

shorttakes**MINOR HELD WITH 8 KG OF GANJA AT MARGAO**

MARGAO: A 15-year-old boy was apprehended by the Konkarn Railway police with 8.184 kg of ganja at the Margao Railway Station. The narcotics have been valued at Rs 8,18,400 and an offence has been registered under the NDPS Act, 1985 and further investigations are on. The minor boy was later produced before the Juvenile Justice Board for appropriate legal action.

ONE ARRESTED WITH SUSPECTED GANJA WORTH RS 1L AT MALBHAT

MARGAO: The local police arrested Rohit Pandrekar near a lodge at the Old Station Road, Malbhat, in illegal possession of suspected ganja weighing 1,090 gms worth approximately Rs 1.09 lakh along with a transparent polythene packet. PSI Nilesh Shirvoikar of Margao Town Police Station lodged the complaint, and an offence under NDPS Act 1985 has been registered.

KARNATAKA NATIVE DIES IN SELF ACCIDENT AT MOLLEM

MARGAO: A native of Karnataka died in a self accident at Palaskata Junction, Mollem. According to Collem Police, the deceased identified as Sanju Bandiganavar, was residing at Maina, Curtorim. LPSI, Vibhavari Gaonkar said after receiving information from PCR Panjim about the accident, they rushed to the spot and found Sanju lying on the ground next to his motorcycle. During inquiry it was revealed that Sangu was proceeding from Mollem towards Dharbandora and on reaching Palaskata, Mollem, he lost his control over his motorcycle and fell on tar road and sustained injuries. He was shifted to the Piliem Dharbandora PHC in an ambulance, wherein the doctor on duty declared him brought dead. The police conducted the panchanama and the body was sent for post-mortem examination to the South Goa District Hospital, Margao. The post-mortem report certified the cause of death due to "cranio cerebral damage consequent to blunt force impact". Police are conducting further investigations.

UP NATIVE SUCCUMBS TO INJURIES SUSTAINED IN A FALL

MARGAO: Thirty-five-year-old Maynodin Malli Najar, a Uttar Pradesh native, succumbed to injuries sustained in a fall at Birla, while undergoing treatment in the Goa Medical College and Hospital at Bambolim. Verna Police said they received a wireless message from Casualty Police, GMC, informing that the person above expired and accordingly a police team rushed to the spot. The police conducted the panchanama and sent the body for post-mortem examination. The report certified the cause of death due to "head injury". PSI Ramchandra Naik is investigating the case.

CARPENTER ASSAULTED BY MINOR, SUSTAINS HEAD INJURIES

MARGAO: Navelim resident Dinesh Metri lodged a complaint with Maina Curtorim Police alleging that a minor assaulted Uttar Pradesh native Hasmat Razaq, a carpenter with a metal pipe piece at the complainant's furniture shop in Sao Jose De Areal. The victim sustained grievous head injuries and a minor has been lodged in Apna Ghar, Mercedes. LPSI, Veronica Coutinho is conducting further investigations.

QUEPEM WOMAN ALLEGES ASSAULT, LODGES POLICE COMPLAINT

MARGAO: A woman from Padi-Quepem lodged a complaint with the Cuncolim Police that she was assaulted by Dilip Velip on March 17, between 9 am and 10 am. The woman in her complaint alleged that the accused argued with the complainant over her relationship with another person and assaulted her with fist blows, slaps, and kicks, causing grievous head injuries. PSI Sudan Bhosale of Cuncolim Police station registered an offence under Section 117(2) BNS.

BENALIM RESIDENT FOUND DEAD IN AN OPEN GROUND

MARGAO: The body of Benaulim resident Willion Baptista was found hanging from a tree in an open ground in Pedda-Benaulim. Colva Police responded to a phone call, reached the spot, and began investigations. The body was shifted to South Goa District Hospital, Margao. Inquiry revealed that on March 17, Baptista, in an intoxicated state, assaulted his sister-in-law and fled. An autopsy certified the cause of death as "asphyxia due to hanging".

AMBAULIM WOMAN FOUND HANGING FROM RAFTER AT XELDEM

MARGAO: The body of an Ambaulim-Quepem resident was found hanging from the rafter in the rear side of a house in Dhavodket-Xeldem. Quepem Police said they received a phone call from PCR Panjim informing that the body of the deceased identified as Mariana Da Costa was found hanging from the rafter at the backside of the house at Xeldem. A ligature material nylon rope was found at the site. The body has been preserved at South Goa District Hospital, Margao, for medico legal formalities. LPSI Rifha Barretto is investigating the case.

