

shorttakes

SCOOTER RIDER INJURED IN RASH DRIVING INCIDENT AT VERNA

MARGAO: A case of rash and negligent driving has been registered by Verna police after a car allegedly collided with an electric scooter, injuring its rider. According to a complaint filed by Sandeep Naik of Verna police station, the incident occurred on April 2, at 5.25 pm near the Cabral petrol pump, Verna. The accused, Melitha Sequeira from Porvorim, was reportedly driving her car from Titan Junction towards Margao. Police state that upon reaching the petrol pump, Sequeira's car struck the electric scooter ridden by Nilesh Fadte of Cortalim, who was travelling in the same direction. The impact caused Fadte to fall on the road, sustaining injuries. Verna police have registered the offence under Sections 281 and 125(a) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

MARGAO FIRE SERVICE RESPONDS TO THREE FIRE INCIDENTS

MARGAO: The Margao Fire Department attended three fire incidents on Monday, involving banyan trees, dry grass, and property damage. The first incident occurred near Sinquetim, Navelim, where a banyan tree and dry grass caught fire, requiring a fire tender to douse the flames. Fire Station Officer Gil Souza reported that Sub-Officer N V Takkar led the operation with his team. In the second case, dry grass near the food court at Margao railway station caught fire, causing significant damage. Fire personnel quickly controlled the blaze using one fire tender. The third fire broke out at Martin Place, Dharmapur, Navelim, where Leading Firefighter RS Kutkar managed the operation. The causes of the fires are under investigation.

CUNCOLIM POLICE BOOK EIGHT FOR UNLAWFUL ASSEMBLY

MARGAO: Cuncolim police have registered a case against eight individuals for forming an unlawful assembly and attempting assault at Quittol, Fatopra over a contract dispute. According to police, on March 30 at 5.15 pm, accused Malu Velip (Paddi, Quepem), Jaideep Dessai (Canacona), his brother, and four others arrived in a white Innova, allegedly carrying wooden sticks and a crowbar and verbally abusing complainant Krishna Sawant Dessai of Naquerim, Betul, and threatening assault. Cuncolim Police have registered an offence under Sections 352, 131, 189(2), and 189(4) of the BNS. PSI Aditya Sawant is investigating the case.

DRUNK TOURIST CRASHES INTO FOUR PARKED VEHICLES AT CALANGUTE



CALANGUTE: A tourist from Hyderabad, reportedly in an inebriated state, caused a multi-vehicle mishap on Friday night after crashing his rental car into four parked tourist taxis and a scooter near the St Anthony's Chapel junction in Calangute. Fortunately, no injuries were reported. According to eyewitnesses and police, the incident unfolded when the male tourist parked his rental vehicle at the roadside to check his location. In a confused attempt to apply the handbrake, he inadvertently shifted the car into reverse gear and pressed the accelerator, sending the vehicle hurtling backwards. The out-of-control car collided with a parked vehicle, triggering a domino effect. The impact pushed the first car into a second, which then crashed into a third vehicle, which in turn hit a fourth car. The momentum from the final impact also knocked over a parked scooter. The tourist finally managed to regain control of the car after the damage had been done. Owners of the damaged tourist taxis confronted the visibly shaken driver, who broke down and began crying and apologising to those affected. Calangute Police arrived at the scene promptly and escorted the tourist to the police station. He later agreed to compensate the vehicle owners for the damage caused. The tourist reportedly hired the rental car at Mopa Airport and had driven to Calangute. Police confirmed that some alcoholic beverages were found inside the vehicle.

MAN FOUND INJURED ON RAILWAY TRACKS DIES AT HOSPITAL

MARGAO: A 52-year-old man identified as Harif Shaikh from Kulem succumbed to injuries sustained on a railway track near Vasco. According to a memo from the Dy. Station Manager, Vasco Railway Station (SWR), police discovered an unidentified injured male aged 40-45 on the railway track at Km 58/800-900. Investigations later confirmed the victim's identity as Harif Shaikh. He was rushed to PHC Sanguem, where the on-duty doctor declared him dead. His body has been shifted to SGDH Morgue, Margao, for medico-legal formalities. PSI Krishna Talpi of Vasco Railway Police is conducting further inquiries.

power shutdown

MARGAO: On April 7, from 9 am to 6 pm at Udipi Hotel transformer for replacement of LV Board, feeder pillar and service pillar. Affected areas are Dhanlaxmi Co-op society, Harmony Classic, Kanta Hotel, opposite Bharat Sale and surrounding areas. On April 8, from 9 am to 6 pm on Costa Factory and Kerkar Hospital feeder. Affected areas Palacio Rodrigues wing-B, Joshi papers, Sitaram residency, near Royal Hospital, GC Apartments, Bharat Art, Royal Hospital, Venusta Classic building, Priyanka Enclave Co-op Society, behind Costa factory and surrounding areas.

PONDA: On April 7, at Bandedkar T/c, Kaziwada T/c, Ponda for tree cutting and maintenance work from 9 am to 2 pm. Affected areas Bhavani Sada, Kaziwada and surrounding areas. On April 8, at Kurtarkar Arcade (KCA) T/c, Coelo T/c, Ponda from 9 am to 2 pm. Affected areas are Sadar Ponda, near Kalpana Ice cream and surrounding areas.

AROSSIM: On April 7, from 9 am to 2 pm, at 11 KV Arossim Feeder for maintenance work. Affected areas are Baddem, Falwaddo and Sukhbat. On April 8, on 11 KV Cansaulim Feeder from 9 am to 2 pm. Areas affected are Queeny area, Sai Vihar, Kantnem, Murdi, SJ construction, Cuelim, Borsullem, Ossoilem and surrounding areas.

