

shorttakes**ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE TO REMAIN CLOSED FOR PUBLIC**

PANJIM: The Offices at the Archbishop's House, Altinho, Panjim, will remain closed to the public on Chrism Mass and Episcopal Ordination Day of Archbishop (April 10), Maundy Thursday (April 17), Good Friday (April 18), Holy Saturday (April 19), and Easter Saturday (April, 26).

COMPLETE E-KYC BEFORE APRIL 30 TO AVOID RATION CARD DELETION: CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPT

PANJIM: The Department of Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs has urged all beneficiaries who have not yet completed their e-KYC to do so before April 30. To complete the e-KYC process, beneficiaries must visit their respective Fair Price Shop with a copy of their Aadhaar card and Ration card. The department has warned that failure to complete e-KYC within the deadline will result in the deletion of the beneficiary's name from the ration records.

SUCHANA SETH ASSAULTS JAIL STAFF AT COLVALE CENTRAL JAIL

PANJIM: Suchana Seth, Bengaluru-based data scientist and CEO who is accused of killing her four-year-old son, allegedly assaulted a Lady Police Constable (LPC) at the State Central Jail on April 7. The incident reportedly occurred in the morning at the ladies block office. Suchana allegedly took the inward register of the ladies block without permission. When confronted by the complainant, she reportedly hurled abuses, physically assaulted LPC by kicking, pulling her hair, and causing her injuries.

SCOOTER RIDER SUCCUMBS TO INJURIES AFTER SELF-ACCIDENT AT MARCAIM

PANJIM: Vasim Karu (42), a resident of Nagzar-Curti and native of Bihar, succumbed to injuries sustained in a self-accident while riding a scooter along with pillion rider Mustar Aalam at Adanwada, Marcaim on March 30. He passed away while undergoing treatment at GMC Bambolim.

USGAO RESIDENT DIES IN ROAD ACCIDENT NEAR GANJEM

PANJIM: Ashish Naik, a resident of Tiral Usgao, succumbed to injuries sustained in a road accident while undergoing treatment at GMC Bambolim. The accident occurred near Pavan Bar, Ganjem Usgao, when his motorcycle collided with an oncoming car after he veered to the wrong side of the road.

57-YEAR-OLD CUNCOLIM RESIDENT DROWNS IN VERODA RIVER

MARGAO: Dilip Shet Dessai, aged 57, a resident of Talwado, Cuncolim, tragically died due to drowning in the river at Veroda. According to Cuncolim police, a team rushed to the scene after receiving a phone call reporting that a male person had been spotted floating in the river. With the assistance of local residents, the body was retrieved from the water and was found to be lifeless. Police Sub Inspector Tejeshkumar Naik visited the spot at Veroda, where he conducted the scene panchanama and an inquest panchanama over the deceased's body. The body was then referred for post-mortem examination. A police surgeon who performed the autopsy certified the cause of death as "asphyxia as a result of drowning in water." PSI Tejeshkumar Naik of Cuncolim Police Station is currently conducting further investigation into the incident.

RUSSIAN BOOKED FOR DRUG OFFENCE AT PERNEM FOUND OVERSTAYING

PANJIM: A 40-year-old Russian woman, Anna Matkovskaia, has been booked by Pernem Police for overstaying in India without valid travel documents and for alleged involvement in a narcotics case. Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) had raided her residence at Bhalkhajan, Korgao on December 28, 2024, and found a narcotic consignment, leading to registration of a case under the NDPS Act. Further probe revealed she had overstayed her visa and lacked a valid passport. Meanwhile Russian national, Maxim Moiseev (44), has been booked for illegally staying in Goa without valid travel documents.

KAZAKH FOUND DEAD AT SIOLIM RENTED HOUSE; CHRONIC ALCOHOLISM SUSPECTED

PANJIM: A 40-year-old Kazakh national, Mikhail Bondirenko, was found dead in his rented room at Oxel, Siolim. His friend, a Russian national, identified the body. Police said the deceased was a chronic alcoholic and had been living alone since September 2024. The body has been sent to GMC for medico-legal formalities.

