

After goof-up, Goa Police plan to challenge bail granted to trio

Accused granted bail after cops failed to communicate grounds, reasons of arrest in writing in language understood by accused, relatives

PANJIM: The Goa Police are reviewing the release of three accused arrested in a dacoity case, who were granted bail forthwith by the Goa Children's Court, Panjim, with a view to challenge the

“The police are examining the order releasing the three dacoity accused and intend to challenge it — Akshat Kaushal, North Goa SP



Meanwhile, the complainant, Pappu Biswas of Marra, Pilerne, has filed a criminal revision application before the High Court challenging two orders passed by two different Judicial Magistrates First Class (JMFC), Pernem. These orders remanded the three accused to judicial custody instead of police custody and subsequently saw the Goa Children's Court order their release.

According to Advocate Raju Paulekar, who is representing the complainant, the criminal revision application is likely to come up for hearing on Tuesday.

Bangladeshi monk nabbed at Mopa airport with fake passport deported

Team Herald

PANJIM: A Buddhist monk from Bangladesh, who was arrested in the State for possessing a fake passport, has recently been deported by the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO), Goa.

Shourab Barua 25, was arrested at Manohar International Airport in December last year while attempting to flee to the United Kingdom. He was apprehended by the Bureau of Immigration at the airport's departure counter while attempting to travel using an Indian passport, which he had obtained by submitting forged documents in Nashik, Maharashtra.

Investigations revealed

that Barua had infiltrated India from Chittagong to West Bengal in 2021 on a tourist visa and claimed to be a Buddhist monk. From Bengal, he travelled to Gaya, a Buddhist pilgrimage site in Bihar. With the assistance of a local contact in Gaya, he then proceeded to Nashik, where he acquired a fake Indian passport in 2021.

Following Barua's disclosure, police arrested one Abhiyanand alias Munna Roy from Nashik, who allegedly provided the forged passport to the monk. Police further revealed that Barua had used the fake passport to travel to Thailand and Cambodia in 2022.

During the trial, Barua pleaded guilty before the Judicial Magistrate First

Class (JMFC), Pernem, and the Court convicted him. He was sentenced to undergo simple imprisonment for two months and 19 days. Upon completion of his sentence, the FRRO Goa made arrangements for his deportation via Mumbai.

The police have now filed a charge sheet against Munna Roy under Section 7(1)(3)(iii) of the Foreigners Order, 1948; Section 14 of the Foreigners Act, 1946; Sections 3(a) and 6(a) of the Passport (Entry into India) Rules, 1950; Sections 3 and 4 of the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920; and Sections 212, 336(2), 336(3), 337, 339, 340(2), and 318(4) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Roy is currently facing trial before the JMFC, Pernem.

PILERNE DACOITY CASE

order before the High Court of Bombay at Goa.

The Goa Children's Court last week released Subhash Kumar, Dhiraj Gupta, and Ibran Shah, all residents of Colvale, after the Porvorim Police failed to communi-

cate the grounds and reasons of arrest in writing and in a language understood by the three accused and their relatives, as mandated under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).

When contacted, SP North Akshat Kaushal, IPS, stated that “the police are examining the order releasing the

three dacoity accused and intend to challenge it.” He however denied that the police had failed to communicate the grounds and reasons for arrest in the required manner under the BNSS.

Kaushal asserted that the police had complied with all procedures and were using the Bhashini App—India's AI-led language trans-

lation platform developed by the Ministry of Electronics & IT, Government of India—to inform the accused and their relatives in their native languages. The app enables easier access to the internet and digital services in Indian languages, including voice-based access, and supports content creation in Indian languages.

180 kg of mangoes with ethylene ripener seized



Team Herald

PANJIM: The Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) conducted a surprise inspection at the sub yard market in Mapusa and seized 180 kg of mangoes that were found to contain sachets of ethylene ripener inside the boxes.

