

shorttakes

CURCHOREM SCHOOL TEACHER BOOKED FOR ASSAULTING STUDENT

MARGAO: Curchorem police have registered an offence against a physical education (PE) teacher from a school in Curchorem for allegedly assaulting a 14-year-old student.

The case has been filed under Section 115(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, and Section 8(2) of the Goa Children's Act, 2003 following a complaint by the student's mother. According to the police, the accused, identified as Sagar Gosavi, allegedly slapped the student over a dispute regarding changing seats in class, causing neck injuries.

An FIR has been registered, and the investigation is ongoing, with police collecting further details. The incident has raised concerns over student safety in schools.

PSI Mayur Panshikar of Curchorem police station is leading the investigation.

power shutdown

MARGAO: On March 29, from 9 am to 6 pm. Affected areas are Subhash Timblo Bhavan, Saini Motors, opposite Subhash Timblo Bhavan, Jaghanath Gangaram Pednekar Jewellers, Reliance Adira building, near PNG Jewellers and surrounding areas.

CURTORIM: On March 30, from 8 am to 3 pm. Eclate will be affected areas.

CURTORIM: On March 31, from 8 am to 3 pm. Camarxeth Near Cool Place Bar will be affected areas.

IMD predicts rain, storms over 2 days

Strong winds uproot trees, electricity poles, damage houses, disrupt power supply



Team Herald

PANJIM: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Goa has predicted light to moderate rainfall and thunderstorms over North and South Goa on March 29 and 30.

The weather department also warned of thunderstorms accompanied by winds gusting at 30-40 kmph in both districts over the next two days. The maximum tem-

perature is expected to remain between 34-35°C, while shallow to moderate fog is likely in the morning hours. The IMD has attributed these weather changes to an active weather disturbance.

In the last 24 hours, Panjim recorded the highest temperature at 34.0°C, while Dabolim reported the lowest at 24.2°C, as per data collected until 1 pm on March 28, 2025.

Meanwhile, strong winds that hit Mayem constituency on March 25 caused severe damage, with Mayem and Chodan villages suffering losses worth crores of rupees.

Falling trees damaged houses and electricity poles, resulting in significant property loss and power outages. Villagers and local representatives inspected the affected areas, where multiple trees had collapsed. Several homes were severely im-

pected, with at least six houses suffering roof and structural damage due to uprooted trees. The storm also caused extensive destruction to electrical infrastructure, with over 40 electricity poles damaged, disrupting power supply and leaving many households without electricity for three days.

Firefighters were deployed to clear fallen tree branches as efforts to restore normalcy continued. Other states, including central

Maharashtra, north interior Karnataka, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh will also see rains till March 31. Similarly the IMD has predicted isolated to scattered rains over Northeast India, Peninsular and adjoining central India in the next week.

FROM PAGE 1 & 2

COPS CRACK GLOBAL CYBER SCAM NETWORK

Gupta was responsible for recruiting candidates, receiving their data from agents and arranging their travel to Thailand. Nulaxi was involved in overseeing the recruitment process and ensuring that the victims carried out financial fraud through platforms such as WhatsApp, Telegram, WeChat and Zoom.

The operation had an international reach, with agents based in several countries communicating with the gang to recruit more victims. The suspects were also involved in renting Indian bank accounts and SIM cards for fraudulent activities.

Authorities recovered incriminating evidence during the three arrests. Ravichandran was found to be carrying two mobile phones, a laptop and suspicious purchase bills. Nulaxi had a laptop, a phone, and ID cards from three countries — UAE, China and Kazakhstan. Gupta was found with a mobile phone containing evidence of the crime.

According to Gupta, the accused were planning to set up additional call centres across Asia to continue the financial fraud operations and honey-trapping schemes.

JUSTICE VARMA TRANSFERRED TO PARENT ALLAHABAD HC

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and UjjalBhuyan said the in-house inquiry was in progress and there would be several options open to the Chief Justice of India after the probe concludes.

Members of the Allahabad High Court Bar Association have been protesting against the Collegium's recommendation to repatriate Justice Varma to Allahabad. The protesting lawyers met Chief Justice Khanna in Delhi Thursday.

Separately, the government also notified the repatriation of Delhi High Court judge Chandra Dhari Singh to the Allahabad High Court.

The Collegium had in November last year recommended Justice Singh's repatriation.

In another order, Justice Arindam Sinha was transferred from the Orissa High Court to the Allahabad High Court. The Supreme Court Collegium had recommended his transfer earlier this month.

