

shorttakes**DHARBANDORA RESIDENT FOUND DEAD AT MOLLEM**

MARGAO: The body of Kamlesh Naik, 43, from Bhavesh Farm, Shettimola-Dharbandora, was found floating in the Dudhsagar River at Perimol Sangod, Mollem. Collem Police visited the site at Perimol-Sangod, Mollem and found the body near the bhandara. With the help of locals, the body was retrieved. After thorough search, a wallet containing a driving licence revealed the deceased's identity. Police conducted the panchanama on the body, which was sent to South Goa district hospital, Margao, for a post-mortem examination.

SANVORDEM RESIDENT BOOKED FOR ILLEGAL HILL CUTTING

MARGAO: Deputy Town Planner, Quepem, Vrinda Phal Dessai has filed a complaint with the Quepem Police stating that Gaurish Salgaulkar of Tony Nagar Sanvordem, allegedly carried out illegal hill cutting in Survey No. 32/8 of Sanvordem. This action was reported in accordance with the Chief Town Planner's assessment. Curcholem Police have registered the offence under Section 17-A of the TCP Act, and Curcholem PSI Pramod Tari is investigating the matter.

OUR LADY OF SEVEN DOLOURS FEAST AT ST TOME CHAPEL

PANJIM: The traditional Feast of Our Lady of Seven Dolours will be celebrated on April 11, at St Tome Chapel, Panjim. The Service will commence at 5.30 pm with Rosary of Our Lady of Seven Dolours, Motets followed by Solemn High Mass and singing of the Veronica. The Chapel will remain open from 8 am to 8 pm for the public veneration of the statues of Christ, Our Lady of Seven Dolours and Holy Cross.

BRIDE-GROOM MELAWA IN SHIRODA ON MAY 4

PONDA: The Ponda Saraswat Samaj will organise a bride-groom melawa on May 4, at Kamakshi Saunthan Hall in Shiroda, from 10 am to 4.30 pm. The event is being held in collaboration with the Kamakshi Saunthan. Following the success of two previous gatherings, the Samaj is hosting the third event in response to the enthusiastic interest in the bride-groom meetups. Those interested can obtain the application form at Shree Kamakshi Saunthan Samiti Office, Shiroda and submit the same with the necessary details by April 20.

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH SUMMIT

PANJIM: The Inspectorate of Factories and Boilers will organise Goa's first Occupational Safety and Health Expo and Summit from April 10-12, at the Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium, Bambolim. The event will feature keynote addresses by industry pioneers, panel discussions, live demonstrations of safety technologies, and B2B networking opportunities. For delegate registration, email delegate.goashexposummit@gmail.com or visit www.goashexposummit.com.

NATIONAL FIRE SERVICE DAY & FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

PANJIM: The Directorate of Fire and Emergency Services will observe National Fire Service Day on April 14, followed by Fire Prevention Week from April 14-20. The event commemorates firefighters who lost their lives in the 1944 Bombay Dock Explosion and aims to promote fire safety awareness. This year's theme, "Unite to Ignite, a Fire-Safe India," will be highlighted through interactive sessions, drills, and awareness campaigns across the State. Poster Competition will be held April 5 for children aged 7 between 10 under the theme "Flames of Harmony & Destruction", while those aged between 11 and 14 will design posters on "Be Fire Safety Champion: Protect, Prevent, Prepare" followed by quiz competition on April 16 for high school students. Fire safety demonstrations will be held at panchayats, schools, industries, and municipalities. Blood Donation Camp will be organised on April 19 for the public followed by Goa Fire Run 2025 on April 20. A ceremonial tribute will be held on April 14.

power shutdown

● **MARGAO:** On April 10, from 9 am to 6 pm. Affected areas are D'Silva Villa, near Pandava chapel, St Anthony Complex, New High School, T B Cunha School, opposite Idinha Apartment and surrounding areas.

● **VERNA:** On April 10, from 9 am to 2 pm. Affected areas are Velsao Pale, Bellem, Infant Jesus, Dando and Fabrica.

