

shorttakes

HORSE HIT BY VEHICLE ON GUIRIM HIGHWAY; OWNER ACCUSED OF CRUELTY

PANJIM: A horse wandering on the Guirim highway was fatally injured after being hit by an unidentified vehicle on Friday morning. Citizens rushed the animal to a veterinary hospital, but it succumbed to its injuries. Both the driver and the owner abandoned the animal, sparking outrage among animal welfare activists. The District Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (DSPCA) has filed a complaint against the owner for alleged neglect and abandonment. According to DSPCA North, the owner failed to seek help and instead left the injured horse to die.

"We are filing this complaint against the owner of a horse that was hit by an unknown car on the Guirim Highway. The owner's complete negligence and abandonment of the injured horse warrant immediate action," DSPCA North stated, adding that the owner had received multiple warnings in the past regarding mistreatment of animals. Animal welfare authorities have urged strict action under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act and IPC Section 325. They have also called for the confiscation of any other horses in the owner's care to prevent further cruelty. Eyewitnesses reported that the injured horse was left wandering on the highway before being discovered by concerned citizens. Meanwhile, the driver responsible for the accident fled the scene, and authorities are yet to determine his identity. The incident has intensified demands for stricter enforcement of animal protection laws and greater accountability for offenders.

SHIGMOTSAV PARADE IN PANJIM TODAY

PANJIM: The city is set to come alive on Saturday, with the vibrant colours and music of the Shigmotsav Parade. However, this year, the parade in the state capital will take a new route, shifting from the traditional 18th June Road to D B Road. The festivities began on March 14 with the Gulalotsav at Azad Maidan and will culminate on March 25. As part of the celebrations, rolling trophies will be awarded in various categories: Chitrapat Category, instituted by Mangaldas Naik in memory of his mother, late Srimati Putu Naik; Romtamel Category, instituted by Kishor Narvekar in memory of his brother, late Krishna V Narvekar. Folk Dance Category, instituted by Sunil Naik in memory of his father, late Anant B Naik, and mother, late Sushilabai A Naik.

Ponda parents oppose start of new academic year in April

Urge authorities to postpone implementation of NEP by at least a year until schools are equipped with air conditioning and proper ventilation systems

Team Herald

PONDA: Parents in Ponda have voiced their support for the National Education Policy (NEP) but strongly opposed the commencement of the academic year in April, citing concerns over the extreme summer heat and its potential health hazards for students.

Gathering in Ponda, parents emphasised the necessity of a break or holiday period for students after their examinations to prevent fatigue and heat-related illnesses. They suggested that schools should commence only after mid-May or June, coinciding with the cooler monsoon season, rather than in the peak summer months.

Expressing fears that the heat wave could intensify in the coming days, parents have urged authorities to postpone the implementation of the NEP by at least a year until schools are equipped with air conditioning and proper ventilation systems.

Miland Soares stated, "A break is essential for both



Parents are not opposing the National Education Policy itself, but rather the decision to start schools in April. There are two main reasons for this: the extreme heat wave and the need for a break for students' mental well-being

- Dr Ketan Bhatikar

A break is essential for both students and parents. The government must consider our request in the interest of children

Miland Soares, Parent

students and parents. The government must consider our request in the interest of children."

Dr Ketan Bhatikar elaborated on the parents' concerns, saying, "Parents are not opposing the NEP itself, but rather the decision to start schools in April. There

are two main reasons for this: the extreme heat wave and the need for a break for students' mental well-being."

He pointed out that secondary school examinations will conclude on March 28, after which students would be required to return to school almost im-

mediately in April. "At present, in Goa, people of all ages—from children to the elderly—are suffering due to the heat wave. Moreover, government schools lack air conditioning or proper ventilation to help students cope with the rising temperatures," he added.

Dr Bhatikar also highlighted the psychological strain on both students and parents during the exam period. "Not only do students experience stress, but parents also undergo anxiety during examinations. A break is necessary for relaxation and recuperation. It is unfortunate that students will be expected to resume academic activities just two or three days after their exams," he stated.

