

shorttakes

GADAG YOUTH ARRESTED FOR STEALING GOLD CHAINS WORTH RS 3.6 LAKH

PANJIM: The Panjim Police have arrested Suraj Dodamani 24, a native of Gadag, Karnataka, residing in Caranzalem, in connection with a theft case involving gold chains worth Rs 3.6 lakh. The theft occurred on two occasions, March 26 and April 1, at a shop in Alfred Apartments, Caranzalem. Dodamani confessed to the theft during interrogation, and all three stolen gold chains were recovered. Police credited CCTV footage from the scene and additional footage from the Smart City surveillance network with helping identify and apprehend the accused.

TRUCK OVERTURNS NEAR SIRLIM, CAUSES TRAFFIC SNARL ON NH66

MARGAO: A truck carrying washing machine parts overturned near Sirlim on NH66 early Sunday morning after a tyre burst, spilling its load and blocking the highway. The 6:45 am accident caused significant traffic congestion as raw materials scattered across the road. While initial reports said the driver escaped unhurt, later updates confirmed both the driver and cleaner sustained injuries. Margao police and traffic officials rushed to the scene, using a JCB to clear the debris and restore movement. The injured were taken to a nearby hospital, and authorities are probing whether speeding or mechanical failure led to the tyre blast. Normal traffic flow resumed after hours of cleanup efforts.

THREE ARRESTED FOR GRIEVOUS ASSAULT IN ARLEM RAI, MARGAO

MARGAO: Pravin Rathod, Arjun Rathod, and Harishchandra Rathod, all residents of Arlem Raia, have been arrested by the Maina Curtorim Police for assaulting Ganesh Lamani with a pipe and an iron rod, resulting in grievous injuries. LPSI Veronica Coutinho has registered an offence against the three accused under Sections 118(1), 118(2), and 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023. The complaint was filed by Devdas Lamani, Ganesh's brother, who stated that on April 11, at around 13:15 hrs, the accused attacked his brother over a property dispute. According to the complaint, the accused used a pipe and iron rod to strike Ganesh over the head, inflicting grievous injuries. When Devdas attempted to intervene, the accused allegedly assaulted him as well, causing simple injuries with slaps, fists, and blows from the weapons on his hands, legs, and stomach.

SEVENTH ACCUSED IN PILERNE DACOITY CASE ARRESTED IN BENGALURU

PANJIM: The Porvorim Police have apprehended the seventh accused in connection with the dacoity case that was registered last month. According to SP North Goa, Akshat Kaushal, IPS, police had been actively tracking the remaining suspects. Intelligence gathered pointed to Mithlesh Indradev Yadav (24), a resident of Camurlim, Bardez, who had been staying in Bengaluru. A team from the Porvorim Police Station, led by SDPO Vishwesh Karpe and PI Rahul Parab, with PSI Arun Shirordkar, Head Constable Vinay Shrivastava, and Constables Hemant Gaonkar and Nitesh Gaude, travelled to Bengaluru where they arrested Yadav. Yadav was subsequently produced before the court, which granted him five days of police custody. Yadav, who has a history of criminal activity, was involved in two cases in 2024—one of theft and one of assault, both registered at the Pernem Police Station.

THREE BOOKED FOR FORGING FORKLIFT REGISTRATION TO GAIN ACCESS TO PORT

VASCO: The Mormugao Police have filed a case against three individuals for allegedly forging the registration number of a forklift to gain unauthorised access to the Mormugao Port premises. The forged registration was also allegedly used in a motor vehicle accident, which could have caused loss to others and resulted in cheating authorities. The three accused—Shamil Ahmed Mouzang of Vasco, Imamasab Olekar of Haveri (Karnataka), and Mohammad Furkan Khan of Uttar Pradesh (currently residing in Vasco)—are accused of conspiring together to commit the offence. Based on a complaint from PSI Yeshwant Raikar, the Mormugao Police have filed charges under Sections 336(2), 336(3), 340(2), and 318(3) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023. PSI Saidatta Naik is leading the investigation, guided by PI Dheeraj Devidas, with overall supervision by DySP Gurudas Kadam.

UNIDENTIFIED MAN DIES AFTER FALLING FROM VASCO-SADA BRIDGE

VASCO: An unidentified man was found dead near the Our Lady of Vailankanni Chapel, next to the railway tracks below the Vasco-Sada Bridge on Friday. A local resident informed the Vasco police, who found the man unconscious with head and body injuries, likely caused by a fall from the bridge. The victim was taken to the Sub-District Hospital in Chicalim, where he was declared dead. The police conducted a panchnama and preserved the body at the Hospicio South Goa District Hospital in Margao for medico-legal procedures. The police have registered the incident as an unnatural death under Section 194 of the BNS. PSI Mayur Sawant is investigating the case under the guidance of PI Kapil Nayak. Police believe the deceased was a beggar who frequented the Vasco area and often appeared to be intoxicated. They suspect the fall was accidental, as there is no protective crash guard on the bridge.

