

Gate to Okambi river locked amid spike in drowning cases

Cops directed to step up patrolling at picnic spots during weekends and holidays

Team Herald

PONDA: In response to a recent spate of drowning incidents, the Dharbandora Deputy Collector Nilesh Diagodkar has initiated strict preventive measures to curb river-related fatalities at Dudhsagar. Acting swiftly, officials have locked the gate leading to the Okambi River to stop picnickers from accessing the dangerous stretch of water.

Police have also been directed to step up patrolling at multiple popular river picnic spots, particularly

during weekends and holidays, when large crowds gather to beat the summer heat—often ignoring warnings and previous tragedies.

Despite a government ban on river bathing in South Goa imposed last year and the installation of warning signboards, many continue to flock to riverside locations. The Dudhsagar river, in particular, has seen repeated incidents.

On April 24 and 26, two youths from Vasco and Canacona drowned at Davkond and Okambi, respectively. Earlier, on 14 March, two



A photograph shows a padlocked gate blocking the road to Okambi, in line with the Deputy Collector's order

picnickers lost their lives at the Ganjem-Usgao river during Holi celebrations. Dharbandora Sarpanch

Balaji Gawas expressed concern that visitors routinely ignore safety warnings. Mollem Sarpanch

Suhas Gaonkar added that the panchayat would take necessary steps to restrict access and ensure safety.

Mother booked after 10-yr-old son alleges assault

Team Herald

PANJIM: A 10-year-old boy has filed a complaint against his mother, alleging that she assaulted him with a steel rod at their home in Bordem, Bicholim.

The incident occurred on 21 April and was formally reported on 29 April in the presence of a child helpline caseworker.

Police said the woman allegedly attacked the boy following a dispute with her husband. The child, who sustained minor injuries, was medically examined at the Community Health Centre (CHC), Bicholim. An FIR has been registered, and further investigation is ongoing.

CARES staff unpaid for 4 months, await salary despite promises

Team Herald

PANJIM: Forty employees under the Coding and Robotics Education in Schools (CARES) Scheme, run by the Directorate of Technical Education, have not received their salaries since January, sources revealed on condition of anonymity due to fear of reprisals.

With an average monthly salary of Rs 40,000 and an annual 10% increment, many employees said this was not the first instance of delayed payment. One employee recounted a similar issue during Chaturthi last year and said, "It is disturbing to have to beg for our

salary. If we work, we deserve to be paid."

Another worker noted that they were informed funds were yet to be received. "Salaries are usually delayed by a month or two, but this time it's been four months. Every time we ask, we are told the payment is 'in process'."

Most of the affected joined the scheme in 2023. Initially hired on contract, they are now serving as part of a fellowship that ends in May 2026. Working hours, they said, had increased from 2–6 pm in the first year to 9.30 am–6.30 pm in the second, with some required to work Saturdays.

The situation has placed

many under financial stress. One woman said, "I'm managing, but with a son to take care of, it's very tough."

Deepali Raikar, in charge of salary disbursements, said contract files had been sent for renewal and a cheque forwarded to the State Bank of India. "We've done our processes and are following up. The accountant went to the treasury of the SBI Panjim branch," she said.

Project Director Dr Vijay Borges stated, "The contracts ended in January and were paid till then. From January to March, they weren't paid. Now the money has gone to the bank and they should be paid shortly."

CITU to mark workers' day with rally, criticises govt on inflation and job shortage

Team Herald

PONDA: In observance of Workers' Day on the morning of May 1, the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU), along with various affiliated trade unions, has organised a rally and public meeting at Sanvordem.

Speaking ahead of the event, Nilkant Fadte, General Secretary of CITU Goa, voiced strong criticism of the Central Government over rising inflation, unemployment, and the increasing cost of living. "There is growing inflation, unemployment and price rise in the country. The government has failed to control it, due to which workers are suffering," he said.

Fadte highlighted the plight of industrial workers, stating they face injustice due to poor salaries, which has made their lives miserable. "The government has totally ignored the workers' plight," he said. "The minimum wage was hiked after eight years and it was just Rs 100, which is a great injustice to workers."