● **BICHOLIM:** On April 10, from 9 am to 2 pm. Affected areas are Kumyamal, Sal-Punarwasan and surrounding areas.

● **PONDA:** On April 10, from 9 am to 2 pm. Affected areas are near Police Station Ponda, near Goa State Bank Ponda and surrounding areas.

● **CURTORIM:** On April 10, from 8 am to 3 pm. Affected areas are Vagulem and Gogali.

● **DAVORLIM:** On April 10, from 9 am to 2 pm. Affected areas are Baga Zoriwaddo, Pundaliknagar, Vasudev nagar, Layamati, Taleband, Indona, Datta Mandir area and entire Davorlim Panchayat area.

● **NAVELIM:** On April 11, from 9 am to 2 pm. Affected areas are Dongrim Shirod-

kar, L and L Pearl, Dongrim Chapel. Liendri, Matrix, Rawnafond to Navelim road and library.

● **PONDA:** On April 11, from 9 am to 2 pm. Affected areas are electricity colony Curti and surrounding areas.

● **OLD GOA:** On April 11, from 9 am to 2 pm. Affected areas are Naik Navar, Viva Goa, Kadamba Housing Society, Uttam Darshan, Salle 59 (Navelkar Pride), Harbans Vihar, Belmonte and vicinity of Kadamba Plateau.

● **BICHOLIM:** On April 11, from 9 am to 2 pm. Affected areas are Murdi Narva, Thikajan and surrounding areas.

● **CURTORIM:** On April 11, 2025 from 8.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. Affected areas are Gogali and Vagulem.

● **MARGAO:** On April 11, from 9 am to 6 pm. Affected areas are Idinha Apartment opposite Paramsukh Co-op Society, opposite fire station, Eagle House, Padma Medical Store, T B Cunha school, Hotchips, Luis-e-nana Meson house and surrounding areas.

● **AROSSIM:** On April 11, from 9 am to 2 pm. Affected areas are Baga, Cansaulim Church, Xendo, Cottarvaddo, Cuelim and PHC.

Notices to 15 Ponda flats for releasing sewage into the open

PMC allows 7-day period to prevent sewage flow into the open, after which disconnection notices will be enforced

Team Herald

PONDA: To address the issue of apartments, commercial establishments, and hotels releasing waste into the open, the Ponda Municipal Council (PMC) said that 15 notices have been sent to these establishments with a mandate for immediate sewage connections to avoid water disconnections.

It is pertinent to note that the 15 MLD sewage treatment plant (STP) has been in operation since last year.

It has come to the PMC's attention that approximately 88 buildings, including apartments, commercial establishments, and hotels, are releasing waste into the open.

PMC Chief Officer Yogiraj Gosavi stated that since issuing 15 disconnection notices, some buildings have started the application

SANTOSH NAIK

Waste being released into the open in Ponda

process for sewage connections. The ultimate goal is to achieve 100 per cent residential building connection to the operational

Ponda STP.

He said, "The release of sewage and hotel waste into open nullahs and drains has resulted in worsening conditions, causing pollution and foul odour for nearby residential areas. Septic tank overflows have also been reported. To combat this, the PMC had warned the violators two months ago."

Gosavi said, "The PMC has allowed a seven-day period for corrective action to prevent sewage flow into the open, after which disconnection notices will be enforced. The town residents are encouraged to establish sewage connections. Temporary measures are also mandated within this seven-day period for bungalows, flats, hotels, and restaurants, alongside the initiation of the sewage connection application process."

He said, "In October, PMC had a meeting with the sewage corporation and a deadline was set for people to apply for sewage connection by December; however, only 200 applications have been received to date. Charges are Rs 3,000 per apartment, with commercial rates applicable for hotels. A charge of 35 per cent of the water bill will be applied for sewage, with a 50 per cent penalty for non-payment, in addition to further penalties and potential disconnection."

"Presently, disconnection notices have been issued to 15 residential houses, prompting them to apply for sewage connections. Councillors have been actively distributing sewage application forms to encourage local residents to apply for sewage connections," Gosavi added.

