

shorttakes

MAPUSA YOUTH DROWNS IN WATER CANAL AT CUCHELM

PANJIM: A 26-year-old youth from Mapusa drowned in the Tilara Canal near the water treatment plant at Cuchelim on Thursday. The deceased is identified as Omkar Prabhudesai. The incident occurred while he had allegedly gone for a swim with a friend this afternoon. His body was recovered from the canal by Fire & Emergency Services personnel with the help of locals.

FDA SHUTS DOWN ILLEGAL BIRYANI KITCHENS, SEIZES SUB-STANDARD CASHEWS

CALANGUTE: In a crackdown on food safety violations, the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) on Tuesday raided three premises in Nagoa and Calangute that were allegedly operating as illegal biryani kitchens. The premises, which were supplying biryani to retail outlets across the coastal belt, were found to be unlicensed and functioning in unhygienic shanty conditions, and were immediately ordered to cease operations. In a related action, FDA officials also shut down a neighbouring premise that was distributing mineral water bottles sourced from a Maharashtra-based manufacturer without the mandatory FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India) licence.

MAN ASSAULTED WITH HAMMER AND IRON ROD IN MARGAO

MARGAO: Raghuvendra Dwivedi sustained serious injuries after being attacked with a hammer and iron rod by three men near Station Road, Margao, in the early hours of Wednesday. According to police, the assault occurred around 1am and was reportedly due to a prior enmity. Dwivedi has filed a complaint against the accused—Sujeet Singh, Deelip Kumar, and Sunil Singh—all residents of Aqem, Margao and originally from Uttar Pradesh. The complaint states that Sunil Singh restrained the victim while Sujeet Singh and Deelip Kumar allegedly struck him on both knees with a hammer and iron rod. Margao police have registered the case under Section 118(1) read with 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023. Further investigation is underway.

UNIDENTIFIED BODY FOUND FLOATING IN ZUARI RIVER, POLICE INVESTIGATE

MARGAO: An unidentified male body, aged around 45, was discovered in a partly decomposed state floating in the Zuari River near Manas Sorla Macasana, by the Maina Curtorim police. Police, along with fire personnel and locals, recovered the body from the river but the deceased's identity remains unknown at this stage. The body was transported to the SGDH Morgue in Margao for preservation and further medico-legal formalities. A scene of the occurrence Panchnama and an inquest Panchnama were conducted at the location. The investigation is being led by LPSI Veronica Coutinho of Maina Curtorim Police Station. Further inquiries are ongoing to determine the identity of the deceased and the cause of death.

RUSSIAN NATIONAL FOUND DEAD IN ARAMBOL GUEST HOUSE

PANJIM: A 37-year-old Russian national, Azat Sadykov, was found dead in his room at a guest house in Arambol, Pernem, on April 23. Police were alerted after Sadykov failed to respond for a prolonged period, prompting concern among staff. Authorities have initiated an investigation into the circumstances surrounding his death.

SEPTUAGENARIAN DIES AFTER FALL AT HOME, INVESTIGATION UNDERWAY

MARGAO: Neves Rebello, a 76-year-old resident of Deusa-Chinchinim, passed away at GMC Bambolim while undergoing treatment for injuries sustained in a fall at his residence. Cuncolim police received a wireless message from the Casualty Police at GMC Bambolim informing them of Rebello's death. Upon enquiry, it was revealed that Rebello had fallen at his home, resulting in injuries. The body has been preserved at GMC Bambolim for further medico-legal formalities. PSI Aditya Sawant of Cuncolim Police Station is investigating the case.