INTERIM ANTICIPATORY BAIL FOR KAMRA

Counsel for the petitioner submitted that the allegation against the petitioner was that he made certain remarks in a stand-up comedy on Deputy Chief Minister, called 'NayaBharath'.

According to the prosecution it harmed the reputation of the deputy CM.

Counsel further submitted that the allegation does not warrant custodial interrogation. He was unable to seek anticipatory bail in Maharashtra.

Counsel for the petitioner submitted that a life threat was made against him by party men and the Ministers. He sought anticipatory bail to enable him to approach court in Maharashtra.

Citing a judgment of the Supreme Court, the judge said the petitioner prima facie satisfied as to why he was unable to approach a court in Maharashtra immediately. Hence, he directed issuing notice to R 2.

"In the meanwhile, this court is inclined to grant anticipatory bail till April 7. He should execute a bond to the satisfaction of Judicial Magistrate, Vanur," the court said.

FREE SPEECH CAN'T BE JUDGED AS PER STANDARDS OF INSECURE PERSONS: SC

In an affidavit before the Gujarat High Court, the Congress leader said the poem in question, based on publicly available information, including searches on ChatGPT, belonged to either Faiz Ahmed Faiz or Habib Jalib.

The video carried the recitation of a poem uploaded on X by the Congress MP and it was alleged to carry words that pitted communities against one another aside from hurting religious sentiments.

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and UjjalBhuyan said the poem had nothing to do with religion, caste, community or any particular group.

"The poem's words do not bring about or promote disharmony or feelings of hatred or ill-will. It only seeks to challenge the injustice made by the ruler. It is impossible to say that the words used by the appellant disturb or are likely to disturb public tranquillity," the bench said.

The court went on, "By no stretch of imagina-

tion, does it promote enmity between different groups. We fail to understand how the statements therein are detrimental to national unity and how the statements will affect national unity. On its plain reading, the poem does not purport to affect anyone's religious feelings."

Referring to Section 196 of the BharatiyaNyayaSanhita, 2023, the court said neither clause (a) nor clause (b) of the provision are attracted.

The bench observed Pratapgarhi was not accused of organising any exercise, movement, drill or similar activity.

"There is no allegation against the appellant that he uttered the words in any place of worship or in any assembly engaged in the performance of religious worship or religious ceremonies," the court added.

ARTEFACTS NOT FOUND, COPS PROBE OLD GOA ACTIVISTS INSTEAD

Acting sarpanchAmbarAmonkar said that the file pertaining to the proposed heritage interpretation centre and parking at Old Goa heritage site under PRASAD scheme has been submitted to the panchayat for permission and now it has been decided to call for a joint inspection of the site. The date for the inspection has not been announced yet.

"Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte said that the project will be kept on hold till the government gets all the permissions from the ASI and the Church authorities. So we have decided to hold an inspection along with Department of Tourism, ASI, TCP Department and NMA, place the inspection report before the gram sabha and then take a decision based on the suggestions received in the gram sabha," Amonkar said.

Some activists on Friday claimed that cannonballs discovered during excavation were of historical importance and alleged that the ASI was taking it lightly. Citizens For Democracy convenor Elvis Gomes produced a book titled "The Cannons of Goa" and said how these cannons were used for warfare during the old regime and were priceless artefacts. He said that the ASI instead of protecting these monuments, is allowing and granting approvals to carry out works within the heritage sites.

CENTRE TELLS STATES TO RAMP UP HEAT-HEALTH MEASURES

"An increase in the exposure to heat, including extreme conditions, may occur with the onset of summer," she said, enclosing IMD's Seasonal Outlook for summer 2025.

She specifically called for swift implementation of 'Heat-Health' action plans and underscored the need to prepare dedicated heatstroke management units and emergency responses for severe heat-related ailments. "Availability of sufficient drinking water at all health facilities and the continued functioning of cooling appliances in critical areas must be ensured," she noted.

Meanwhile, IMD's forecast paints a worrying picture, predicting nearly double the usual number of heatwave days this year. Maharashtra, facing its own heat challenges, saw Akola registering 42.0 degrees Celsius, closely followed by Brahmapuri at 41.9 degrees and Chandrapur at 41.2 degrees. Madhya Pradesh also bore the brunt, with Hoshangabad at 40.9 degrees Celsius—3.9 degrees above normal—and Shivpuri experiencing a steep 5.7 degrees Celsius increase at 40.0 degrees.