He urged Chief Minister and education officials to reconsider the decision, asserting that a break after exams allows students to engage in extracurricular activities and explore new interests. "Many parents had already planned and booked trips for their children's post-exam break. This is not just a luxury—it is a necessity," he stressed.

Touts harassing tourists to be externed from beaches

Team Herald

MARGAO: The government is planning to amend laws to stamp out the menace of touts on beaches with habitual offenders likely to be externed from districts, said a senior government official.

Additionally measures are going to be implement-

COURSE OF ACTION

ed to address the increasing incidents of dog bites on the entire coastal belt.

The initiative arises from meetings with the Tourism Department, police, other relevant bodies and stakeholders aimed at improving beach security.

The Tourism Department has also assured immediate action to address the growing issue of dog bites on Goa's beaches, including the implementation of a sterilisation programme for stray dogs. This commitment was made during a meeting between the Tourism Department, the Animal Husbandry Department, Mission Rabies, and the Goa Shack Association, led by its President, Cruz Cardozo.

Cardozo highlighted the urgency of the situation, stressing the need for swift measures to ensure the safety of both tourists and locals. The association raised concerns that the rising stray dog population on beaches poses a public safety risk and negatively impacts the tourism experience.

The proposed sterilisation programme aims to humanely manage the stray dog population and reduce incidents of aggression, while fostering collaboration between stakeholders to find a sustainable solution.

Cardozo further revealed cases of children suffering severe dog bite injuries, some to the extent that they were unable to walk properly later. He stated that they had alerted the Tourism Department that areas such as Benaullim, Betalbatim, Colva, and Cavellissim have reported the highest number of dog bite incidents.

Expressing concern over the impact on Goa's reputation, Cardozo noted that tourists have taken to social media to criticise the state, sharing negative experiences regarding dog attacks on beaches.

NGO protests will not dictate govt policy: TCP Minister

Team Herald

PANJIM: Town and Country Planning (TCP) Minister Vishwajit Rane has made it clear that protests by NGOs will not dictate government policy, stating that Section 39(A) and 17(2) of the TCP Act will remain and any necessary rule changes will be made in accordance with court directives.

Addressing a press conference at his residence in Miramar on Friday, Rane emphasised the government's responsibility to protect investors' interests while upholding the law.

"It is my responsibility, as well as the government's, to protect the sentiments of investors. Everyone has the right to make statements and hold protests, but I will work according to the or-

ders passed by the court," Rane asserted.

Reacting to ongoing protests and media criticism, Rane questioned the relevance of demonstrations, given the government's adherence to legal rulings.

"When I have already said that I will be working as per the court's orders, then what is the point of protesting? I am being targeted because I am a strong leader of the BJP. That's part of politics. However, the government cannot be run based on protests by NGOs," he stated.

Rane further dismissed personal attacks against him, saying, "Some people take pleasure in making comments against me. I thank them. What else can I do? I have accepted the court order, but at the same time, the sentiments

of investors will be protected. It is the government's responsibility, and we take these decisions collectively."

The TCP Minister clarified that while the court had upheld Section 17(2) and recognised 39(A) as good legislation, the government still had the option to challenge the ruling.

"Ultimately, this is a legal matter, and the court has given the government time to approach a higher court. The issue remains sub-judice, so it is not appropriate to comment further. However, the government has every right to seek further legal recourse, which we have already stated. Decisions will be made after consultation with legal experts at the High Court and Supreme Court," Rane explained.

power shutdown

TALEIGAO: On March 22, from 9 am to 1 pm. Affected areas are Sapna sea mist and surrounding areas.

PONDA: On March 22, from 9 am to 2 pm. Affected areas are St Anne Church and surrounding areas.

TALEIGAO: On March 22, from 9 am to 1 pm. Areas affected are Sapna sea mist colony and surrounding areas.