HC QUASHES WATER DISCONNECTION ORDER, DIRECTS IMMEDIATE RESTORATION

PANJIM: The High Court of Bombay at Goa has quashed the water disconnection order issued against Maheshkumar and Pushpa Chinchakhandimath from Socorro, Porvorim, Ruling that it violated principles of natural justice, the Court noted that no show-cause notice was issued before action was taken. Since the alleged nuisance has been removed, the PWD has been directed to immediately restore the water supply.

GRE DEMANDS BAN ON LED FISHING

Says lives of traditional fishermen at stake as authorities fail to initiate action against wrongdoers

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Goenchea Raponkaranchho Ekvott (GRE) on Wednesday submitted a memorandum to the Department of Fisheries, demanding that a ban be imposed on illegal LED fishing, which is destroying the fishing resources of the State and badly affecting the livelihood of traditional fishermen.

Later speaking to mediapersons, GRE general secretary Olencio Simoes said that they met Fisheries Minister Nilkanth Halarnkar at his Colvale residence and the director of fisheries and submitted their representations to them. He sought to know how LED fishing was going on in the Goan waters when the matter was sub judice.

The supervisors posted at the jetties across the State should be suspended as they had no fear of laws and the Court

— Olencio Simoes, GRE general secretary

There were reports about illegal LED fishing in Goan waters on February 12, Olencio said, demanding to know what action has been taken against the vessel involved in the illegality.

Simoes also took pot-shots at those who turned a Nelson's eye to the illegalities at the jetties.

"The supervisors posted at the jetties across the State should be suspended as they had no fear of laws and the Court," he said.

Simoes said that during his recent visit to Sri Lanka, he saw how the livelihood of traditional fishermen were destroyed due to rampant LED fishing there. He feared that the Goan traditional fishermen would meet the same fate if no measures were taken to stop illegal LED fishing.

The GRE general secretary alleged that the boats from neighbouring Malpe were entering into Goa waters and doing illegal LED fishing during night. He demanded that the department immediately conduct raids and seize these boats.

Simoes further said that the Goa Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1980 be amended and stringent fines be imposed on the violators.

Taxi operators oppose App-based services

Team Herald

PANJIM: A delegation of taxi operators on Wednesday met the Director of Transport and opposed the Goa Transport Aggregator Guidelines 2025, which they claimed aim to bring all taxies under app-based services.

The taxi operators voiced their concerns over the move, citing threats to their livelihood.

But after the meeting, both the Director of Transport Polumatla P Abhishek as well as the taxi operators stated

that the discussions were constructive and suggested implementing uniform rates that balance fair pricing for passengers while ensuring stable earnings for drivers.

"We had a productive and meaningful meeting with taxi operators and their leaders. We have proposed new framework and new ideas to the taxi Association and how they can improve their businesses and adopt new technologies to ensure taxi services are available as a matter of convenience. The taxi operators

have requested that some time be given to them so that they can consult their own stakeholders. They are ready to work in a positive manner with solutions," Abhishek said.

Abhishek said that the department has suggested solutions compiled in a booklet including all the aspects of solution. "We should adopt uniform rates and earning of drivers be protected irrespective of what kind of service and what kind of aggregator and also ensure convenience of locals and tourists.

Tourism Dept replaces beach cleaning contractor in Calangute

Action initiated after shack owners, other tourism stakeholders complained of garbage piling up on beach

Team Herald

CALANGUTE: The Tourism Department has replaced the Calangute beach garbage cleaning contractor after complaints of inefficiency were filed by shack owners, villagers and environmentalists.

Speaking to reporters, Calangute MLA Michael Lobo stated that "numerous complaints had been received from shack owners and others regarding the inadequate collection of garbage from the beach area. We had asked the tourism minister to change the contractor. We hope that the new contractor does a good job," he said.

He also urged village panchayats in the coastal belt to clear waste from the "no-man's land" between beach shacks and private properties, which has become an informal dumping



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ground.

"There is a large area between the shacks and the private properties behind the sand dunes, filled with beach vegetation, where people—tourists, picnickers, and others—dump

their waste, and it is never cleared. This needs to be cleaned because we must provide a clean beach for visitors, whether Indian or foreign," he emphasised.

On Wednesday, the Candolim panchayat conduct-

ed a beach cleaning drive following his appeal. "The Calangute panchayat is also undertaking daily cleaning. The village panchayats in Anjuna, Vagator, and Chapora must also take similar action," he added.