In Uttar Pradesh, Prayagraj's temperature spiked to 41.6 degrees Celsius, while Jhansi recorded a high of 41.1 degrees. Rajasthan's Chittorgarh touched 40.5 degrees, whereas Chhattisgarh's Rajnandgaon saw an alarming rise of 7.8 degrees Celsius, setting at 41.0 degrees. In southern states, Telangana'sNizamabad recorded 40.1 degrees Celsius, with Andhra Pradesh's Nandyal marking an even 40.0 degrees.

IT'S OFFICIAL: CLASSES TO BEGIN ON APRIL 7

The government had initially released a draft notification on March 13, inviting public feedback. The feedback period was extended from 5 to 15 days to allow for additional public input. After carefully reviewing the objections, suggestions, and recommendations, the government has finalized the academic calendar.

Despite this, the government's decision has

faced opposition from several parents, some of whom have approached the High Court regarding the changes.

In a related development, the State Education Department issued a corrigendum to a circular dated January 30, 2025. The corrigendum clarifies that the academic year for 2025-26 will begin on April 7 for Classes VI to X and Class XII, instead of the previously announced date of April 1.

QUAKE KILLS 150 IN MYANMAR, THAILAND

"The death toll and injuries are expected to rise," the head of Myanmar's military government, Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing said as he announced on television that at least 144 people were killed and 730 others were injured in his country.

In Thailand, Bangkok city authorities said 10 people were killed, 16 injured and 101 missing from three construction sites, including the high-rise.

The 7.7 magnitude quake struck at midday, with an epicentre near Mandalay, Myanmar's second-largest city.

Aftershocks followed, one of them measuring a strong 6.4 magnitude.

Photos from Myanmar's capital, Naypyidaw, showed rescue crews pulling victims from the rubble of multiple buildings used to house civil servants.

Myanmar's government said blood was in high demand in the hardest-hit areas. In a country where prior governments sometimes have been slow to accept foreign aid, Min Aung Hlaing said Myanmar was ready to accept assistance.

At the United Nations, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the world body is mobilising to respond to Myanmar's appeal for international help.

But as images circulated of buckled and cracked roads, a collapsed bridge and a burst dam, there were concerns about how rescuers would even reach some areas in a country already enduring a humanitarian crisis.

"We fear it may be weeks before we understand the full extent of destruction caused by this earthquake," said Mohammed Riyas, the International Rescue Committee's Myanmar director.

Bridge and monastery collapse and dam bursts in Myanmar

In Mandalay, the earthquake reportedly brought down multiple buildings, including the Ma SoeYane monastery, one of the largest in the city, and damaged the former royal palace. A video posted online showed robed monks in the street, shooting their own video of the multi-story monastery before it suddenly fell into the ground. It was not immediately clear whether anyone was harmed.

Christian Aid said its partners and colleagues on the ground reported that a dam burst in the city, causing water levels to rise in the lowland areas.

In the Sagaing region just southwest of the city, a 90-year-old bridge collapsed, and some sections of the highway connecting Mandalay and Myanmar's largest city, Yangon, were also damaged.

Yangon residents rushed out of their homes when the quake struck. In Naypyitaw, some homes stood partly crumbled, while rescuers heaved away bricks from the piles of debris. An injured man reclined on a wheeled stretcher, while another man fanned him in the heat.

ISRAEL STRIKES BEIRUT

"I am sending a clear message from here to the Lebanese government: If you do not enforce the ceasefire agreement, we will enforce it," he said.

Hezbollah denied firing the rockets at northern Israel, and accused Israel of seeking a pretext to continue attacking Lebanon.

Lebanon's government ordered all schools and universities in Beirut's southern suburb of Hadath to close for the day. Residents were seen fleeing the area in cars and on foot ahead of the strike.

Hezbollah began launching rockets, drones and missiles into Israel the day after Hamas' October 7, 2023 attack on Gaza ignited the war there. The Israel-Hezbollah conflict boiled over into all-out war in September as Israel carried out waves of airstrikes and killed most of the militant group's senior leaders. The fighting killed over 4,000 people in Lebanon and displaced about 60,000 Israelis.

Israeli forces were supposed to withdraw from all Lebanese territory by late January under the ceasefire deal. The deadline was extended to February 18, but Israel has remained in five locations in Lebanon across from communities in northern

Israel. Meanwhile, Israel has carried out dozens of airstrikes on southern and eastern Lebanon, saying it attacked Hezbollah, while continuing drone attacks that have killed several members of the militant group.

Last week, Israeli airstrikes on several locations in Lebanon killed six people.

Speaking from Paris, Lebanon's President, Joseph Aoun, said the strike on a Beirut suburb was a continuation "of Israel's violations of the agreement" that was sponsored by France and the US.