Officials stated that the mangoes have been sent to a laboratory to determine whether they were being artificially ripened using non-approved methods. The test results are expected within seven days and will be made public, they added.

Food and Drug Administration officials inspected seven units at Siolim engaged in selling local varieties and eight at the Mapusa Sub Yard dealing in mango varieties from other states. A total of 24 samples of various mango varieties and four samples of other fruits were collected. During the inspection,



“The mangoes have been sent to a laboratory to determine whether they were being artificially ripened using non-approved methods. The test results are expected within seven days and will be made public — FDA official

two units at the Mapusa yard were found with suspicious material, leading to the seizure of their stock. The samples have been sent to the laboratory for chemical residue analysis.

SIESTA TIME



Men, some of them shirtless and inebriated, occupy the benches that line Margao's Municipal garden

Massive fire on Odshe Dongor in Sanguem

Team Herald

SANGUEM: A massive fire broke out on Odshe Dongor in Devlamol, Sanguem, rapidly spreading from the surrounding dry grasslands to the nearby forest, prompting an urgent response from emergency services.

The Curchoem fire services personnel rushed to the spot upon receiving an alert and successfully contained the flames near residential areas and fields, preventing the blaze from spreading to nearby homes.

“We extinguished the fire in the fields and around neighbouring homes. However, the fire continues to persist in the forest area. Since our vehicle isn't suited for forest terrain, we've informed the Forest Department to take over,” said a fire fighter at the scene.

CM allots land for Ambedkar Bhavan in Porvorim, assures completion

Team Herald

PANJIM: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Monday announced that 2,140 square metres of land has been allocated at Porvorim for the construction of Ambedkar Bhavan, with a funding allocation of Rs 10 crore.

Speaking after paying tributes to Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar at Dr Ambedkar Park in the city, the Chief Minister said, “I have been saying for the last few years that land will be allocated for the construction of this project, but today I am proud to announce that 2,140 square metres of land will be allocated at Porvorim, and a fund of Rs 10 crore has been earmarked for the same.”

Sawant assured that the foundation stone for the Bhavan will be laid within

SHRIPAD NAIK FLAGS OFF STATE-LEVEL JAI BHEEM PADYATRA IN PANJIM

PANJIM: Union Minister of State for Power and Renewable Energy, Shripad Naik, on Sunday flagged off the State-level Jai Bheem Padyatra at Azad Maidan, Panjim.

The Padyatra was organised jointly by the Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs, in association with the Nehru Yuva Kendra Goa, NSS units, Goa University NSS units, and members of Yuganayak and other Jai Bheem organisations in the State, to mark the 134th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar. Naik was the chief guest of the Padyatra programme. Also present on the occasion were Sudhir Dhuri, Registrar of Goa University; Arvind Khutkar, DSYA; Kalidas Ghantwal, District Coordinator, NYK Goa; Dr Nitin Sawant, State NSS Coordinator, Goa University; Milind Mate, Deputy Director of Art and Culture; Mandrekar, District Welfare Officer; Dr Vivek Pawar, Deputy Director of Sports; and Pravin Dessai, Coordinator on behalf of the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, Government of India. Various other dignitaries and around 500 NSS and youth volunteers from across the State also participated. The Padyatra concluded at Dr B R Ambedkar Udyan, KTC bus stand, Panjim.

the next six months, and the project will be completed within the current tenure of the government.

Blue Cab's prepaid taxi services suspended from Mopa Airport

Team Herald

PERNEM: Tension prevailed at Mopa, Pernem after the GMR Airports Limited issued notices to Blue Cab prepaid taxi operators to suspend their taxi operations from the Manohar International Airport, Mopa, Pernem from Tuesday, April 15.

The directions have been issued over the failure to obtain security clearance from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India and the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).