SAFETY AT STAKE



The damaged wall of a culvert at the T-junction near Ribandar Patto, in need for urgent repairs, poses a significant threat to commuters

LUPENDRA NAIK

BJP firm on contesting all seats

Team Herald

PANJIM: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) State President Damodar 'Damu' Naik on Wednesday expressed firm resolve on the party contesting all 40 seats in the 2027 Goa Assembly elections.

Speaking to reporters, Naik said, "When we say that we will contest then we will contest. How we will contest that will be disclosed at appropriate time. Why should we disclose it now?"

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Damodar 'Damu' Naik, BJP State President

"We need people of our ideology. You can recall the situation of 2002 when Bhai (Late Manohar Parrikar) was the chief minister. There was a system then.

Questions were raised systematically," he said.

Naik said there are some MLAs who have been elected twice or thrice and think that whatever they say is right.

He said party will be strengthened in all the 40 constituencies and same is being done. Naik, however, did not reply to the question on coalition with Maharashtra Gomantak Party (MGP).

"We do not want to be blackmailed. We want like-minded people," he added.

2 booked for forging Anjuna Comunidade documents

Team Herald

PANJIM: A complaint has been filed by Sebastian D'Souza, Attorney of the Comunidade of Anjuna, alleging large-scale forgery in connection with over 2 lakh square metres of Comunidade land.

The complaint, lodged at Mapusa

on April 8, names Yeshwant Sawant and Minakshi Sawant, both residents of Assagao, and other unidentified persons for allegedly forging several documents—including certificates of provisional and final possession, demarcation proceedings, and official orders—dating back to the 1950s to take possession of

land bearing Survey Nos. 496/1 and 496/1-A at Anjuna. The accused allegedly impersonated officials of the Anjuna Comunidade, forged their signatures and handwriting and used the forged documents to unlawfully transfer rights over the Comunidade property, states the complaint.

Goa's temple town grappling with severe parking space shortage

Ponda residents face parking difficulties at key locations as vehicles are parked for extended periods

Team Herald

PONDA: Goa's temple town is rapidly developing with new residential and commercial projects, which has exacerbated the severe shortage of parking spaces in Ponda.

The town's residents are facing parking difficulties near key locations - State Bank of India, mamlatdar building, police station, market and bus stand.

Over 1.5 lakh residents from four constituencies of the taluka, frequently visit government offices, markets, schools, and the Bagayatdar Bazaar, leading to significant congestion and vehicles often parked along roadsides also result in traffic disruptions. Despite



Vehicles parked along roadsides result in traffic disruptions.

the vast areas within the jurisdiction of panchayats in the taluka, the town is geographically small, which intensifies the problem.

Naresh Naik, a local said, "Finding a parking space in the town has become a major challenge. The parking scarcity often forces motorists to park their vehicles on main roads or in no-parking zones. This

leads to conflicts with traffic officials who issue fines, as people demand designated parking areas before receiving challans."

The practice of individuals parking vehicles for extended periods while they go to work or industrial estates further compounds the issue. This leaves those visiting the market or government offices struggling

to find parking, as roadside spaces remain occupied.

PMC chairperson Anand Naik said, "Some people keep their vehicles in parking area for the entire day thus causing inconvenience to others. PMC has taken decision to introduce pay parking system to decongest the town and has also identified some areas for parking. The pay parking system will come into force after hotmix carpeting of all roads."

Vishal Fadte from Ponda said, "While the PMC is making efforts, the residents continue to face parking problems due to the shortage of spaces. There is a need to identify additional parking areas before implementing the pay parking system."

Launch mini buses in Mercedes up to GMC, urge Santa Cruz elders

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Senior Citizens' Welfare Association for Santa Cruz constituency, on Wednesday submitted a memorandum to the Imagine Panaji Smart City Development Limited (IPSCDL) and KTC chairman urging them to introduce Bungee bus service (mini buses) in Mercedes up to Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMC), Bambolim.

In the letter it stated that the Mercedes village was about 2.5 to 3-km away from Panjim bus stand but the irony was that the government had never introduced independent bus service for the Mercedes village. Due to absence of the independent bus service for Mercedes, the people had to depend on the Chimbel or Batim-bound buses, which are plying through Mercedes.

