industrial estate by felling trees and fencing the area, the residents of Bethora have threatened to approach court if the panchayat, mamlatdar, forest department and deputy collector fail to initiate action in this regard.

Briefing mediapersons, Devendra Chari, Nyanesh-

ware Khandeparkar, Paresh Gaude, Dharmannand Charu and others accused the panchayat of failing to respond to their complaint against the development of "illegal" plots.

The locals alleged that No Objection Certificate (NOC) was issued to the landowner for fencing, bush cutting for agriculture purposes, but on the contrary, the land owner used it and started felling trees, developing plots and even made sale deeds.

They said that this can be noted from the fact that earlier there were around 13 names now after mutation, 32 names have been added.

The locals also pointed out that a land owner even started construction of buildings by filling the nullah, which they fear would cause flooding.

When contacted the panchayat secretary said that the matter is sub judice and refused to give more details.

Govt vying for Global Capability Centre in Goa: Minister

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Goa government is vying for one of the two Global Capability Centres (GCCs) announced by Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal, informed Information Technology Minister Rohan Khaunte.

"We are ambitiously working towards having one of these centres established in Goa, creating an ecosystem that will attract major companies and foster the overall IT sector," he said, speaking at Google for Developers (GDG)'s Build with AI conference in Panjim on Tuesday.

In its Union Budget 2025-26, The Government of India had announced the formulation of a national framework to guide States in promoting GCCs in emerging tier II cities. GCCs are offshore units set up by multinational companies to handle operations such as IT, finance, analytics, and R&D

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Khaunte emphasised the State's ongoing dig-

ital transformation and the evolving role of AI in governance. The State government is now taking a significant step forward by making approximately 241 services accessible via WhatsApp, ensuring greater convenience for citizens. He underscored the integration of AI-driven solutions to address real-world challenges in governance.

The Minister said that as

per analysis done by the government, nearly 72 per cent of the IT & ITES students are employed.

Khaunte also informed that plans are afoot to amend the Startup Policy to give the benefits of the government funding to projects undertaken by college students. The projects will be selected based on recommendation by colleges, he added.

Keynote speaker Sid-dharth Prakash, Head of Product Strategy for Emerging Markets at Google Cloud, shared insights on AI's global impact.

He highlighted how AI-based products are evolving rapidly.

Complaints against KTCL for violating passenger rights

Team Herald

MARGAO: GOACAN, a consumer rights organization, has filed four separate complaints against the Kadamba Transport Corporation Limited (KTCL) for systemic failures in complying with mandatory provisions for passenger convenience and rights. The complaints highlight violations across multiple buses, which lacked reserved seats for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), senior citizens, and ladies, as well as the mandatory display of the KTCL complaint WhatsApp number.

In one instance, GOACAN coordinator Roland Martins, a senior citizen, was forced to stand during his journey due to the absence of reserved seating. The bus conductor, when informed, directed him to file a complaint at the Margao control room instead of addressing the

issue. Additionally, the ticket issued bore an incorrect bus number, complicating the grievance redressal process.

The complaints, addressed to the State Commissioner for PwDs, Directorate of Social Welfare, Directorate of Women & Child Development, and the Department of Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, allege widespread non-compliance across KTCL buses.

GOACAN has cited violations of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, and other regulations, emphasising the lack of reserved seats and complaint mechanisms on several buses.

GOACAN has demanded depot-wise compliance reports with photographs to ensure adherence to regulations and also urged KTCL to display an email ID for complaints, in addition to the WhatsApp number, to streamline grievance redressal.

KTCL bus rams into roadside house at Chicalim

Team Herald

VASCO: Portion of a roadside house at Chicalim collapsed after a State-owned KTCL bus rammed into it on Tuesday.

The accident occurred when the driver of the Vasco-Panjim bound bus tried to avoid colliding with a two-wheeler. There were only two passengers in the bus and luckily no one was injured.

The driver said that he was proceeding behind a school bus when suddenly a two-wheeler came in front of the bus. On seeing the rider, he applied brakes, but in the process, the bus veered to the side, and rammed into a roadside house. The driver said that he informed the KTCL officials and added that a formal accident report would be filed with the police.

An occupant of the house said that



she was talking on the phone with someone when she heard a loud sound. "When I rushed outside, I saw that a part of our house had collapsed as the KTC bus had rammed into it. Luckily, no one was injured," she said.

The woman said that though the driver claimed that he was not at fault, buses should be driven cautiously near residential areas. She told the driver not to remove the ill-fated bus until her house was repaired.

GCZMA to inspect Candolim construction site today

Team Herald

CALANGUTE: A month following a complaint by the Calangute Constituency Forum (CCF) of an alleged illegal construction on sand dunes at Candolim beach, the Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) has scheduled a site inspection on Wednesday.

"This illegal concrete construction in CRZ 1A area at Dando, Candolim in survey no 112/19 by Viking Media and Entertainment is in clear violation of the CRZ notification and environment protection act (EPA) as it involves the destruction of existing sand dunes which are ecologically-sensitive areas protected under CRZ rules. The ongoing activity not only

disturbs the fragile coastal ecosystem but also threatens the natural landscape which serves as a protective barrier against erosion and tidal surges," the CCF said in the complaint on February 17.

"We urge the authorities to take immediate action to prevent further environmental damage and uphold the CRZ regulations," the CCF said.

The GCZMA site inspection comes after the CCF last week in a memorandum to the chief secretary, the Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) and other authorities, claimed that no action is being taken on their complaints made in the last few years, and said that failure to take action against the

violations of the CRZ rules and EPA is only allowing the environment damaging activities to continue.

"Such violations pose a serious threat to Goa's fragile coastal ecosystem. We urge the authority to take immediate steps to schedule hearings for the pending complaints and take them up on priority, issue stop-work orders in cases where ongoing activities are in violation of CRZ rules and EPA provisions, conduct necessary inspections and investigations to assess the extent of environmental damage caused due to these violations, and initiate appropriate legal action against violators to prevent further degradation of coastal areas," the CCF said.

GFP condemns GU question paper 'theft'

Team Herald

MARGAO: The Goa Forward Party (GFP) has condemned the recent alleged question paper theft at Goa University, which has severely impacted students, particularly those from underprivileged backgrounds in remote talukas.

The party said Goa University, as the premier educational institution of the State, must uphold academic integrity, and any breach of trust by its own faculty is a matter of grave concern.

Addressing the media, Goa Forward General Secretary Dugadas Kamat stated, "If professors,

who are supposed to be gurus, are involved in leaking examination papers, it is a serious issue. What is even more alarming is the response of the Vice-Chancellor (VC) and senior officials, who have denied the existence of any evidence instead of taking decisive action. This raises suspicions about whether the VC is complicit in protecting those responsible for such unethical practices."

Kamat highlighted that when Goa Forward's student wing, led by Kritik Mandrekar, approached the VC, they were met with dismissive responses, indicating an attempt to cover up the scandal.