The notices have been issued for non-compliance of the terms of the licence agreement dated November 23, 2023 between the Blue Cab Prepaid Taxi Association, Mopa and the GMR Airports Limited (GAL). Under Clauses 2.1.3 and 7.1.14 of the Licence Agreement, the Blue Cab operators were required to obtain security clearances from the MHA and the BCAS. In spite of repeated requests and reminders to comply with the same, the blue cab operators failed to obtain the security clearances, which is a continuing breach of the licence agreement.

Firemen turn saviours, save 398 lives, property worth Rs 44 cr in 2024

PANJIM: Goa's valiant firefighters have managed to give a good account of themselves and been lauded for rescuing 398 people and saving property worth over Rs 44 crore during the last year.

In a significant recognition of their heroic efforts, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant announced on Monday that fire personnel in Goa will now receive a fire risk allowance from this financial year, acknowledging the immense risks they face in their line of duty.

Speaking at the National Fire Service Day 2025 event at the Goa State Fire and Emergency Services headquarters in Panjim, the Chief Minister highlighted the exceptional contributions made by fire personnel in the previous year. He revealed that firefighters saved 398 lives and safeguarded property worth over Rs 44 crore in 2024. He emphasized that the mandatory requirement for a fire safety certificate for buildings and industries was not introduced to harass but to ensure the safety of citizens.

“Our firefighters are the unsung heroes who put their lives on the line every day. Their dedication deserves not only appreciation but also proper compensation,” Sawant stated.

The Chief Minister further noted that Goa has become the first state in the country to establish 11 fully operational cyclone shelters, a significant boost to the state's disaster preparedness.

The event underscored Goa's growing focus on enhancing disaster response infrastructure and ensuring continued support for emergency service personnel. Chief Secretary Dr V Candelou, Director of Fire and Emergency Services Nitin V Raiker, and several other dignitaries attended the event.



Traditional coconut pluckers reclaim livelihood in Sanguem

Agri Dept trains, empowers locals; aims to preserve Goa's traditional occupations

Team Herald

SANGUEM: In a significant boost to traditional occupations and rural self-employment, the Directorate of Agriculture has revived the lost livelihood of coconut pluckers in Sanguem taluka through skill development and free access to modern equipment.

Led by Zonal Agricultural Officer (ZAO) Agresh Shirodkar, a seven-day training programme titled Friends of Coconut Tree (FoCT) was recently held to train individuals — many of whom had previously abandoned the profession — on modern coconut harvesting techniques.

Participants were provided free climbing machines to help them compete with migrant workers, who have dominated the trade in recent years.

“Under this scheme, participants undergo 8 to 10 days of hands-on training, including practical climb-

“Earlier, without machines, the work took too long and people stopped calling us. But after the training and armed with climbing machines, things changed — Bomo Varak, Coconut plucker, Sanguem

“Under this scheme, participants undergo 8 to 10 days of hands-on training, including practical climbing sessions and educational modules on coconut tree care, disease management, and value-added uses of coconut — Agresh Shirodkar, Zonal Agricultural Officer

ing sessions and educational modules on coconut tree care, disease management, and value-added uses of coconut,” said ZAO Shirodkar. He urged local youths to take advantage of such programmes for sus-

tainable self-employment.

One of the programme's success stories is Bomo Varak from Kashiti, Sanguem, a once-unemployed traditional plucker, who had been sidelined due to the physically de-

manding nature of manual climbing. “Earlier, without machines, the work took too long and people stopped calling us. But after the training and armed with climbing machines, things changed,” Bomo shared. He now earns between Rs 1,000 and Rs 1,500 per day and has regained his dignity through self-reliance.

The FoCT initiative not only empowers local workers but also aims to preserve Goa's traditional professions, which are rapidly disappearing due to mechanisation and the influence of external labour. The programme has already trained 25 individuals, many of whom are now actively plucking coconuts either as professionals or on their own plantations.

Officials say this is just the beginning, with more such training programmes planned across the State to promote heritage-linked employment and reduce dependency on external labour.