During a joint news conference with Aoun, French President Emmanuel Macron said the airstrike on Beirut was "unacceptable," adding that he will speak with US President Donald Trump and Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the coming hours over the situation in Lebanon.

Macron said that US can exert pressure on Israel. He added that Friday's strikes and the failure to respect the ceasefire "are unilateral actions that betray a given promise, and play into Hezbollah's hands."

The UN Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, said the exchange of fire was deeply concerning. "This is a critical period for Lebanon and the wider region," she said Friday.

Israeli strikes in other parts of Lebanon on Friday killed three people and wounded 18, including children and women, in the southern village of KlarTibnit, said Lebanon's health ministry.

EURICO DA SILVA, A VERITABLE PILLAR OF JUSTICE

Justice da Silva's contributions to the legal field will be remembered through the thoughtful deliberations in his judgements that could come about only because of his profound understanding of the law.

One particular order that he passed as chairperson of the SPCA, that I remember and seems pertinent to recall as it indicates his respect for human rights and understanding of the situation in the State, came in a case wherein police had acted on an activist protesting at a State function. The order had stated, "The SPCA hopes that such regretful trend of uncontrolled pressure and subordination of the police by the political class comes to an early end so that the police of the State become people friendly."

He was, no doubt, a distinguished member of the judiciary but Justice da Silva's impact in Goa went beyond the courtroom, as he was also involved in the community initiatives. Personally, I met Justice da Silva a few times, and despite the vast difference in age, he was always the courteous and respectful gentleman who everybody remembers. In 2011, ever gracious as always, the retired justice even consented to release my book 'Goa Rewound'.

The impact that the soft-spoken jurist had on the many lawyers he inspired cannot be forgotten, or the fact that of his four sons, one is today following in the footsteps of the father scaling up the judiciary ladder in Goa.

Justice Eurico Santana da Silva will, therefore, be remembered not just as a jurist but as a devoted husband, father, friend and mentor, as this veritable pillar of justice will be missed by family, friends and the legal fraternity.

PUTIN FOR INTERIM GOVT IN UKRAINE

A blustery statement that reflected the Kremlin leader's determination to achieve his war goals.

Speaking to the crew of a Russian nuclear submarine in televised remarks broadcast early Friday, Putin reaffirmed his claim that Ukrainian President VolodymyrZelenskyy, whose term expired last year, lacks the legitimacy to sign a peace deal. Under Ukraine's constitution it is illegal for the country to hold national elections while it's under martial law.

Putin claimed that any agreement that is signed with the current Ukrainian government could be challenged by its successors and said new elections could be held under external governance.

"Under the auspices of the United Nations, with the United States, even with European countries, and, of course, with our partners and friends, we could discuss the possibility of introduction of temporary governance in Ukraine," Putin said, adding that it would allow the country to "hold democratic elections, to bring to power a viable government that enjoys the trust of the people, and then begin negotiations with them on a peace treaty."

He added that such external governance is just "one of the options," without elaborating.

Brajesh Upadhyay re-elected vice chairman of SCOPE

Team Herald

PANJIM: In a significant development, Brajesh Kumar Upadhyay, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL), has been re-elected as the Vice Chairman of the Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) for a second consecutive term.

SCOPE serves as the apex professional organisation representing the interests of central public sector enterprises (CPS- Es) across India. It plays a crucial role in fostering excellence within CPSEs, advocating policy reforms, and spearheading initiatives to enhance the growth and global competitiveness of India's public sector.

The election results were announced during the SCOPE Biennial Elections 2025-27 by Atul Sobti, Director General of SCOPE, in the presence of representatives from various member CPSEs.

A statement issued by Goa Shipyard Limited highlighted that, as Vice Chairman of SCOPE, Upadhyay will continue to lead efforts in promoting the interests of CPSEs, advocating progressive policies, and overseeing initiatives that drive sustainable growth and development.

Under his leadership, Goa Shipyard Limited has strengthened its reputation as a premier shipbuilding enterprise, setting new benchmarks in innovation, quality, and customer satisfaction. The company has played a pivotal role in enhancing India's maritime defence capabilities, delivering state-of-the-art warships and patrol vessels to the Indian Navy and Coast Guard.

APPOINTMENTS

WE ARE HIRING !

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- **PHARMACY ASSISTANT:** 1 - 2 years experience. (SSC / Inter / Any Degree) with Medical Pharmacy experience) Male preferred.
- **PHARMACY TRAINEE:** Fresher's (SSC / Inter/ Any degree)

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