O HERALDO

voice of goa

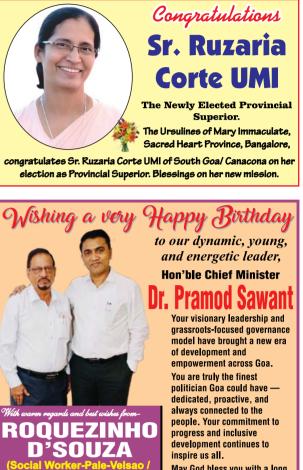
Vasco police register cheating case in FD fraud

Team Herald

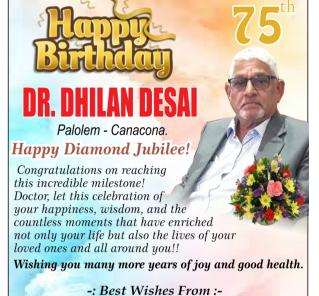
VASCO: Vasco police have registered a cheating case against Mohammad Zaki Khan, an agent of the Sahara Credit Co-operative Society Ltd, Vasco Branch, for allegedly defrauding Sharavan Kumar Sharma, a resident of Baina, Vasco, of Rs 2.12 lakh. According to the com-plaint filed by Sharma, between 2012 and 2014, Khan induced him to invest Rs 2.85 lakh in a Fixed

Deposit (FD) scheme with the society. However, Khan is accused of fraudulently obtaining a loan of Rs 2.12 lakh against the FDs in Sharma's name, without his knowledge or consent.

The loan amount was reportedly misappropriated by the accused for personal use, leading to the financial loss. An offence under Sections 406 (criminal breach of trust) and 420 (cheating) of the IPC has been registered in the case.



May God bless you with a long healthy, and impactful life in the service of the people



Activist group calls for protecting Panjim's flood-prone areas

GBA says rezoning of flood-prone areas in city will allow multi-story constructions with increased FAR of 300 and a height of 40 metres; want the areas to be reverted to their original zoning

Team Herald

PANJIM: Calling upon Town and Country Planning (TCP) Minister and the Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) to protect flood-prone areas and save Panjimites from danger, the Goa Bachao Abhiyan (GBA), a group focused on environmental protection and civic activism in Goa, voiced strong opposition to the rezoning of flood-prone areas in Panjim, stating that the rezoning would allow multi-story constructions with increased Floor Area Ratio (FAR) of 300 and a height of 40 metres. The GBA demanded the areas be reverted to their original zoning.

Addressing a press conference, former CCP councillor Patricia Pinto and GBA convenor Sabina Martins said, "We, the people of Panjim and Goa need

to live life without fear of flooding. We have seen

cloudburst wrecking in

Jammu and Kashmir a few

davs ago. Just a cloudburst

will get Panjim flooded. We

welcome the TCP Minister's

idea of afforestation, but at

the same time as the TCP

Minister please look into

the issue of rezoning of all

flood-prone areas of Panjim

which is against the order of

the Chief Town Planner and

against CRZ laws in force.

Please revert these areas

into their existing zoning

and then we will know you

are really serious about

Marked as recreational

area also known as Quar-

terdeck as per the Outline

development Plan (ODP) of

Panjim, Pinto said that the

government has proposed

to allow a multi-Storey con-

struction by increasing the

FAR (floor area ratio) from

5 per cent to 300 per cent

greening urban areas."

GBA said as per Paniim ODP, Quarterdeck is marked as recreational area Accused govt of proposing to allow a multi-storey construction by increasing the FAR from 5% to 300% & height of 40 metres Claimed this was done to establish an entertainment hub to cater to visitors of casinos, knowing that it is a flood-prone area Opposed zone changing for the proposed 'Passenger Ropeway Project"

and height of 40 metres. ernment swimming pool, She alleged that this was Campal to the Reis Magos done to establish an enteracross River Mandovi along tainment hub to cater to with ancillary tourism acvisitors of casinos and detivities. The government spite knowing that it is a has acquired 8,000 square metres of land at Reis Maflood-prone area. The TCP Department is breaking gos to construct buildings its own order and going for the ropeway project against the CRZ regulaand it will require felling of tions in force. trees, Pinto said.