24-YEAR-OLD RAIJA WOMAN DIES BY SUICIDE IN RENTED ROOM

MARGAO: In a tragic incident, a 24-year-old woman from Raia, died by suicide by hanging herself in her rented room while she was alone. LPSI Veronica Coutinho of the Maina Curtorim Police Station, along with police staff, visited the scene after receiving information from SPCR Panjim regarding the incident. Upon arrival, the Maina Curtorim police team shifted the deceased's body to South Goa District Hospital (SGDH), Margao, via a 108 ambulance. During preliminary enquiry, police visited SGDH and revealed that the deceased had been suffering from depression related to her job prospects. No suicide note was found at the scene, and police have ruled out any foul play. Statements from the father have been recorded, and LPSI Veronica Coutinho is conducting further investigation.

PEDESTRIAN INJURED IN MOTORCYCLE COLLISION IN QUEPEM

MARGAO: A pedestrian identified as Tulshidas Velip, a resident of Adnem-Quepem, sustained injuries after being knocked down by a motorcycle rider while standing by the roadside. Based on a complaint lodged by Pradeep Gaonkar of Quepem, police have registered an offence under Sections 281 and 125(a) of the BNS. According to officials, the accused, Nipresh Velip of Balli-Quepem, was riding a Yamaha motorcycle in a rash and negligent manner from Balli towards Quepem and knocked down Tulshidas injuring him in the bargain.

MAN FOUND DEAD IN HOME AT BALLI PATTEM

MARGAO: Babu Konkre, 55, a resident of Balli Pattem, was found dead on his bed at his residence. Cuncolim Police were alerted via a call from an unknown person who reported a foul smell emanating from a house in Pattem-Balli. Upon arrival, police located the deceased and the body has since been preserved at the South Goa District Hospital in Margao for medico-legal formalities. PSI Aditya Sawant of Cuncolim Police Station is conducting the inquiry. Police stated that the cause of death remains unknown, pending the results of the post-mortem examination.

Classrooms remain empty in two Calangute schools

Student discomfort marks start of academic year; parents demand reconsideration of calendar shift

Team Herald**CALANGUTE/MARGAO:**

Students from two prominent schools in Calangute—St Joseph's High School and Little Flower of Jesus School—stayed away from classes on Monday, the first day of the new academic year, as part of a boycott called by their respective Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs). The boycott continued with many students staying away on the second day. The protest was part of a growing wave of opposition across the Syate to the government's decision to begin the academic calendar from April 7.

At St Joseph's High School, PTA chairperson Marie Fernandes stated that only four students attended classes on Tuesday, down from six on Monday out of a total of 223. "Parents are against sending their children to school during April," said Fer-

nandes. "They have written to the school management and the Education Department about their decision not to send their children to school during this period."

The situation was reported to be similar at Little Flower of Jesus School, where students also remained absent as parents stood firm in their protest against the revised schedule.

St Joseph's High School head, Brother Bhakti Nathan, confirmed that the school remained open in adherence to Education Department guidelines. "Parents told us they don't want to send their children to school, and this decision was taken by the PTA against the Education Department decision to shift school schedules without consulting them. Our school was open, and teachers are there and they will teach those students who attend," he said.

Meanwhile, parents

across South Goa have echoed similar frustrations, raising concerns over the intense heat, impractical class timings, and lack of consideration for working families. The abrupt shift to morning sessions—ending around 11.30am—has led to major logistical challenges, particularly for households where both parents are employed.

With no adjustments made to transportation services, many students are left to return home in overcrowded public buses during peak heat hours. Students themselves have reported extreme discomfort inside classrooms and during their commutes.

The rescheduling of the academic year without adequate consultation or preparation has left parents and students scrambling to adapt. Some parents, particularly those with children in crucial academic years such as Class

X, reluctantly sent their children to school to avoid setbacks. However, others chose to join the boycott despite fears of isolation or disciplinary action.

In some cases, when parents formally informed schools of their decision to keep children home due to heat or travel concerns, they were reportedly dismissed. One parent said she was told the school would not accept responsibility if her child failed to meet attendance requirements.

