

shorttakes

MINOR GIRL KIDNAPPED IN MARGAO, POLICE INVESTIGATE

MARGAO: A 27-year-old woman from Dharwad, Karnataka, has lodged a complaint with Margao police following the kidnapping of her minor daughter on Sunday. The incident, which occurred under the Goa Children's Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023, has led to a police investigation. The authorities have circulated a description of the missing girl across Goa and neighbouring states in an attempt to locate her. Margao police have registered an offence against an unknown person. Similarly, in a related case, Sanguem police are investigating the kidnapping of a minor girl, also under the same legal provisions. Further investigations in both cases are ongoing.

35-YEAR-OLD DIES IN ACCIDENT AT PORVORIM

PANJIM: Umesh Muttagi, 35 from Succor, Porvorim, died after a speeding tempo lost control and crashed outside a temple near the Kadamba depot at Porvorim on Sunday morning. The deceased has been identified as Umesh Muttagi (35) from Succor, Porvorim. According to police, the tempo veered into another lane and rammed into Umesh, who was seated on a bench outside the temple, killing him on the spot. The vehicle also damaged two bikes before collapsing sideways.

DOCTOR SEEKS BAIL AFTER ARREST FOR ALLEGED SEXUAL ASSAULT OF NURSE

MARGAO: Dr Samuel Arawattigi, arrested by Cuncolim Police for the alleged sexual assault of a nurse employed at his clinic, has filed a bail application before the South Goa Sessions Court. Upon receiving the application, the court issued notices to Cuncolim Police, the defence advocate, and the public prosecutor, and has posted the matter for arguments on April 30. The Cuncolim Police, who arrested the doctor on Friday night, have opposed the bail application and submitted their response to the court on Monday. The accused was produced before the court and has been remanded to four days' police custody. The arrest follows a complaint lodged by the victim's mother, alleging that on the night of April 22, Dr Arawattigi, under the pretext of a house visit for treatment, sexually assaulted the nurse at his residence in Benaulum. The victim, who had been employed at the clinic and diagnostic centre in Salcete for several years, informed her family of the incident, leading to the police registering an offence under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

MAN ARRESTED, GANJA WORTH RS 6.30 LAKH SEIZED AT PONDA

PONDA: Benedito Fernandes, a resident of Poinguinim, Canacona, was arrested after ganja worth approximately Rs 6,30,000 was seized during a narcotic raid conducted below the Borim Bridge, Ponda, on Saturday. Acting upon reliable and specific information received from a trusted source, the police carried out a personal search of the accused, during which they found 6.314 kg of a greenish-coloured dry, flowery, leafy substance, having flowering or fruiting tops, suspected to be ganja. During the course of the investigation, the accused was arrested in connection with the crime. Further investigation is being carried out by LPSI Anjali Dhulapkar of Ponda Police Station.

60-YEAR-OLD KILLED IN FATAL ROAD ACCIDENT AT DICARPALÉ

MARGAO: Basappa Metri, (60), a resident of Dicarpale, Davorlim-Navelim, tragically lost his life following a collision between his scooter and a car. Verna police have registered an offence under Sections 281 and 106(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). According to a complaint lodged by Sandeep Naik with Verna Police Station, the incident occurred on Saturday, at 9.06 am, at Keserval-Cortalim. The alleged accused, Neville Joaquim Mascarenhas, aged 25, a resident of Covatem, Cavorim-Chandor and a native of Mumbai-Maharashtra, was driving his vehicle in a rash and negligent manner, endangering human life, while proceeding from Panjim towards Margao. At Keserval-Cortalim, he allegedly struck the rear side of a scooter. As a result, the scooter rider, Basappa Metri, sustained serious bodily injuries and was later declared brought dead at the GMC Hospital, Bambolim.

QUEPEM ROAD ACCIDENT CLAIMS LIFE OF 31-YEAR-OLD

MARGAO: A fatal road accident occurred at Balli, Quepem, resulting in the death of 31-year-old Vikas Kumar from Porvorim, on Sunday. According to the police, Kumar, while attempting to overtake a car at high speed, veered into the wrong lane and collided head-on with an oncoming car. The collision left him with grievous injuries. He was rushed to PHC Quepem by ambulance but was declared brought dead. The body was later referred for post mortem examination at SGDH Margao.

Activists accuse minister of cover-up over Kala Academy 'glitches'

'Chanakya' hired lights & sound equipment: Kala Rakhonn Mandd

Team Herald

PANJIM: Kala Rakhonn Mandd on Sunday strongly objected to the reported claim made by Manoj Joshi, the main actor of the drama Chanakya, that the light and sound systems at the Kala Academy auditorium were excellent and trouble-free.

In a statement, Cecille Rodrigues, General Secretary of Kala Rakhonn Mandd, said an inquiry by the organisation had revealed that the production

house of Chanakya had hired both lighting and sound equipment from outside, as they did not trust the systems installed at Kala Academy.