The GBA also opposed the zone changing for the activities proposed are arproposed 'Passenger Ropetificial skiing, artificial skyway Project" from the govdiving, scuba diving, aquar-

GBA'S NO TO ZONE CHANGES

The ancillary tourism

from Campal to Reis Magos across River Mandovi with ancillary tourism activities Alleged that the govt has acquired 8,000 sgmts at Reis Magos to construct buildings, for which trees will be felled

Objected to the change of public/institutional zone to 300 FAR and a height of 40 metres to allow construction of a pvt commercial venture near Miramar beach, which is partly flood-prone

> ium, a restaurant and a kids zone activities, she said, adding, "Do we need this overcrowded Panjim? We don't want these artificial activities, but Panjim to be natural.

the change of public/institutional zone to 300 FAR and a height of 40 metres to allow construction of a private commercial venture near Miramar beach, the area which is partly flood-

objectives of CRZ laws are to promote development in a sustainable manner on scientific principles taking into account dangers of natural hazards in coastal areas and sea level rise due to global warming. The government should strictly implement CRZ laws and should not grant approval blindly and under pressure, they stated appealing to the GCZMA to

prone.

Pinto and Martins also

appealed to the Goa Coast-

al Zone Management Au-

thority (GCZMA) to protect

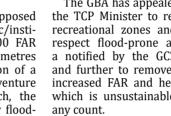
flood-prone areas and save

Panjimites from danger. The

The GBA has appealed to the TCP Minister to retain recreational zones and to respect flood-prone areas a notified by the GCZMA and further to remove the increased FAR and height, which is unsustainable by any count.

The GBA further opposed

protect flood-prone areas.





regrowing water hyacinth, despite prior clearing efforts

ACB raids residences of suspended cops in meat bribery case

Team Herald

mitted by the complainant **Team Herald** to the police and is being

Govt deploys drones to curb illegal LED fishing in Goa waters

'K'taka objecting to joint inspection of Mhadei basin'

Team Herald

PANJIM: Water Resources Department Minister Subhash Shirodkar has said that while Goa is in favour of a joint inspection of the Kalsa-Bhandura project in the Mhadei basin, the Karnataka Government has once again objected to the move, citing the matter as sub judice.

Speaking to the media on Wednesday, Shirodkar said the demand for a joint inspection was listed as agenda item two at the fourth PRAWAH meeting held in Bengaluru on Tuesday. "As usual, Karnataka objected, claiming the matter is sub-judice and cannot be interfered with." he stated.

The Central government, according to the minister, has written to PRAWAH instructing it to consult legal counsel on the matter. "PRAWAH will act based on the legal opinion received, but Goa has reiterated its stand that a joint inspection must be conducted," Shirodkar emphasised. When asked about Karnataka's

continued resistance, the minister remarked, "Only those who have done something wrong object to inspection. We have nothing to hide."

In a related development, Goa has extended support to Maharashtra in the ongoing discussions, stating it has no objection to the Virdi Dam project.

CC For the last ten

being carried out. These

drones have the capacity

although our jurisdiction

kilometres into the sea.

The cameras are able to

capture details of the staff

on individual boats. This

service has been initiated

on a pilot basis for two

Nilkanth Halarnkar,

Fisheries Minister

months,"

to monitor around ten

kilometres of area.

extends up to 12

days, drone

surveillance is

PANJIM: Sleuths of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Wednesday carried out searches at the residences of suspended Police Inspector Sunil Gudlar and suspended Head Constable Mohammad Hussain, both of whom were recently arrested on allegations of demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 25,000 from a Karnataka-based meat trader.

The ACB team raided the residences of the two suspended cops and are reportedly searching for other locations where the PI was believed to be staying.

Meanwhile sources within the ACB revealed an alleged conversation recorded by the complainant. in which Head Constable Hussain is heard stating that a higher bribe amount was necessary to "fix" the meat trade issue, claiming that another senior officer also had to be paid off. This recording has been sub-

treated as corroborative evidence in the bribery investigation and cops are going to probe as to who the third official who could be.

The ACB team that conducted the raid included PIs Melito Fernandes and Satish Gaude, PSIs Sameer Haldankar and Nilagi Majik, Head Constables Sainath Sawant and Dayesh Chodankar, and Police Constables Sapnil Salgaonkar and Snesh Naik.

Sources further disclosed that the team is expected to visit the Konkan Railway Police Station today to gather additional evidence related to the case. In the meantime, Rahul Naik has been assigned charge of the Konkan Railway Police Station following the suspension of the accused officers.

When questioned on the matter, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant stated, "The PI has already been suspended."