MARGAO: On March 22, from 9 am to 6 pm. Affected areas are behind Oil Factory, opposite Railway Station, near Oil Factory, Smartans School and surrounding areas.

CURTORIM: On March 22, from 9 am to 7 pm. Affected areas are Batora.

Curti-Khandepar panch disqualified

Team Herald

PONDA: In a significant political development, Curti-Khandepar Panchayat member Bhika Kerkar was disqualified on Friday by Ponda Block Development Officer (BDO) Miksha Naik. The disqualification is effective immediately, and a fresh election will be held to fill the vacant seat.

Confirming the decision, BDO Miksha Naik stated that a complaint had been filed against Bhika Kerkar in connection with an illegal construction case. The complainant, a local citizen, had raised the matter in 2023, and the case was disposed of on Thursday.

"When the issue came

up for discussion during a Panchayat Body Meeting, Bhika Kerkar attended the meeting, leading to his disqualification under Section 12(1)(d) of the Panchayat Raj Act," said Naik. The Act states that a Panchayat member's seat becomes vacant if they participate in discussions or voting on matters in which they have a financial interest.

The Curti-Khandepar Panchayat, an 11-member body, has been witnessing ongoing political turmoil. Sarpanch Abhijeet Gaude and Dy Sarpanch Sajida Sayya were recently voted out through a no-confidence motion, leading to the appointment of Administrator Somnath Tari by the BDO to oversee Panchayat affairs.

Goa govt acquires land in Ayodhya for construction of Goa Ram Niwas

Team Herald

PANJIM: The State government has acquired a plot of land in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh, for the construction of Goa Ram Niwas, a dedicated space for devotees of Shri Ramlala Virajman, especially from Goa, announced Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Friday.

The government also gave sanction to release Rs 23,57,32,809 to the Uttar Pradesh Awas Evam Vikas Parishad, Lucknow, as full payment after 5 per cent

rebate on the total plot value towards the plot measuring 3,801.86 square metres in Green Field Township Ayodhya, UP for the construction of "Goa Ram Niwas."

Sawant said that the alignment with this historic movement, Goa Ram Niwas will provide a sacred and assured place of stay for devotees visiting Ayodhya.

Sawant extended his gratitude to UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the Uttar Pradesh Awas Evam Vikas Parishad and the Govern-

ment of Uttar Pradesh for their unwavering support in facilitating this initiative.

The Chief Minister stated that this marks yet another step in strengthening the spiritual bond between Parshuram Bhoomi Goa and Ayodhya, fostering devotion, culture, and unity across Bharat.

He said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the dream of a grand Shri Ram Mandir in Ayodhya has become a reality, rekindling spiritual and cultural heritage.

Attention! GST Taxpayers

Whose Aggregate Annual Turnover# is upto a specified limit* can opt for GST Composition Scheme for the FY 2025-2026 by 31st March, 2025

Eligible taxpayers who wish to avail the Composition Scheme can follow these steps on the GST portal (www.gst.gov.in):

Log in to the Taxpayers' Interface

Go to Services > Registration > Application to Opt for Composition Levy

Fill the FORM GST CMP-02 and submit

Those eligible taxpayers, who are already availing Composition Scheme, need not file FORM CMP-02 if they are eligible.

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Minimum Compliance Requirements

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Available for supplier of Goods as well as Services

Less Bookkeeping

	* Type of Suppliers	# Aggregate Annual Turnover during FY 2024-25
Supplier of Goods:	Taxpayers registered in 08 Specified States	upto ₹75 Lakh
	Taxpayers registered in other States	upto ₹150 Lakh
Supplier of Services		upto ₹50 Lakh

For more details, please refer to Section 10 of CGST Act, Rule 3-7 of CGST Rules and Notification No. 14/2019-Central Tax dated 07.03.2019

GST Composition Scheme: Big Benefits for Small Taxpayers

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