

shorttakes

**TWO BOOKED FOR STALKING, HARASSING WOMAN IN NUVEM**

MARGAO: The Maina-Curtorim police have registered a case against two men for allegedly stalking and harassing a woman in Nuvem. According to the complaint, Mahendra Singh Rawat and Freddy Pinto, both residents of Nuvem, followed the complainant, stared and whistled at her persistently. Based on her written complaint, an offence under Sections 78, 79 read with 3(5) of the BNS has been registered. PSI Praful Giri of Maina-Curtorim police station is leading the investigation.

**TWO ARRESTED FOR BLACKMAIL AND ONLINE DEFAMATION OF WOMAN**

MARGAO: Verna police have arrested two men for allegedly blackmailing a woman and circulating her obscene pictures on social media. The accused, Adrian alias Joyson D'Silva of Nuvem and Constancio alias Concy Gama of Cortalim, reportedly threatened the victim, demanding she comply with their demands or face false accusations of immoral behaviour. They later circulated her images online, defaming her. Additionally, in August 2024 at Perina Restaurant, Margao, D'Silva allegedly sexually harassed the complainant by making explicit advances. The police have booked the duo under various sections of the IT Act and BNS. PI Melson Colaco of Verna police station is handling the investigation.

**PEDESTRIAN SERIOUSLY INJURED IN BENAULIM ROAD ACCIDENT**

MARGAO: A pedestrian sustained severe injuries after being knocked down by a scooter rider in Benaulim. According to a complaint lodged with Colva police, the incident occurred on March 25, at 7.30 pm, when Lawrie Pereira of Cavellossim, riding a Jupiter scooter, allegedly drove in a rash and negligent manner and hit pedestrian Barka Kaur of Khareband, Margao. The impact caused her to fall onto the road, sustaining serious injuries.

**JHARKHAND MAN FALLS TO DEATH AT MAJORDA**

MARGAO: A Jharkhand native succumbed to his injuries at GMC Bambolim after falling from a height in Majorda. Police enquiries revealed that on March 13, Bihari Singh was sitting on a retaining wall under the influence of alcohol when he lost his balance and fell. He was initially taken to SGDH, Margao, before being referred to GMC Bambolim. A post-mortem confirmed that his death resulted from septicemia and shock following a head injury. The police have conducted an inquest and registered the case accordingly.

**DOMESTIC HELP BOOKED FOR GOLD JEWELLERY FROM CALANGUTE HOUSE**

PANJIM: The Calangute Police have booked a domestic help from Karnataka for allegedly stealing cash and gold ornaments worth lakhs of rupees from a residence at Nalkwado-Calangute. Adelia Fernandes has filed a complaint that her domestic help, identified as Reshma, a resident of Karnataka, stole Rs 56,200 along with five gold chains, eleven earrings, two diamond earrings, one bracelet, and a man's gold ring of unknown value before February 22.

**SALIGAO MAN CHEATED FOR RS 5.21 LAKH ON PRETEXT OF OVERSEAS JOB**

PANJIM: A resident of Grand Morod, Saligao, has filed a complaint against a man for allegedly cheating him of Rs 5.21 lakh by promising a job abroad. Cletus Fernandes reported that between December 10, 2024, and March 11, 2025, the accused, identified as Francis Barretto, took money from him multiple times under the pretext of securing an overseas job.

**MUMBAI MAN ARRESTED FOR CHEATING WOMAN OF RS 3.43 LAKH IN ONLINE SCAM**

PANJIM: The Agasaim Police have arrested Firdous Ali Shah (36) from Andheri West, Mumbai, for allegedly cheating a woman of Rs 3.43 lakh in online scam. The victim Shilpa Gawas in her complaint said that the incident occurred between August 5 and 17, 2024. The accused allegedly impersonated an investment company and used digital platforms to carry out the fraud.

**UK NATIONAL FOUND DEAD IN RENTED HOUSE AT ANJUNA**

PANJIM: A 61-year-old UK national, Timothy Paul Davis, was found dead in his rented house at Soranto Vaddo, Anjuna, on March 29. Davis was lying on his bed with no visible external injuries, except for ant bite marks near his neck and private parts, police said. The body has been preserved at Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMC), Bambolim, for post-mortem examination.

**THREE E-BOOKS ON PATHOLOGY RELEASED BY DR WISEMAN PINTO**

PANJIM: Three new e-books titled 'USP6 Gene Rearranged Tumours', 'SATB2', and 'Peutz-Jeghers Syndrome' were recently released. The e-books have been edited by Dr R G Wiseman Pinto, Professor of Pathology, Former Head of Department, former Dean of Goa University, and President of the Asian Society of Cytopathology. The first book, 'USP6 Gene Rearranged Tumours', focuses on Ubiquitin Specific Protease 6 (USP6) Gene Rearrangement, which is observed in Aneurysmal Bone Cysts (Primary) as well as in other soft tissue tumour-like lesions. The book highlights the role of Immunohistochemistry (IHC), RT-PCR, and Gene Sequencing in diagnosing and confirming Aneurysmal Bone Cysts and other soft tissue tumours. The second book, 'SATB2', discusses Special AT-Rich Sequence Binding Protein 2 (SATB2), an essential marker for diagnosing colorectal carcinoma, appendiceal carcinoma, and osteosarcoma. The third book, 'Peutz-Jeghers Syndrome', explores this genetic disorder, which is characterised by the presence of polyps in the gastrointestinal tract along with oral mucocutaneous pigmentation. All three e-books have been uploaded on www.pathoindia.com, where they can be accessed and read free of cost.