PANJIM: In a bid to crack down on illegal fishing particularly activities, the controversial use of LED light fishing, the Goa Fisheries Department has launched a drone surveillance pilot project to enhance monitoring and

> coastal waters. Speaking to reporters in Porvorim, Fisheries Minister Nilkanth Halarnkar explained that drone technology will significantly improve real-time monitoring of violations, especially in areas where traditional pa-

> enforcement efforts across

trolling is difficult. "For the last ten days, drone surveillance is being carried out. These drones have the capacity to monitor around ten kilometres of area, although our jurisdiction extends up to 12 kilometres into the sea. The cameras are able to capture details of the staff on individual boats. This service has been initiated on a pi1.5

lot basis for two months," Halarnkar said.

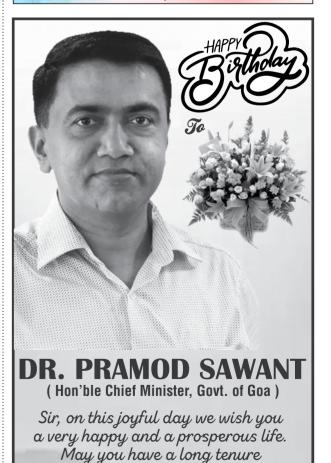
The Minister further stated, "In the forthcoming fishing season, we will be able to monitor boats while seated in our Panjim office. This will be especially useful in keeping a check on illegal fishing using LED lights. A tender will now be issued, and the drone service will be extended for a period of one year. The drones will be operated from our office in Paniim." Illegal fishing practices, including bull trawling and LED light fishing, have raised alarm among environmentalists and traditional fishing communities, due to their destructive impact on the marine ecosystem. These methods often

attract and trap juvenile

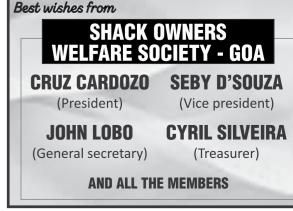
fish and other marine species, threatening biodiversity and the livelihoods of traditional fishermen.

Local fishing communities have long demanded stricter penalties, increased surveillance, and a complete ban on LED fishing. The introduction of drone surveillance is seen as a significant step toward addressing these concerns.

KRISHNA PAGUI and Fly SAI VALENTINES RESORTS & Staff, Palolem.



to carry on the good work.



Tourism Dept cracks down on illegal yachting operations

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Department of Tourism has issued a strict directive to all watersports operators conducting yachting activities in the State, mandating full compliance with the provisions of the Goa Registration of Tourist Trade Act, 1982 and Rules, 1985. The action comes in the wake of a rising number of operators conducting yacht services without the requisite No Objection Certificate (NOC), licence, or official permission

from the Department.

safety, transparency, and ac-As per the official circular countability. Unregulated opissued by the Department, all erations pose a risk not only to such operators must registourists but also to the environter their activities within 15 ment. We urge all operators to working days from the date of come forward and regularise issuance of the notice. The ditheir services under the existrective is aimed at regulating ing legal framework."

yachting services, enhancing This initiative forms part tourist safety, and ensuring of a wider strategy by the adherence to legal procedures. Department to enhance com-Director of Tourism, Kedar pliance among tourism stake-Naik, underlined the signifiholders and to promote recance of this move, stating, sponsible tourism in line with Goa's vision for a well-regulated and sustainable tourism

"The Department is committed to streamlining watersports activities in the State to ensure ecosystem.

Scamster impersonating 'CBI officer' dupes Canacona woman

MARGAO: A woman from Nagarcem, Canacona, was defrauded of Rs 3 lakh by an unknown person who impersonated a telecom company representative and later posed as a CBI officer.

According to the complaint filed by Vidhi Bhaireli of Nagarcem, Canacona, the incident began when an unknown individual contacted her, claiming her mobile number was at risk of being permanently banned. The caller advised her to obtain a clearance certificate from the CBI to prevent the disconnection.

Subsequently, Bhaireli received a message via WhatsApp from a person posing as a CBI officer. The impersonator falsely claimed that another SIM card issued in her name

had been used in human trafficking, and that a bank account opened in her name at HDFC Bank was involved in illegal activities.

The accused further intimidated the complainant by warning her that all her bank accounts would be frozen unless she transferred her money to a "government merchant navy account." She was initially instructed to visit Delhi to obtain the alleged clearance certificate. However, when she declined, she was told to complete the process online.

During the so-called "online clearance process," the complainant was manipulated into carrying out RTGS bank transfers, ultimately leading to a financial loss of Rs 3 lakh.