According to association president John Nazareth, there are several wards in Mercedes such as Vaddy, Temba, Carmita,

Carmibhat, Moloca, Oilem Bhat, Bamon Bhat, etc, which are away from the bus stops on which the Chimbel and Batim-bound buses stop. Owing to this problem, the villagers specially the senior citizens had to totally depend upon their children or neighbours to transport them to Panjim or to the bus stops to travel to Chimbel or Batim-bound bus service or having no option they are compelled to hire taxis to visit Panjim or GMC, Bambolim for treatment. Finding no help, the senior citizens remain inside their own houses and it affects their health, he said.

Nazareth said that recently the North Goa District and Sessions Court was shifted to Mercedes and the employees travelling by public transport had to make use of Chimbel or Batim bus service, but had to alight at the first stop named Madani and walk a distance of about 800 metres for about five to 10 minutes.

Rooms damaged, furniture gutted at Khareband

7 cylinders removed from bldg; narrow staircase complicated rescue efforts; five fire tenders were pressed into service

Team Herald,

MARGAO: A massive fire erupted in the Daud building at Khareband-Margao, damaging rooms and destroying furniture and other valuables.

The poor condition and narrow staircase of the building which houses 75 rooms complicated rescue efforts.

Firefighters removed seven cylinders, preventing explosions.

FSO Gil Souza was briefly hospitalised, but later returned to duty.

Souza said they received a call about the fire at approximately 2.42 pm. He, along with Divisional Officer Francisco Mendes and other firefighters, rushed to the scene with a fire tender.

According to sources, no injuries were reported, though some residents were advised to seek medical attention for stress.



A firefighter engaged in dousing operations at Daud building at Khareband

The fire, which started around 2.42 pm, affected the third and second floors. Five fire tenders were pressed into service including two from Margao and one each from Cuncoim, Verna, and Ponda. Fire tenders from Panjim and Sanvordem were contacted, but were later sent back as 25 firefighters brought the fire under control after three hours.

The cause of fire is yet to be ascertained, and an investigation is underway. The Fire Department will

request an investigation by the Electricity Department and the authorities will contact the building's owner.

Deputy collector, police, and government officials were present to oversee the operation.

The Margao Police team is investigating and is expected to register a fire accident report.

Earlier, on receiving news about the incident, residents of Benaulum, Khareband, and Margao gathered at the site.

Auto major to refund full amount towards defective bike plus fine

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Goa State Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission has ordered an automobile company to refund full amount paid by the complainant towards defective two-wheeler and compensation of Rs 50,000 for the mental agony and inconvenience caused to the complainant.

Socoro Willy D'Costa of Palcutta-Orlim, Salcete, had filed an appeal against the order dated 24/07/2024 passed by the North Goa District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission. He had sought direction to the automobile company M/s Royal Enfield, a unit of Eicher Motor Ltd, Chennai and its authorised dealer Saini Motors, Margao, to replace the "defective" bike with extended warranty for additional three years and to pay him a compensation of Rs 20,000.

D'Costa had purchased an Enfield bike from the authorised dealer on November 11, 2020 and he found some technical issues with the bike and it started malfunction in a bad way day-by-day. He also said that the chassis was faulty and the compa-

ny later replaced the chassis but even after replacement the performance was bad which could risk his safety on the road.

The complainant stated that there was negligence on the part of the company and the authorised dealer and alleged that they were running an unfair trade practice.

The company and the dealer denied the allegations made against them. They claimed that the vehicle was provided in a complete road worthy condition without any defects and after due pre-delivery inspection. All the issues raised by the complainant during service were looked into by them and the bike was delivered to him in road worthy condition.

The complainant alleged that the company replaced the chassis with same number; and once the chassis was replaced, he was unable to bring the bike on the road. If the chassis had to be changed, it should go through the legal process, he said, adding that the bike was lying idle.

The company lawyer stated that they had resolved the problem and there was no manufacturing defects with the bike as it covered mileage of 4,637 kms.