Beyond the coastal belt, Lobo stressed the need for garbage clearance along roadsides in villages and in Mapusa, citing extensive waste dumping along the Mapusa-Siolim road.

"Mapusa is a central hub where many people come to shop, but garbage is scattered everywhere. Residents from surrounding villages also bring their waste in bags and dump it on the roadsides. While it is difficult to stop this entirely, the municipality and village panchayats must take responsibility by employing workers and arranging garbage collection vehicles," he said.

Dry Waste Collection Centre: A vision for cleaner, more sustainable Mapusa

Centre launched under Plastics Lighthouse Project implemented by Anubhuti Welfare Foundation

Team Herald

PANJIM: In a fitting tribute to Global Recycling Day, a Dry Waste Collection Centre (DWCC) was launched in Mapusa under the Plastics Lighthouse Project, a CSR initiative of Mondelez India Foods Pvt Ltd.

The Plastics Lighthouse Project, implemented by Anubhuti Welfare Foundation, highlights the crucial role of recycling and waste management in achieving sustainability and a circular economy, states a press release.

Mapusa MLA Joshua De Souza spoke about the significance of proper waste segregation and recycling in the community. Mahesh Patil, chairman of the Goa State Pollution Control Board, and Priya Mishal, chairperson of the Mapu-



Mapusa MLA Joshua De Souza inaugurates the Dry Waste Collection Centre at Mapusa Market in the presence of Mapusa Municipal Council chairperson Priya Mishal

sa Municipal Council were present.

Mapusa MLA said, "The launch of this Dry Waste Collection Centre marks a significant step forward in our

vision for a cleaner and more sustainable Mapusa. This initiative highlights what we can achieve when government bodies, corporations, organisations and citizens



come together with a shared sense of responsibility. It's not just infrastructure—it's a movement towards a healthier environment for future generations."

The launch of the DWCC (supported by Mondelez India) on Global Recycling Day underlines the importance of recycling in addressing global environmental challenges. Located near the Mapusa market, the DWCC (supported by Mondelez India) will provide the necessary infrastructure for enhanced waste segregation,

recycling, and processing, contributing to Mapusa's goal of becoming a cleaner and greener town.

"The inauguration of this Dry Waste Collection Centre, supported by Mondelez India, is the start of a collective journey towards a cleaner and greener Mapusa. This event reflects the power of community, collaboration, and commitment to responsible waste management. Together, we are shaping a sustainable future," said Ila Joseph, Head - Projects, Anubhuti

Welfare Foundation.

Circularity Connect 2025 focused on several key objectives, including addressing industry challenges such as waste collection efficiency, market fluctuations, and pricing difficulties, exploring emerging trends and business opportunities in the waste management and recycling sectors and engaging with government representatives to discuss policies and incentives aimed at supporting the formalisation and growth of the recycling industry.

First charter with 140 Iran tourists lands at Dabolim



Guests being welcomed with garlands

Team Herald

VASCO: The Department of Tourism welcomed a charter flight operated by Qeshm Air from Iran, bringing 140 tourists to the State on Tuesday. This arrival marked the first charter flight from Iran and yet another milestone in Goa's growing appeal as an international tourist destination.

The charter flight landed at Dabolim Airport at 6.30 pm, where officials from the Department of Tourism ensured a smooth and warm welcome for the Iranian visitors. They were greeted with a brass band performance and a rose.

The representatives from White Pigeon Holidays adorned the guests with garlands and offered them a taste of Goa's famous delicacy, Bebinca.

The company had also arranged translators and transportation for the tourists to ensure a smooth experience upon arrival. Many of the

visitors, visiting India and Goa for the first time, were seen enjoying the vibrant welcome and capturing moments through selfies.

Saira Vaz, an official said, "Two flights from Iran would arrive in Goa. The first flight brought 140 tourists and the second flight, carrying an equal number of tourists, is scheduled to arrive at the Dabolim International Airport. These flights coincide with Iran's traditional Navroz festival holidays."

The company has planned three flight schedules on March 19-24, March 24-30 and March 30-April 4. "We are optimistic about Iranian tourists making Goa their preferred destination in the coming years. We hope they have a wonderful time in our beautiful state and return every year," Vaz said.

The arrival of this charter flight highlights the increasing interest among international travellers in exploring Goa's rich cultural heritage, diverse traditions, and vibrant culinary offering.