**power shutdown**

MARGAO: On April 1, from 9 am to 6 pm. Affected areas are near Prathibha Co-op Society, Sai motors, opp Menezes House, Dr Siya Caro Prabhudesai, opp Sundar Housing Society and surrounding areas.

MARGAO: On April 2, from 9 am to 6 pm. Affected areas Sahayog Co-op. society, behind Pandva chapel, sunrise laundry opp washing centre near pandva chapel hotel Udapi manish building, Shubham Laxmi building, and surrounding areas.

MARGAO: On April 3, from 9 am to 6 pm. Affected areas are Gadekar house, opp Classic hospital, behind Classic hospital, opp. Mauli hotel and surrounding areas.

# Highway labourers forced to reside in squalor in Ponda

Team Herald

PONDA: Labourers engaged in highway development work at Farmagudi, Ponda, have been residing in deplorable conditions by the roadside for several months without access to basic facilities. This situation has raised health concerns not only for the workers but also for students of GVM's Higher Secondary School, located nearby.

The workers, who have set up temporary shelters covered with plastic sheets near the roadside in front of the school, lack essential amenities such as toilets and bathrooms. Local resident Viraj Sapre has called on the authorities to instruct the contractor to provide proper accommodation and basic facilities for the workers.

Expressing concern over the issue, Sapre highlighted the risks posed to students, noting that some parents

Workers live in temporary shelters covered with plastic sheets by roadside, lack essential amenities such as toilets and bathrooms



and teachers have raised complaints about open defecation in the nearby bushes. "On humanitarian grounds, these workers

deserve proper accommodation, toilets, and bathrooms," he stated.

The workers, including women, are struggling

under the harsh summer heat, living under plastic tents without safety or sanitation. According to them, around eleven

couples are currently residing in these makeshift shelters, with women labourers earning Rs 450 per day while males are



These workers deserve proper accommodation, toilets, and bathrooms - Vijai Sapre local resident

paid Rs 550.

Sapre clarified that he is not against development projects but insisted that while crores are being spent on infrastructure, labourers should be provided with dignified living conditions and basic necessities. He urged the authorities to take immediate action to improve their situation.

Migrant workers play an essential role in the Indian economy with millions working in various sectors including construction, agriculture and manufacturing but unfortunately are subjected to various forms of exploitation like low wages, poor working conditions and lack of basic amenities.

**TRAGEDY AVERTED**



A firefighter works to contain the situation after a sodium bromide tanker overturned at Chimbel Junction, posing a severe risk

## Goa Open Innovation Challenge 2025 launched

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Startup & IT Promotion Cell, Department of Information Technology, Electronics & Communications (DITE&C), launched the Goa Open Innovation Challenge 2025 (GOIC).

This launch brought together startups, students, government bodies and industry to develop technology-driven solutions for key challenges in sectors such as tourism, waste management, agriculture, NABARD, public service commission and industry.

Speaking at the launch, Minister for IT Rohan Khaunte said, "Innovation is the driving force behind a self-reliant and future-ready Goa. With the Goa Open Innovation Challenge 2025, we are fostering a culture where technology meets opportunity, aligning with the vision of Viksit Bharat and Viksit Goa. The government stands as a facilitator, ensuring that our startup and IT policies are timed with academic progress, equipping the youth with skills to think globally and work locally. Our focus is on building scalable startups—transforming job

seekers into job creators and making Goa a hub of sustainable and impactful innovation."

InfoTech Corporation Goa, Chairman and MLA Dr Chandrakant Shetye stated, "By prioritising education, entrepreneurship and employment, we are creating a future where progress is tangible and accessible. Our focus is on solutions that integrate seamlessly into our everyday life, ensuring that development benefits every citizen."

The launch event featured two expert-led master-classes designed to equip startups with essential insights. Additionally, a panel discussion on "Building Scalable Startups" moderated by Varsha Adusumilli, Author, investor, Advisor and Founder of Kstart Seed Fund was held. The panelists highlighted Goa's unique advantages as a thriving hub for businesses and innovation.

D S Prashant, CEO of the Startup and IT Promotion Cell (SITPC), Government of Goa introduced the initiative and provided an overview of the problem statements that participants will address.