KARSTEN MIRANDA

MARGAO: In the quiet village of Nachinola, North Goa, the Arthshila Goa art centre hosts an exhibition that tells a powerful story of citizens resistance and environmental stewardship. The Save Mollem Campaign's interactive installation stands as a testament to grassroots activism that began five years ago and continues to flourish today.

The exhibition, part of the larger Kaghazi Pairahan showcase of artists' publications responding to social and political dissent across South Asia, centers around a thoughtfully designed zine library and community table. Here, visitors pause to read, reflect, and contribute to what has become an evolving archive of resistance, resilience, and ecological wisdom.

What started in June 2020 as a citizens' movement has transformed into a powerful voice against three destructive linear infrastructure projects threatening Goa's largest protected area: the double-tracking of a railway line, the Tamnar power project, and a national highway expansion. All three projects cut through the heart of Mollem National Park and the Bhagwan Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuary, areas vital to the water security and cultural heritage of Goa.

The exhibition's centerpiece is a detailed map installation that traces the route of the Goa Tamnar Transmission line as it cuts through the state—from the protected forests of Mollem to the villages of Aldona, Corjuem, Tivim, and Colvale. Launched recently, this collaborative mapping project invites visitors to contribute their personal memories and stories of these areas, high-



lighting the deep connection between the people and their land.

"What do we risk losing in the name of development?" asks the exhibition, as visitors pin photographs, write notes, and share oral histories that become part of the collective memory map. These contributions emphasize the irreplaceable biodiversity and cultural significance of the regions threatened by the proposed projects.

The strength of the Save Mollem movement lies in its diversity. What began during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, when hasty virtual clearances were granted to these projects, quickly grew into a unified front of ordinary Goans—students, doctors, veterinarians, lawyers, fish-

erfolk, architects, hoteliers, small business owners, teachers, farmers, artists, and scientists all standing together for their forests.

The campaign's efforts earned recognition with the prestigious Sanctuary Wildlife Service Award in 2021 from India's leading wildlife conservation magazine, Sanctuary Asia. The award acknowledged the movement's effective grassroots approach to environmental defense.

Perhaps most remarkable about the campaign has been its creative approach to resistance. The exhibition showcases films, songs, stories, and artwork that amplified the movement even when on-ground meetings were impossible. These creative expressions have become an integral

part of the campaign's identity and effectiveness.

As visitors move through the exhibition space, they experience the journey of a movement that continues to evolve and persist. The zine library and map will remain on display for two months, inviting more contributions and extending the conversation about conservation, development, and the future of Goa's precious natural resources.

The Save Mollem exhibition at Arthshila Goa stands as both a celebration of what citizen activism has accomplished and a call to continued vigilance as the projects still threaten the land, people, and biodiversity of this coastal state. Through art, science, citizen action, and legal recourse, the campaign

Contempt petition filed against Ponda BDO

Team Herald

PONDA: A contempt petition has been filed in the District and Sessions Court at Ponda against the Block Development Officer (BDO) of Ponda by senior Adv Nitin Sardesai, representing the petitioner Bhikar Kerkar, a panch member of the Curti Khandepar Panchayat.

Adv Nitin Sardesai stated that the Ponda BDO had, earlier last month, issued an order which was "hurriedly, unnecessarily and strategically passed" to prevent Bhikar Kerkar from participating in the election for the vacant posts of Deputy Sarpanch and Sarpanch of the Curti Khandepar Panchayat. Sardesai alleged that the order was not in accordance with the law and was passed without providing any findings.

Following this, the impugned BDO

order was challenged in court by Panch Kerkar, and the matter is currently subjudice. Sardesai added that while the BDO holds the authority to decide on disqualification petitions, his client brought the deficiencies and drawbacks in the BDO's order to the notice of the Court.

"After we presented our case, the Court granted us relief by staying the BDO's order. However, despite the matter being subjudice, the BDO overnight issued a second order, attempting to correct the deficiencies we had pointed out in the original order," said Sardesai. "Once the records have been brought before the Court, even the BDO, though vested with the power to decide such matters, cannot alter his own order. This amounts to contempt of court. This was our argument before the Court," he added.

Goa bids adieu to Iranian tourists with unforgettable hospitality

Team Herald

VASCO: Goa welcomed and bids adieu to 140 Iranian tourists with unforgettable hospitality on Friday. The first charter from Iran had brought tourists to Goa on March 19.

The Iranian tourists carried home cherished memories as their visit and stay in the State, was marked by a blend of cultural exchange, scenic explorations, and warm Goan hospitality. This has paved the way for increased tourist inflows from Iran, with plans already in place for another visit during the next Navroz festival in Iran and also in November this year, when the tourist season starts.

On March 19, the charter tourists were welcomed at the Dabolim international airport with Goa's signature warmth - a live performance by a traditional brass band, fragrant roses and a taste of Goa's famous desert Bebinca. As many as three char-

ter flights were scheduled between March 19 and April 4, bringing in about 450 Iranian tourists, according to Sahar Abvabi, manager of Ahuan Travels, the agency which brought Iranian tourists.

Expressing his delight over the over-



whelming response from the tourists, Abvabi said that the State had left an indelible mark in the hearts of Iranian tourists. Many had never imagined it to be such a paradise, but what they experienced here was beyond their expectations. From stunning beaches to vibrant markets, historic churches, and warm locals, Goa has truly enchanted them, she said.

Save Mollem campaign launches interactive expo at Arthshila Goa

Citizens invited to contribute stories to protest map against controversial forest projects



demonstrates how communities can effectively challenge environmentally destructive development and protect their natural heritage for future generations.

APPOINTMENTS

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Email: jobsitegoa@yahoo.com
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WALK IN INTERVIEW

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