"In spite of that, a video was made viral where Joshi claimed that what he heard about Kala Academy lights and sound was wrong and he had no trouble in performing the drama," she said. "The Kala Rakhonn Mandd would like to remind the people how the technical blunders created at the iconic Kala Academy

complex have been continuously exposed, with the main curtain not opening during a Konkani drama, another curtain getting stuck midway, the roof leaking and water pouring into the auditorium with little rain, hearing problems in the last rows, the air conditioning system breaking down before performances, and the newly installed lights flickering in between," Rodrigues added.

Chanakya was performed at the Dinanath Mangeshkar Auditori-

um of Kala Academy on 25 April, after which the video was released. On the other hand, Sharad Ponske, another Marathi actor of the drama Purush, had heavily criticised the technical obstacles at the auditorium, due to which he had to stop the performance halfway and continue it after ten minutes using simple floodlights, a few days ago.

As a fallout of this episode, Goa's Art and Culture Minister Govind Gaude had tried to push the technical blunders under the

carpet by claiming that it was a mere two-minute technical glitch and that his opponents had taken a 'supari' to defame his political image.

"The Kala Rakhonn Mandd alleged that it appears the minister has given a 'supari' to some individuals to catch hold of the main actors of the dramas being performed at Kala Academy and compel them to make false and misleading statements in front of the camera, while taking Goa's art-loving people for a ride.

GOLDEN GLOW



A hilltop sunrise unfolds with the sky lit up in vibrant hues of orange, pink and purple in Thivim

Saligao locals demand immediate road repairs before monsoon

CALANGUTE: Residents of Saligao, at a gram sabha held on Sunday, demanded that the PWD immediately repair and hot-mix the roads recently dug up for the laying of water pipelines and electricity cables. Two key roads — the Saligao-Calangute Chogm Road and the Saligao-Pilerne Road — were recently excavated. While one lane of the Chogm Road remains motorable, the Saligao to Pilerne Road has been reduced to a dirt track, severely affecting commuters to the Pilerne Industrial Estate. Locals

also highlighted that a number of accidents involving tourists have occurred along the Chogm Road due to the absence of warning signs or protective barriers.

Residents further pointed out that the Pilerne-Saligao Road and the interior road via the Calangute Police Station had been repaired in January after being dug up a few months earlier for similar pipeline work.

Saligao sarpanch Lucas Remedios informed the gathering that the panchayat has taken up the matter with the government.

Mahila Congress demands urgent action after Canca child abduction attempt

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Goa Pradesh Mahila Congress Committee (GPMC) has demanded immediate government action in response to the rising number of crimes against women and children, particularly following a recent child abduction attempt in Canca-Mapusa.

Reacting to the attempt to abduct a six-year-old girl last week, GPMC president Pratiksha Khalap said, "This horrifying incident has once again exposed the crumbling law and order situation in Goa. The fact that such a crime could occur in broad daylight, in a residential area, is a damning reflection of the state's failure to ensure the safety of its women and children."

Khalap praised the swift response of local

residents, whose vigilance helped prevent a tragedy. "Their courage deserves applause. But it should not be left to ordinary citizens to protect themselves. It is the government's duty to ensure our safety," she asserted.

Recent incidents, such as the shocking robbery at the residence of senior citizens in the esteemed family at Dona Paula, further underline how unsafe Goa has become for the young, the elderly, and women alike.

From sexual assaults to abductions and robberies, Goa is witnessing a surge in heinous crimes, Khalap said. She called for the government to release updat-

ed crime statistics and provide concrete action plans. She also demanded the immediate deployment of beat patrols in residential and school areas, stressing the importance of visible and continuous police presence.

"The state must ensure that public spaces, housing colonies, and school zones are fully covered with CCTV surveillance to deter criminal elements, and launch educational initiatives for children on 'stranger danger' and emergency responses. The Goa Police must ensure the accused is dealt with firmly and that the investigation is fast-tracked to set an example," Khalap said.

power shutdown

MARGAO: On April 29, from 9 am to 6 pm. Affected areas are opposite Navtara hotel, opposite Muthoot Finance, near Ambar apartment, Sunny Stationary, opposite and surrounding areas.

PARODA: On April 29, from 8 am to 2 pm. Affected areas are Gudi, Petrol pump, Sarzora road, Dr Neville hall, Talyawado.

PONDA: On April 29, from 9 am to 2 pm. Affected areas are Sainagar and surrounding areas.

MACAZANA: On April 29, from 9 am to 4 pm. Zoddim will be affected area.

SANCOALE: On April 29, from 9 am to 11 am and from 3 pm to 5 pm. Affected areas are Zuarinagar, Queeny junction, Zuarinagar fish market, Goa Carbonic and surrounding areas.

MARGAO: On April 30, from 9 am to 6 pm. Affected areas are GED quarter Dr Siya Caro Prabu Desai, opposite Sundar HSG society, Home Town and surrounding areas.