Despite high attendance being reported at schools in other parts of South Goa on reopening day, parents maintain that their grievances are far from isolated and insist the decision to reopen in early April was poorly timed. They are calling on the government to urgently reconsider the academic calendar to prioritise student wellbeing over bureaucratic convenience.

Silver Star Diabetes camp at Apollo Victor Hospitals

Team Herald

MARGAO: Following the success of a recent diabetes camp conducted by Silver Star Diabetes at Mother Hospital in Thrissur, Kerala, another free diabetes testing camp is scheduled to take place at Apollo Victor Hospitals, Malbhat Market, Malbhat, Margao on April 10 from 10 am to 1 pm.

This initiative aims to provide early diagnosis and support for individuals at risk of diabetes and hypertension. Apollo Victor Hospital will set up a dedicated screening area near the reception and ensure the presence of skilled doctors and nurses along with essential medical arrangements for a seamless and professional screening process.

As part of this free health camp, participants will receive blood pressure and sugar check up, uric acid test and bone mineral density test (BMD).

The event will be honoured by local MLA Digambar Kamat, who will extend his support to this vital

healthcare initiative. The camp will run for 3 hours.

The former British MP and Founder Chairman of the Charity, Keith Vaz, said: "Silver Star has a long history of involvement in Goa, where diabetes levels remain alarmingly high. In the state, 414,000 people suffer from diabetes. It is essential to raise awareness about this illness and combat it at an early stage. Our important partnership with Apollo Victor Hospital has been ongoing for two decades. Only through effective

collaboration can we bring diabetes under control—at present, it remains a serious concern. In Goa, diabetes prevalence is steadily rising, driven by factors like urbanisation, lifestyle changes, and dietary habits. Recent data indicates that over 14% of the state's adult population is affected by diabetes, with coastal urban hubs like Margao reporting even higher rates. Alongside, the state also records high rates of hypertension, compounding the risk of cardiovascular disease."



Former British MP Keith Vaz is the Founder Chairman of the Charity

Workers protest against port authority's decision to privatise 2 berths

Team Herald

VASCO: Stevedores and port stakeholder associations staged a protest outside the Mormugao Port Authority (MPA) gate on Tuesday, opposing the decision to privatise Berths No. 10 and 11.

Speaking to media persons, the protestors expressed concerns that the MPA's move to lease the two berths to private parties would jeopardise the livelihoods of hundreds of families and render many local workers jobless. "These are the only two berths left for local operations, and the MPA has privatised them despite our objections," they said.

The berths have been leased out to Delta Infralogistics Worldwide Ltd (DIWL) for a period of 30 years. On Monday, a delegation from various port stakeholder associations submitted a memorandum to Chief Minister

Pramod Sawant, urging his intervention to reverse the decision and safeguard traditional local businesses.

Vinod Parkot of the Stevedores Association warned that the privatisation of the two active berths, which were previously available to local stevedores, would have a cascading impact on multiple sectors.

"Stevedoring plays a critical role in cargo handling and supports a wide range of jobs—from crane operators to labourers, supervisors, and machine operators.

With Berths 10 and 11 now handed over to Delta Infralogistics Worldwide Ltd (DIWL), the locals are left with no place to operate. Eight stevedoring firms are staring at closure, and countless workers face unemployment," Parkot said.

He added that the Chief Minister had assured them he would convene a meeting with port officials soon.

Goa-IDC conducts workshop for architects to streamline plan approvals

Over 50 architects attend interactive training on the new online system aimed at speeding up construction clearances

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Goa Industrial Development Corporation (Goa-IDC) successfully conducted a hands-on workshop on its Online Building Plan Approval System (OBPAS), aimed at training architects in the streamlined submission and approval of building plans via its OPEN portal.

Attended by over 50 architects, the workshop provided an in-depth demonstration of the OBPAS module, focusing on its functionalities, benefits, and compliance mechanisms. The interactive session addressed practical queries from participants and offered insights into the system's end-to-end approval workflow.