Calling for urgent reforms, Fadte demanded a revised minimum wage of Rs 1,000



Nilkant Fadte, General Secretary of CITU Goa, speaking to mediapersons

for unskilled workers to reflect the hardships brought on by inflation. "Similarly, the minimum salary of Rs 26,000 should be paid to unskilled workers considering skyrocketing inflation," he added.

Addressing the concerns of retired employees, Fadte further demanded a minimum pension of Rs 10,000 per month. "At present, they get a very poor pension amount, and it is insufficient for the survival of a retired employee and his family," he said.

Fadte also criticised the government for its failure to tackle rising unemployment over the past decade. He urged the authorities to focus on attracting more

industries and creating job opportunities. In addition, he called for the scrapping of the provision in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) relating to hit-and-run cases, claiming it adversely affects drivers.

He lamented the decline of small-scale industries, blaming government policy for favouring large corporates. "Small-scale industries are on the verge of extinction as the government only encourages big corporates, waives off their loans, and removes subsidies for small businesses. As a result, small-scale industries are finished, and the jobs they once provided to skilled and unskilled workers are also lost," he said.

Fire destroys cashew plantation in Pissurlem, Rs 60 lakh loss reported

Team Herald

PORIEIM: A major fire broke out on Tuesday at a cashew plantation near the DMC mines in Pissurlem, Sattari, resulting in an estimated loss of Rs 60 lakh.

According to officials from the Valpoi Fire Station, timely intervention helped prevent further damage. "We rushed to the site after learning about



the incident and managed to save plantation property worth Rs 2 crore using equipment such as hose

reels and natural fire beaters," a fire official stated.

The cause of the blaze remains under investigation.

power shutdown

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

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.

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.

CARAMBOLIM: On April 30, from 9.30 am to 2 pm. Areas affected are Vikas-nagar, Maganlal, Km Sea, Sapna Sarovar and Vicinity of Carambolim village.

PANJIM: On May 1, from 10 am to 1 pm. Areas affected are Tristar Building, Shiv Towers building, Kohinoor Building, GIDC building and surrounding areas at EDC Patto.

Goa gets boost as HC clears Bhavani to play kabaddi for State

Team Herald

PANJIM: The High Court of Bombay at Goa has ruled in favour of kabaddi player Bhavani Rajput, who was previously blocked from participation by the Madhya Pradesh association.

Goa Kabaddi Association president Dataram Kamat, who was present at the hearing, explained that Rajput, originally from Madhya Pradesh, had moved to Goa a year ago. He had obtained an Aadhaar Card from Goa and secured a No Objection Certificate (NOC) — albeit from a district committee rather than the State body — which had allowed him to be included in Goa's squad for the 71st National held in Odisha.

Although Goa lost in the

quarterfinals, they qualified for the Federation Cup. However, during the online entry process, Madhya Pradesh raised objections, leading the Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India to lock Rajput's participation. Consequently, the Goa State Association relieved him from the training camp on April 19, after explaining the situation to him.

Rajput subsequently filed a case against the association president and the parent body. "Today, he satisfied the judge with his argument, and the judge allowed him to play for the State," said Kamat, adding that the Federation had been directed to unlock his entry.

Rajput has now been reinstated in the Goa State team and remains a probable for the India team representing Goa.

CCP orders closure of confectionery over repairs dispute with building owner

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Commissioner of the Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP), Glen Madeira, has directed a confectionery shop to cease trade and occupation following objections raised by the building owner over ongoing repair work allegedly undertaken without his consent.

On September 4, 2023, the Goa Xavier Company, represented by Superior Joseph Nazareth, lodged a complaint with the CCP. In the complaint, he demanded an inquiry and an assessment of the structural damage caused to the building due to modifications carried out by the confectionery owner. He also requested that no permission be granted to the confectionery without his

consent. Further, he urged the Corporation not to renew the licence without a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from him, being the owner, and to identify the owner through official documentation or relevant NOCs.

The confectionery owner has been directed to halt trade and occupation until the matter—currently pending before the Court of Civil Judge Junior Division, Panjim—is resolved. The case involves both parties in their respective capacities as tenant and landlord.