TALEIGAO: On April 30, from 9 am to 2 pm. Affected areas are Dando Models Marine Plaza, Bhatan and surrounding areas.

CURTORIM: On April 30, from 9 am to 4 pm. Modsai and Mollar will be affected area.

PONDA: On April 30, from 9 am to 2 pm. Affected areas are Durgabhata and surrounding areas.

APPOINTMENTS

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Adeus Prof Sergio Carvalho – a pioneering activist and an amiable educator

Dr A Freddy Fernandes

PANJIM: Prof Sergio Carvalho, a retired professor of Nirmala Institute of Education, Altinho-Panjim, died on April 27 at the age of 83. Without a doubt, he was one of the most amiable teachers at Nirmala. He was better known as one of the pioneers of activism in Goa and a true blooded Goan who fought for sons of the soil, along with greats such as the towering Matanhy Saldanha and few others.

Prof Sergio Carvalho was the Convenor of the Jagrut Goenkaranchi Fouz - JGF (Army of Vigilant Goans) which launched a relentless battle against unplanned and destructive tourism, courtesy the Congress governments of the 1980s. He was also the founder editor of 'The Goan Weekly' and member of Gomant Lok Pokx founded by Matanhy Saldanha. Prof Carvalho also worked along with Matanhy for the welfare of traditional fishermen at part of the Goenchea Ramponkaranchu Ekvott.

Prof Carvalho with pall bearers carrying a mock coffin with the words "Goenkar Melo" in front of the then Secretariat (Adil Shah place) is a stark image which

come to mind, when we remember his as an activist for the many causes of Goa.

Columnist Fredrick Noronha told **O Herald**, "Sergio's involvement in critiquing the impact of mass tourism on Goa was way before its time. His many campaigns didn't translate into votes in the first-past-the-post electoral system we labour under, but this hardly means these didn't have their value then and now. I'll remember his support for dissent, questioning and even the alternate media. He converted into a postcard a photo (by photographer Sandeep Naik) of policemen lathi-charging young girl students in front of the old Secretariat, freezing it in our memories."

Roland Martins, Coordinator of GoaCan remembers, "The infamous (Congress) Tourism Master Plan was scrapped after the consistent campaign by JGF. The then Govt was forced to provide the plan in a printed format in July 1987, appoint a Sub Committee chaired by Architect Charles Correia who eventually recommend it's scrapping in February 1988."

"The JGF was conceptualised in the lock up in Panjim Police



station on June 5, 1987 after the protesters against the Tourism Master Plan were arrested at Hotel Fidalgo," Roland Martins told **O Herald**.

It is reported in the media, that in a daring exploit, on November 7, the birthday of Prof Sergio Carvalho, a group led by him threw cow dung and rotten shrimps on tourists buses carrying German tourists who arrived by the first charter at Dabolim Airport. He along with the JGF volunteers were arrested at Dabolim Airport and were taken to Vasco Police Station. They were released only late night. The message in Ger-

man on the banner was "Charter Tourists Go back."

Dr Rita Paes, former Principal of Nirmala Institute of Education (NIE) and Director recalled, "Sergio was one of our colleagues and fiercely championed the cause of the environment even as a lecturer. He was also well loved by his students."

Dr Russel D'Souza, Principal of NIE, recounted, "Prof Sergio was my teacher in 1998-99. I remember him as a kind, loving, jovial teacher. He always encouraged his students to compete with themselves. And held no grudge against anyone."

Dr Michael Gonsalves, Senior Journalist based in Pune told **O Herald**, "Prof Carvalho was a very non conventional teacher, very warm, very personal. Egged on by Prof Carvalho we as students participated in some social justice issues, we were in the streets protesting and he instilled in us a sense of social justice. Not to be armchair teachers, but to get involved with the movement of the people for their rights."

Fatima Pereira, Senior Educationist at Sharda Mandir High School says, "He was a multitasking educational rock star and epitome of goodness. To us his

students, he was a down to earth personality who walked the talk, a perfect example of integrity. His towering figure both intellectual and physical commanded respect and attention. His elegant demeanour and fun-loving nature added aura to his classroom, making complex philosophical concepts captivating. He encouraged everyone to challenge assumptions and perspectives. Sir Sergio's legacy lives through the countless lives he has touched."

Diogo Seby Pinto, Retired Senior Educationist & Musician recalls, "Prof Sergio Carvalho was more than a Professor to me. He taught me real life lessons through his work as an activist and environmentalist. I was inspired by his love for environment and we as students always took part in the protests on the streets, be it on issues like unhealthy tourism or environmental degradation. His classroom lectures were always interesting and practical. He had great teaching skills which I picked up in my career as a teacher. "Strive and you shall make it to the top" were the words that linger in my mind till today. RIP Prof Sergio."

Adeus, Prof Sergio Carvalho!