Pravimal Abhishek, Managing Director of Goa-IDC, highlighted the Corporation's commitment to digital transformation and improving efficiency in industrial infrastructure development. "When I joined



two years ago, I observed a lack of clarity in the approval process. Meetings were held behind closed doors, there was no structured agenda for discussing files, and applicants were often left in the dark about why their plans were not approved," he stated.

To tackle these inefficiencies, Goa-IDC initially introduced procedural reforms—such as keeping agendas open until all files were discussed and inviting architects, engineers, and industry representatives to participate in the meetings. "These measures significantly expedited approvals," he said.

Building on that progress, the OBPAS now transitions the entire approval process online. "Industries can now apply for both technical clearance and construction licences through a single application. The system also includes a built-in tool for architects to verify compliance with regulations before submission, reducing errors and saving time," Abhishek explained.

The OBPAS platform is powered by a system developed by the eGov Foundation, Bengaluru. This trusted digital solution is currently operational in

more than 2,500 towns and cities across India and over 15 countries worldwide. "We didn't reinvent the wheel. Instead, we leveraged an established, reliable system and customised it to suit our requirements," Abhishek added.

The workshop featured a live demonstration of the portal, with participants encouraged to provide real-time feedback. The event also included a review of the Architect Manual prepared by Goa-IDC, which outlines the guidelines and requirements for building plan submissions. Feedback from architects on the manual included valuable suggestions aimed at improving clarity and usability.

This interactive exchange helped align Goa-IDC's regulatory framework with the practical needs of the architectural community, reinforcing a more efficient and architect-friendly approach to approvals.

Usgao women thank PWD officials with watermelons for restoring water supply

Team Herald

PONDA: After weeks of protests over an acute water crisis, women from Usgao, Bethora, and Prabunagar Curti expressed their gratitude to Public Works Department (PWD) officials in an unusual yet heartfelt manner—by offering watermelons.

The officials, who had faced multiple demonstrations and grievances, were finally greeted with smiles and appreciation at the Daag Ponda PWD office for successfully restoring water supply to the affected areas. Residents of Vadbhag and Tambadighati in Usgao panchayat had endured a severe water shortage for over a month. With taps running dry due to technical issues in the pipelines, women had staged protests, including a 'gagar morcha' (march with empty water vessels), demanding immediate action.

Panchayat member and Congress leader Manisha Usgaonkar, who led the protests, visited the office of PWD Assistant Engineer (AE) Kashinath Saraf to acknowledge the department's efforts. "We had approached the PWD multiple times about the crisis. A few



days ago, women carried empty vessels to demonstrate the severity of the issue. The AE assured us of a 100 per cent resolution, and he kept his promise," Usgaonkar said.

For the past four to five days, residents have been receiving regular piped water

“The water crisis has been resolved, and this gesture of offering watermelons is a small token of our appreciation for their hard work – Manisha Usgaonkar, Usgao panch

supply, bringing much-needed relief in the sweltering summer heat. Expressing their appreciation, the women, led by Usgaonkar, visited Saraf and his team, including Junior Engineer (JE) Yashraj Talpi, who played a key role in identifying and fixing the issue.

The water supply disruption

was traced to blockages in the pipelines serving Vadbhag and Tambadighati. JE Talpi and his team conducted a thorough inspection and successfully restored the supply.

"The people are relieved and grateful for the engineers' dedication," Usgaonkar stated. "The water crisis has been resolved, and this gesture of offering watermelons is a small token of our appreciation for their hard work."

After weeks of frustration and agitation, the atmosphere was finally one of gratitude, as PWD officials welcomed smiles and fresh watermelons instead of protests.

APPOINTMENTS

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● Age Limit: 20 to 29 years ● No visible tattoos ● Height: Male 5.3 ft.; Female 5 ft.

Interview: SATURDAY, 12th April 2025
Venue: HOTEL GOA WOODLAND, Rua Miguel de Loyola Furtado, opp. City Bus Stand, Margao, Goa 403601

Contact: **M/S. JOBSITE OVERSEAS CONSULTANTS**
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