DR WISEMAN TO CHAIR INTERNATIONAL CYTOLOGY CONGRESS IN ITALY

PANJIM: Dr RG Wiseman Pinto, professor of Pathology and former Dean of Goa University, has been invited to serve as Chairman and Faculty at the 22nd International Congress of Cytology, to be held in Florence-Italy, from May 11 to 15. Organised by the International Academy of Cytology and SIAPEC (Società Italiana di Anatomia Patologica), the conference will take place at Fortezza da Basso and is expected to host over 700 delegates from 60 countries, including 36 from India. Dr Pinto, who also serves as President of the Asian Society of Cytopathology, will chair key sessions and deliver lectures on the Salivary Gland Milan System for Reporting, fungal infections in cytology, and a slide seminar on infectious diseases. The conference will explore the latest developments and innovations in cytopathology, including WHO reporting standards, artificial intelligence, digital cytology, liquid biopsy, liquid-based cytology, interventional procedures, HPV testing, and vaccines. The event promises to be a hub for global collaboration and research shaping the future of the field. More information is available at www.iccflorence2025.com.



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CANDOLIM PHC EARNS TOP MARKS IN NQAS CERTIFICATION

CALANGUTE: The Primary Health Centre (PHC) in Candolim has achieved an impressive 96.56% score—highest among bedded PHCs in North Goa—to qualify for the National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) certification. The assessment, carried out by the National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC), New Delhi, took place on 3-4 April. This latest recognition follows the PHC's recent receipt of the National Kayakalp Award 2024-25, while its Arpora-Nagoa sub-centre also earned NQAS certification. PHC health officer Dr Roshan Nazareth credited the success to the efforts of nodal officer Dr Vanita Shetye, the entire PHC team, and director of health services Dr Rupa Naik. He also expressed gratitude to MLA Michael Lobo and the Candolim village panchayat for their support, noting that the achievement came "in spite of not having modern infrastructure".

Borim resident fears losing home to new bridge project

Team Herald

PONDA: The sword of Damocles is hanging over the head of a resident of Murme, Borim, in distress as he fears losing his ancestral home to the new Borim Bridge project.

Tulsidas Naik, a resident of Murme, Borim, is left panicking because the officials have been frequently visiting his house to measure and value it for land acquisition related to the new bridge's approach road. While he's been informed that his house will be affected, Tulsidas denies receiving any assurance with regards to relocation or compensation.

Speaking to **O Herald**,



This 100-yr-old house is being acquired for a new bridge project

Tulsidas said he inherited the house from his grandfather and father and has been living here for over 100 years. The uncertainty has forced him to

spend sleepless nights, especially since the government has proposed a new Borim bridge and bypass road through Borim and Loutolim khazan.

Borim and Loutolim residents have approached the National Green Tribunal (NGT) due to the loss of their khazan fields for the bridge. Despite the disruption and marking of his house and trees for the road, Tulsidas recalled that Chief Minister Pramod Sawant previously stated that no houses will be touched by the new bridge.

Rahul Naik, a friend of another affected house owner, Premanand Naik, mentioned that the Borim bridge case is currently pending in the NGT.

He believes that locals with houses in the area should not be harassed while the case is pending before NGT.

Duo held for trespass, nuisance at Mapusa College

PANJIM: The Mapusa Police have arrested Arjun Ghuran Baraik (27) and Teju Etwam Manjhi (27), both residents of Jharkhand, for allegedly trespassing and causing nuisance during a Nagpuri cultural celebration at Mapusa College, on April 20. According to the complaint, filed by college administrator, the group gathered on the college grounds without permission, consumed alcohol in public, got into a fight, and littered the premises—thereby endangering the safety of the users and defaming the institution. Videos of groups of young men some of whom had allegedly come for this event, drinking in the open at Mapusa bus stand had also gone viral prompting the Excise dept to take action on four liquor shops.

GROOMING THEM YOUNG

JOSEPH FERNANDES



Mapusa traffic police conduct training for school traffic wardens at St. Thomas Girls High School in Aldona

KTCL launches new bus services on interstate routes

Team Herald

PANJIM: Kadamba Transport Corporation Limited (KTCL) has introduced brand new Air Conditioned Sleeper buses (2+1) and luxury buses (2+2) on various interstate routes. These services will be available on a daily basis and are aimed at providing comfortable and convenient travel options for commuters.