"If the respondent fails to stop trade and occupation, appropriate action will be taken in exercise of powers conferred under Section 242 of the City of Panaji Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2022, without any further notice,"

states the order issued by the CCP Commissioner.

The respondent has also been instructed not to carry out any construction, alteration, or repair work without written permission from the CCP office. Failure to comply will attract action under Section 269 of the City of Panaji Corporation Act, 2022.

During the course of the inquiry, the Commissioner found that the respondent had not complied with the basic requirements laid down under the statutory provisions of the City of Panaji Corporation Act, 2002. The respondent also failed to submit the necessary documents and did not obtain written permission prior to carrying out any work, as mandated under the Act.

shorttakes

UNIDENTIFIED MAN DIES AFTER BEING FOUND UNCONSCIOUS IN FATORDA

MARGAO: Fatorda police found an unidentified man, aged around 60, unconscious near Inox Theatre, Fatorda. He was rushed to South Goa District Hospital (SGDH), Margao, where he later died during treatment. The body has been preserved for identification and medico-legal formalities. Police conducted a panchanama after receiving information from hospital authorities.

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL BOOKED FOR VISA OVERSTAY IN CANACONA

MARGAO: Canacona police have registered a case against Australian national Ford Kevin Charles for overstaying in India after his visa expired. PSI Ramdas Doifode lodged the complaint, stating the accused had been residing in Galgibaga, Canacona since October 2023. The offence has been registered under Sections 7(1) and 7(3) of the Foreigners Order, 1948, punishable under Section 14 of the Foreigners Act, 1946.

TREE FALLS ON MOVING SCOOTER, YOUTH CRITICALLY INJURED IN CANACONA

MARGAO: A large roadside tree fell on a scooter near Shristhal, Canacona, seriously injuring two youths. One rider, rendered unconscious by the impact, was initially taken to the local CHC and later shifted to SGDH, Margao. The pillar reportedly bore the brunt of the falling branches. Canacona fire personnel cleared the tree, easing traffic disruption. Locals criticised authorities for ignoring repeated requests to remove hazardous trees near a popular temple route.

OLD GOA POLICE RESCUE MAN ATTEMPTING SUICIDE AT SANTA CRUZ

PANJIM: The Old Goa Police successfully intervened and rescued a 40-year-old man who was attempting suicide, allegedly due to family issues, at Santa Cruz on Sunday. Acting on an alert received from the control room, police personnel rushed to the scene and managed to save the individual. He was subsequently referred to the Institute of Psychiatry and Human Behaviour (IPHB) at Bambolim for further treatment.

RUSSIAN BOOKED FOR OVERSTAYING, LANDLORD BOOKED FOR NOT FILING FORM C

PANJIM: The Mandrem Police have arrested Iana Makeeba, 37, a Russian national, for allegedly overstaying in the country. According to police, while patrolling near Khalchawada, Arambol, Pernem, police personnel stopped Makeeba and asked for her legal documents to stay in the country. It came to light that Makeeba was staying illegally without a valid Visa which contravened section 7(1) (3) of Foreigners Order 1948 and Section- 14 of Foreigners Act-1946. During the course of investigation, it was revealed that the accused foreign national was staying at Villa Oceanic Guest House for the last one month and the owner the guest house Leonardo Gracias De Souza had failed to submit 'C' Form pertaining to the foreign national to the Office of the Foreigners Regional Registration Office. An FIR has been registered under section 16 of Foreigners Order 1948 and 14 (C) of Foreigners Act, 1946 against Leonardo Gracias De Souza. Further investigation is in progress, police said.

GARBAGE DUMPING CONTINUES TO PLAGUE MARGAO DESPITE POLICE ACTION

MARGAO: In another case of illegal garbage dumping, a rickshaw was caught on April 27 dumping waste at the property of the comunidade of Loutulim, near Deva Plaúla in Margao. This violation is under investigation by the Maina-Curtorim police, with action taken under the Goa Non-Biodegradable Garbage (Control) Act 1996. Despite efforts to curb the issue, open garbage dumping remains a persistent problem in Salcete, particularly in Margao, where large amounts of waste continue to accumulate. Local residents have expressed concern about the illegal disposal of waste, which often occurs during the night or early hours, exacerbating the spread of rubbish and contributing to public health issues. The practice has led to an increase in the population of stray dogs and cattle, resulting in road accidents. Civic authorities continue to address the issue, but the problem persists across various areas.