MARGAO FIRE PERSONNEL TACKLE THREE INCIDENTS IN A SINGLE DAY

MARGAO: Fire personnel from the Margao Fire Station responded to three incidents in one day, including two fire-related incidents. According to Fire Station Officer (FSO) Gil Souza, the first fire broke out in dry grass near the Wholesale Fish Market at Margao. Fire personnel were able to bring the fire under control within an hour. The second fire occurred in a bundle of plastic waste near Gogal, which was successfully extinguished by the fire team. FSO Souza also mentioned receiving a call regarding a dog falling into a pond behind Rajendra Prasad Stadium at Calcondem. However, upon reaching the spot, the crew conducted a thorough search and found no animal in distress. It was determined that the call was a false alarm.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE BODY FOUND NEAR GMC BAMBOLIM, PROBE UNDERWAY

PANJIM: A body of an unidentified male, estimated to be around 50 years old, was found near a kiosk close to the Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMC) in Bambolim on Sunday. North Goa SP Akshat Kaushal, along with police officials and a forensic team, visited the site for investigation. The cause of death is currently under investigation, and authorities are working to identify the deceased.

Guirdolim gram sabha opposes plan to rezone 37,000 sqm orchard land

Villagers back road-naming in honour of athlete Seraphino Antao

Team Herald

MARGAO: Residents of Guirdolim village have strongly objected to a proposal seeking to reclassify around 37,000 square metres of orchard land in the village as settlement. The opposition was voiced at the gram sabha, where members resolved to forward their concerns to the Town and Country Planning (TCP) department.

The meeting, presided over by sarpanch Sonia Fernandes,

also saw the approval of the village panchayat's budget estimates for the financial year 2025-26. Several gram sabha members urged the panchayat to initiate rent collection after verifying tenancy records and to act swiftly to recover pending tax dues.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Fernandes confirmed that the gram sabha passed a resolution highlighting objections to the proposed land conversion. "The matter concerns orchard

land measuring 37,000 square metres. As per the resolution, we will communicate the gram sabha's decision to the TCP department," she said.

The land use proposal reportedly seeks to change the zoning from orchard to settlement under the Regional Plan. However, villagers expressed concern over the environmental implications of such a move and the possible threat to agricultural land in the area.

Another key highlight of the

gram sabha was the unanimous decision to name a village road after Seraphino Antao, a renowned athlete of Goan origin who made history representing Kenya. Members noted that Antao clinched gold in two events at the 1962 Commonwealth Games, becoming the first Kenyan to do so at the international level.

"The resolution was passed to honour his achievements and ensure future generations remember his contributions," Fernandes

stated.

The gram sabha also deliberated on the need to support local sports development. Members recommended that the panchayat allocate resources for the Guirdolim Sports Club to encourage greater participation in sporting activities.

The meeting concluded with a consensus on strengthening administrative efficiency, preserving agricultural land, and honouring local legacies through thoughtful commemorations.

SACRED STEPS



A statue of the Virgin Mary and Jesus carrying the Cross is carried in a solemn procession through the village of Aldona as part of Holy Week observances on Sunday

House tax arrears, water shortage debated at Aldona

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Aldona Panchayat is set to adopt a firmer approach against house tax defaulters, as repeated notices have failed to elicit a response, said Sarpanch Ashwin D'Souza at the ordinary gram sabha held on Sunday.

Responding to concerns from villagers regarding rising tax arrears, the Sarpanch said, "The Panchayat will now take proactive measures. Defaulters who do not clear dues after receiving demand notices may face power disconnection or sealing of their premises."

D'Souza added that demand notices would be issued once again, and the Electricity De-

partment would be requested to disconnect the power supply to non-compliant households. Additionally, the possibility of sealing premises of persistent defaulters was also discussed.

The Sarpanch further informed that the Panchayat is considering withholding construction licences for new multi-dwelling units unless adequate water infrastructure is ensured.

Water shortages, garbage disposal, and taxation were other key issues discussed during the meeting. One resident claimed that multi-dwelling units often deploy booster pumps to siphon water from public pipelines, worsening the supply

shortage. Another suggested that these units be taxed at commercial rates due to their high consumption and impact on local resources.

Residents also highlighted that several multi-dwelling units had not implemented proper waste management systems. In response, the Panchayat agreed to take action. The Sarpanch assured attendees that all such units would be served notices to install functional dustbins by April 16.

Later, speaking to the press, Sarpanch Ashwin D'Souza remarked, "It was an ordinary gram sabha. There was a presentation of an annual expenditure statement and an administrative report."