KTCL has launched a daily AC Sleeper bus service on the Mapusa-Bengaluru route, with departures from Mapusa at 5.30 pm, followed by Panjim, Margao, and Ponda. The route will proceed via Anmod, Dharwad and Hubballi to Bengaluru. The return journey from Bengaluru is scheduled for 7.45 pm.

Another AC Sleeper bus service will operate on the Margao-Pune-Shirdi route, departing Margao at 5 pm, followed by Panjim and Mapusa. The bus will travel via Banda, Pune, and onward to Shirdi. The return leg from Shirdi will depart at 2 pm.

Similarly, KTCL has introduced an AC Sleeper bus service on the Goa-Hyderabad route, travelling via Margao, Panjim, Mapusa,

and Sankhali, then proceeding through Belagavi, Vijayapura, and Kalaburagi. Departures from Goa will begin at 4 pm, with the return journey from Hyderabad scheduled for 5 pm.

KTCL has also announced plans to re-start operations on the Goa-Mumbai (Dhobitalao) route, using an AC Sleeper bus. The service will depart from Margao, Panjim, and Mapusa, proceeding via Banda, Zarap, Chiplun and Khead, with the return service originating from Mumbai Central and Dhobitalao.

In response to commuter demand, KTCL intends to launch new services featuring luxury push-back seat (2+2) non-AC buses on the Goa-Mangaluru-Dharmasthala route. The journey will pass through Karwar, Ankola, Kumta, Honnavar, Kundapura, and Udipi.

Another new service is also being planned on the Goa-Hospete-Hampi route, travelling via Ponda, Anmod, Hubballi, Gadag, and Koppal.

For further details, commuters can visit the KTCL website at www.goakadamba.com or www.redbus.in for online bookings.

Goa's law and order has collapsed under BJP, alleges AAP

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Goa on Wednesday alleged that a steady rise in the crime graph has exposed a disturbing breakdown of law and order in the State.

Speaking to reporters, AAP leader Francis Coelho said that, according to the party's independent research, a total of 106 rapes, 29 murders, 20 attempted murders, three dacoities, 13 robberies, and 365 cases of crimes against women were reported in 2024.

He pointed out that 365 crimes against women averaged one per day, compared to 288 cases regis-

tered in 2023. He also highlighted a rise in cybercrimes, with 56 reported cases and a detection rate of just 35 per cent.

Coelho cited the judiciary's scathing observations in the Gayatri Marathe murder case reported at Vasco, where police allegedly botched every essential aspect of the investigation. "The police failed to find out the motive, there was no identification parade, and grainy CCTV footage was passed off as 'proof'. The court's rebuke was not just a slap on the wrist, it was an indictment of a force losing credibility by the day," he said.

He added that last year, the Anti-Narcotics Cell (ANC) re-

corded its highest-ever drug seizure—85 kg of narcotics worth Rs 6.75 crore, including Rs 12 lakh worth of GHB (Gamma Hydroxybutyrate), a dangerous date-rape drug seized for the first time in Goa's history.

"This, in any decent democracy, would trigger alarm bells. Instead, the police apparatus posts glowing reports of a 96.67% detection rate in heinous crimes, as if the rest of us cannot see through the mirage," Coelho remarked.

On land grab cases, Coelho stated that 708 complaints were filed over the last three years, but only 47 complaints were registered, and a mere eight cases were chargesheeted.

Tribals assn seeks reservation in Assembly

Team Herald

PONDA: United Tribals Association Alliance (UTAA) members led by Prakash Velip met BJP President Damu Naik on Wednesday and submitted a memorandum demanding reservation for Scheduled Tribes (ST) community in Goa Legislative Assembly.

The memorandum stated, "As you know that the then BJP governments - the State as well as Central in 2003 gave tribal status to Gwadva, Kunbi and Velip communities. Thereafter, in four general elections, these communities did not get constitutional right of political reservation in Goa." "Now, last August 2024,

regarding the same, a Bill was introduced in Parliament and then a discussion was allowed in November 2024. In fact the same bill was supposed to be passed, but that did not happen. All State and Central leaders assured us to pass the bill during the Budget Session," it stated. "Now, even in this Budget session the bill was not passed. Therefore, we UTAA, an apex organisation of all tribes of Goa, request you to take up this issue with the Central leadership and fulfil our rightful and long pending demand on getting reservation in 2027 Assembly elections," the memorandum added.