FIREFIGHTING EFFORTS AVERT MAJOR TRAGEDY IN SALTETE

MARGAO: Swift action by fire personnel averted a major tragedy after a fire broke out in garbage at the Khareband-Navelim bypass behind the Zudio showroom, Khareband-Margao, Salcete, causing damage in the area. According to information provided by Gil Souza, Fire Station Officer (FSO) Margao, upon receiving the alert, one fire tender accompanied by six fire personnel was dispatched to the site and an operation to control the blaze was undertaken. FSO Souza stated that it took over an hour to bring the fire under control. In a separate incident, an oil spill at Powerhouse Circle, Aquem-Margao, Salcete, was cleared by fire personnel. FSO Souza reported that the operation to clear the road and restore traffic flow took over an hour. Leading Fire Fighter S R Naik conducted the operation. In another occurrence, a mango tree fell onto the footpath at Pecan Pulwado, Benaulim.

ALUMINIUM CONDUCTOR WIRES STOLEN FROM NUVEM ELECTRICITY OFFICE

MARGAO: Unknown accused persons, acting with common intention, committed theft of aluminium conductor wires chained and locked by the Electricity Department and kept in an open area near the Nuvem Electricity Section Office, opposite Carmel College, Nuvem-Salcete, valued at approximately Rs 40,000. Kavendra Naik, Assistant Engineer, Sub Division-III, Electricity Department, Verna, lodged the complaint with Maina-Curtorim Police Station.

Smart City E-bus service sees Rs 1.93 cr revenue in 9 months

Team Herald

PANJIM: Under the Smart City Mission, 48 electric buses are currently operating across seven routes in Panjim, generating a revenue of Rs 1.93 crore within the first nine months of service, Imagine Panaji Smart City Development Limited (IPSCDL) CEO Sanjit Rodrigues announced on Tuesday.

Addressing a press conference in the city, Rodrigues highlighted the growing popularity of the initiative, revealing that monthly earnings rose significantly from

Rs 6.49 lakh in July 2024 to Rs 27.24 lakh by March 2025. He said the service had catered to a total of 16,19,796 passengers between July 2024 and March 2025.

He also noted a shift towards cashless transactions, with digital payments now accounting for 34% of total revenue. "The remaining 65% is still collected in cash, reflecting a balanced but evolving adoption of digital payment methods," Rodrigues said.

Responding to public grievanc-

es regarding difficulties in paying with cash on conductor-less buses, Rodrigues clarified, "The driver accepts the cash but only



if the bus is stopped. The bus stops if the driver has to accept cash. When the bus is moving then there is no chance of accepting the cash."

On the design of bus stops, he stated, "A standard bus stop has been built. However, there is some disagreement on some aspect between the Kadamba Transport Corporation Limited (KTCL) and the contractor. We are again sitting on May 2 and I am hopeful that the disagreement will be over. There is some dispute on a certain amount of money. KTCL will resolve it."

When asked about accessibility, Rodrigues confirmed that all 48 buses are disabled-friendly. "All the buses are of low floor and have ramps which open out. If a wheelchair-bound person wants to get in, then each bus has a place for the wheelchair inside. You just have to make a request to the driver," he said.

As for fare hikes, Rodrigues ruled out any immediate increases. "We are already giving a ten percent discount on digital payments so we are not increasing the fare as of now," he concluded.

APPOINTMENTS

WANTED

LAXMI HEALTH AGENCIES

Accountant
(Margao) minimum
experience 3 years

Sales Executive
(Margao) minimum
experience 2 years

**Laison
Officer**
(Panaji)

Good salary offered for deserving candidate.
Forward resume on
laxmihealth@yahoo.co.in
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