## 'NTPC instrumental in driving India's energy transition'

Team Herald

PANJIM: NTPC, as the backbone of the nation's power sector, has been instrumental in driving India's energy transition and ensuring uninterrupted electricity supply to millions. NTPC Simhadri is a shining example of India's commitment to energy security and sustainable power generation, stated Union Minister of State for Power and New renewable Energy Shripad Naik.

Naik was speaking during NTPC's 50 years celebration at NTPC Simhadri.

Speaking further, Naik said that within the organisation,

NTPC Simhadri has played a pivotal role in furthering this mission through its dedication to operational excellence, innovation, and sustainability. The company has been a key player in India's transition to a more resilient and sustainable energy sector.

With the government's emphasis on increasing renewable energy capacity, NTPC has been actively investing in solar, wind, and hydropower projects to reduce dependency on fossil fuels. The integration of renewable sources into NTPC's power mix reflects its vision for a greener future and a reduced carbon footprint, Naik stated.

Beyond electricity generation, NTPC's emphasis on environmental sustainability through afforestation, water conservation, and waste management initiatives underscores its role as a responsible corporate citizen. Its commitment to skill development and local employment generation has also contributed significantly to the socio-economic development of the regions in which it operates.

The Union Minister commended the entire NTPC Simhadri team for their exemplary contribution to India's power sector and hoped that the NTPC Simhadri will continue to set new benchmarks in the power industry.

## Nestlé workers on strike demanding reinstatement



The Nestlé workers from Bicholim protest in front of the factory

Team Herald

BICHOLIM: The Nestlé workers from Bicholim on Monday protested in front of the factory premises against the company's inaction on reinstating retrenched employees.

The protest was organised to highlight the company's failure to reinstated retrenched workers de-

spite the issue being settled in the court of the Labour Commissioner. Janardhan Tamankar, leader of the workers' union, assured the protestors that they would ensure justice for the affected workers, demanding their re-employment. "We will look into the matter and ensure that there is no injustice on any of the workers. We demand that they are

re-employed," he said. Union leader Anand Shirodkar further explained that they had issued an intimation letter to the company on March 4 and submitted their demands, followed by a reminder. Despite this, no action has been taken by the management. Shirodkar warned that the protest would continue until their demands are addressed.

## Eid-ul-Fitr celebrated with religious fervour in Valpoi, Margao

VALPOI/MARGAO: Eid-ul-Fitr was celebrated with great religious fervour and joy in Valpoi and Margao on Monday, marking the end of the holy month of Ramadan. The Muslim community gathered in large numbers at Eidgahs for the early morning prayers, greeting each other with 'Eid Mubarak' and embracing the spirit of togetherness.

In Valpoi, the celebrations were marked by traditional customs and communal harmony. Families prepared festive delicacies such as Sheerkurma—a rich dessert made with milk, vermicelli, and dry fruits—and Biryani, which were exchanged among friends and neighbours as a symbol of sharing and joy. Children were especially delighted to receive Eidi—cash gifts from elders—

continuing a beloved Eid tradition.

Speaking on the occasion, Kutbuddin Shah, President of Jama Masjid Valpoi, emphasised the festival's message of love and brotherhood. "Every year on Eid, we felicitate young children from Valpoi who have fasted during Ramadan to acknowledge their dedication and encourage them," he said.

Yussuf Shaikh, President of Namrah Masjid Valpoi, highlighted Eid as a sacred time for charity and unity. "This festival is not just about our own happiness but about spreading joy to others and nurturing their dreams," he remarked.

Dr Ashraf Khan, a resident of Valpoi, noted the strong interfaith bonds seen in the town during



Muslims exchange warm embraces and greetings of 'Eid Mubarak', celebrating the spirit of unity and togetherness at Valpoi

Eid. "Many non-Muslims from Valpoi and surrounding areas visit Muslim homes to exchange

greetings. The essence of Eid lies in spreading happiness regardless of differences in faith, race, or ethnicity," he said.

Throughout Ramadan, Muslims not only fasted and prayed but also practiced Zakat, giving alms to the poor as a mark of generosity and compassion.

The festive spirit of Eid was equally evident in Margao and the villages of Salcete, where the celebrations were conducted with great solemnity. The Muslim brethren gathered at mosques in Margao, Cuncolim, Fatorda, and nearby areas to offer Namaz, following which they visited family and friends to exchange greetings and enjoy festive dishes, including sweets and kheer.

According to a source from the South Goa District Police

Office, Eid celebrations were completely peaceful, with no untoward incidents reported in areas such as Rumdamol-Davorlim. To ensure a smooth and joyous celebration, police personnel were deployed at key locations in Salcete as a precautionary measure.

In the evening, several members of the Muslim community from Margao and neighbouring villages converged at the Margao Municipal Council Garden, where they exchanged warm wishes, reinforcing the festival's spirit of unity and goodwill.

Eid-ul-Fitr in Valpoi and Margao truly reflected the values of togetherness, kindness, and harmony, strengthening communal ties across the region.