Goa-IDC unveils statewide disaster management plan for industrial estates

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Goa Industrial Development Corporation (Goa-IDC) has joined hands with the Centre for Environment Education (CEE), under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, to develop a comprehensive Multi-Hazard Mapping and Disaster Management Plan for all 24 industrial estates across the State.

As part of the project, a half-day workshop was held at BITS Pilani, bringing together estate managers, Goa-IDC officials and representatives from industrial estate associations to discuss and

align on the objectives and the roadmap ahead.

Speaking at the workshop, Pravimal Abhishek, Managing Director of Goa-IDC, stated, "The idea for the project emerged in response to concerns raised by industries during one of the IDC-Connect programmes. Several industries highlighted the issue of frequent flooding in their units. That's when we realised the importance of conducting a proper hazard assessment and planning accordingly."

He emphasised the importance of sustainable development in Goa, pointing out that although indus-

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– Pravimal Abhishek, Managing Director, Goa-IDC

tries occupy less than 2% of the state's land, they contribute nearly 30% to its economy. "Goa is home to 24 industrial estates, each with its own unique set of challenges. The risks faced by Kundaim are different from those at Verna. This makes estate-specific planning crucial," he added.

Pranoy Baidya, Head of the Research Division at Arannya Environment Research Organisation (AERO), explained how local biodiversity plays a crucial role in determining hazard vulnerability. "Certain grass species are more prone to catching fire due to their high lignin content, while

others are naturally more fire-resistant," he noted. The study will focus on plateau regions to assess fire risks and recommend preventive strategies such as establishing fire breaks. He added that water management will also be a key focus, particularly in regions experiencing drier conditions.

Dr Rajiv Kumar Chaturvedi, Associate Professor at BITS Pilani, Goa campus, emphasised that increasing climate variability has made such hazard mapping efforts more urgent. "Our goal is to translate cutting-edge research and climate modelling into practical, actionable strategies," he said. "By

engaging estate managers and industry stakeholders directly, we can ensure that the outcomes are both useful and scalable."

The launch of the Multi-Hazard Mapping and Disaster Management Plan marks a significant milestone in Goa-IDC's commitment to building climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable industrial estates across Goa. With the active collaboration of research institutions, environmental experts and industry stakeholders, this initiative sets a precedent for data-driven and estate-specific planning across Goa's industrial landscape.

Public drinking resurfaces at Polem beach amid lax enforcement



Broken beer bottles dumped on the beach

Team Herald

CANACONA: Despite a recent report by **O Herald** drawing attention to the issue of alcohol consumption in restricted areas at Polem beach, the problem persists due to a lack of sustained enforcement. Although police presence briefly increased following the report, it has since diminished, allowing the previously flagged behaviour to resume openly.

Visitors, particularly from neighbouring Karwar, have reportedly returned to consuming alcohol in the very zones earlier identified as problematic. This resurgence of public drinking has sparked renewed concern among families, local residents, and tourists, who say the atmosphere has become increasingly unsafe and uncomfortable.

"The situation had improved for a few days after the report came out," said one local vendor. "But now, it's back to how it was—no police, and people drinking in the open, even near families," added a villager.

Compounding the problem is the lack of basic sanitation infrastructure at the beach. Currently, a single plastic dustbin tied to a stone serves as the only waste disposal option. This unsanitary and inadequate arrangement is ill-suited for a beach that attracts a steady stream of tourists.

Litter continues to be strewn across the sand, and no additional bins have been installed to manage the increasing volume of waste.

Locals are calling on authorities to implement long-term measures rather than short-term fixes. Many believe that without consistent monitoring, adequate waste management, and proper infrastructure, the situation will only worsen, undermining the beach's potential as a clean, safe, and family-friendly destination.