Tourist fractures leg in accident on Calangute beach

Team Herald

CALANGUTE: A 17-year-old boy from Delhi fractured his leg after losing his balance while swimming at Calangute Sunday. According to Drishti Marine, lifeguards quickly responded to the incident, bringing the youngster ashore using a spine board and providing first aid. He was later shifted to a hospital for further treatment.

In a separate incident at the Baga beach over the weekend, a five-year-old child from Uttar Pradesh, who was left under the care of a relative while his parents went shopping, wandered off alone. The child was soon found by a lifeguard and safely returned to his parents after verification.

Additionally, lifeguards carried out three double rescues along the coastline, including saving two kayakers from Karnataka who were drowning at Palolem Beach. At Mandrem Beach, two Russian women aged 60 and 62, who were caught in a current, were also rescued. Two 21-year-old male tourists from Chandigarh, who were non-swimmers, panicked when they found themselves 25 metres from shore at Anjuna Beach but were safely rescued by lifeguards.

Bastora gram sabha discusses flooding, road digging, migrants

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Bastora gram sabha, held on Sunday, saw residents voice concerns over a host of civic issues including illegal houses, flooding, road digging, desilting of drains, and the presence of unmonitored migrants in the village.

During the meeting, villagers questioned the panchayat on its preparedness for the upcoming monsoon season and the condition of roads, particularly in areas where ongoing digging could pose a danger.

"How are we preparing for the monsoon? At the junction, there is digging. It is going to be dangerous if it rains," one villager asked.

Speaking to reporters following the meeting, Sarpanch Rakhi Naroji stated, "It was the first gram sabha of the year. We did a follow-up on the last gram sabha. People raised the issue of hawkers seated along the roads. We told them patrolling is being conducted. Whenever we receive complaints, action is taken."

She added that, following a High Court order, the panchayat had issued notices to 51 houses suspected

of being illegal. "Following a High Court order, the panchayat had issued notices to 51 houses suspected of being illegal. We have received replies to the notices as well. This will be discussed in the next gram sabha" - Rakhi Naroji, sarpanch

"We have received replies to the notices as well. This will be discussed in the next gram sabha," Naroji said.

The issue of desilting of drains also came up for discussion. The panchayat assured the villagers that the work had already commenced and that follow-up work would be completed before the arrival of the monsoon.

The issue of migrants also cropped up when it was stated that semi-clad men mostly in drunken stupor were loitering the streets at nights were posing nuisance to women. The villagers demanded that the panchayat deal the issue with an iron hand by discussing the issue with the police.

Chaos at Usgao market: Vendors encroach road, locals fear accidents

Team Herald

PONDA: Despite a recent court directive instructing the government to clear encroachments from main roads, the situation at Usgao PDA market remains unchanged, with vendors reportedly spilling onto the roadside, causing chaos and prompting safety concerns among residents.

In the evenings, vendors operating from within the market shed are seen moving their goods - including vegetables and fish - onto the road in an attempt to attract more business. While this results in brisk trade, it also hampers the flow of traffic and obstructs pedestrian movement, leading to traffic congestion and a risk of accidents.

Locals have raised alarm over the increasing encroachment and are calling on the Panchayat and the Public Works Department



(PWD) to conduct a joint inspection as mandated by the court order. Residents have expressed fear over potential accidents and have demanded immediate intervention to restore safety on the main road.

"The vendors sitting in the PDA Market later in the evening carry their goods and come to the roadside to sell their wares. This causes chaos and obstruction on the main road," said a concerned resident. Despite the court's di-

rective, the vendors appear either unaware of or indifferent to the legal order, and the Panchayat has so far been unable to curb the encroachment.

Usgao-Ganjam Sarpanch Ramnath Dangui acknowledged the situation, stating, "I have informed the traffic cell about the encroachment, asking them to take action. People are blaming the Panchayat for the chaos. These vendors have encroached on the road and are causing disorder."

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He further added that the old PDA Market is set to be demolished, with a new facility proposed at the same site, which is expected to help in resolving the issue long-term.

As the authorities deliberate, residents continue to demand immediate enforcement of the court order and relief from the encroachment that threatens their daily commute and safety.

Birthday Greetings
Shri FRANCISCO SARDINHA
 EX- MP SOUTH GOA
 &
 to my Grand daughter
Magellan Martins
Best Wishes From:
FRANK MARTINS
 BANDFOLL - CHINCHINIM

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
FRANCISCO SARDINHA
 (EX. CHIEF MINISTER OF GOA, EX. M.P. SOUTH GOA)
Best wishes from
DIOGO MONTEIRO, MARIA MONTEIRO & THEREZA.
 MALABHAT, MERCES.

Birthday Greetings

SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA
 (Ex. Chief Minister of Goa, Ex. Speaker and Ex. M.P. South Goa)
 We wish a Happy Birthday, may God bless you with good health & happiness.
 From your Well Wisher.