

shorttakes

SCOOTER THEFT REPORTED FROM MARGAO RAILWAY STATION PARKING LOT

MARGAO: K Vithaldas Hegde, a resident of Aquem, Margao, has lodged a complaint with the Margao Town Police stating that an unknown person committed theft of his two-wheeler scooter from the parking lot located behind the Margao Railway Station. The theft resulted in a loss valued at Rs 16,000. An offence has been registered under Section 303(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023.

TWO INJURED IN COLLISION CAUSED BY NEGLIGENCE SCOOTER RIDER AT PADDI

MARGAO: A case of rash and negligent driving has been registered at Cunclim Police Station based on a complaint lodged by Tulshidas Gaonkar. The incident occurred on April 23, at approximately 15.30 hrs at Paddi. According to the complaint, the accused, Yash Arora of Jahangir Puri, Delhi, was riding a scooter with pillion rider Nitin Sharma of Faridabad, Haryana. While travelling from Margao towards Canacona, the accused allegedly lost control of his scooter on a curve in the road at Paddi and veered into the opposite lane. The scooter collided with an oncoming motorcycle ridden by Ram Singh Yadav of IDC Cunclim, originally from Uttar Pradesh. As a result of the impact, both vehicles fell onto the tarmac, and the pillion riders—Sampath Paliwar (from the motorcycle) and Nitin Sharma (from the scooter)—sustained grievous injuries.

QUEPEM POLICE ACHIEVE FULL RECOVERY IN CYBER FRAUD CASE

MARGAO: The Quepem Police have successfully recovered the entire amount in a cyber fraud case following a complaint lodged by one Melisa. The complainant reported that an unknown individual, posing as a customer care executive, contacted her from multiple mobile numbers. The fraudster falsely claimed that her Aadhaar card had been misused and persuaded her to transfer Rs 38,169 via Google Pay to resolve the issue. A prompt and coordinated investigation was launched, involving technical surveillance that led police to Rajasthan. A team comprising PI Arjun Sangodkar and PSI Siddesh Naik of Quepem Police Station, under the supervision of ASP Cyber Akshat Ayush and SP Tikam Singh Verma, was dispatched to the State. Due to their diligent efforts, the Quepem Police achieved 100% recovery of the defrauded amount.

MARGAO POLICE CRACKDOWN ON TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS DURING PATROLLING

MARGAO: In a routine patrol conducted within the jurisdiction of Margao Town Police Station, Police Inspector Suraj Samant initiated action against multiple traffic violations, resulting in the attachment and seizure of several vehicles. During the inspection, two rent-a-bike vehicles were found parked illegally on the footpath and were operating without valid fitness certificates. These vehicles were promptly attached as per legal procedure. In a further crackdown, two motorcycles were seized for operating without number plates and for having modified silencers, which contribute to noise pollution and are in contravention of the Motor Vehicles Act. Legal proceedings have been initiated under the relevant provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act against all violators. "The Margao Town Police remains committed to ensuring public safety and maintaining traffic discipline. Further strict action will be taken against similar violators in the future," stated police officials.

E-BOOK ON EXTRASKELETAL OSTEOSARCOMA RELEASED

PANJIM: An E-Book on Extraskeletal Osteosarcoma edited by Dr R G Wiseman Pinto professor of Pathology and Former Dean Goa University and President Asian Society of Cytopathology was released recently. The E-Book contains all details of Extraskeletal Osteosarcoma, the incidence, sites, prognosis treatment, clinical aspects, histopathology, IHC Immunohistochemistry, metastatic sites, studies conducted in AFIP (Armed Forces Institute of Pathology), USA, Mayo Clinic Rochester USA, MD Anderson Cancer Centre Texas, Minnesota USA and Goa. The E-Book can be assessed free of cost on the website www.pathoindia.com

power shutdown

PONDA: On May 3, from 9 am to 2 pm. Affected areas are Shetye avenue, Satyam Shivan building and Yashwant hall.

CURTORIM: On May 3, from 9 am to 4 pm. Affected areas are Panchabhat and Combhat.

AMBELIM: On May 3, from 9 am to 20 pm. Affected areas are Caroi, Tolleconto, Gurcomord, Zano, Odyzaino, Velim Bazar, Cairowado, Velim Church, Vazwado, Collewado, Banda-Assoina, New Ambelim, SP hall, Ambelim ground, Peda, Ambelim band, Fondop, Sucomadem, Nagbagh, Bagha, Culasowado and Vazwado.

SAO JOSE DE AREAL: On May 3, from 8 am to 2 pm. Affected areas are Nallah, Bethany Convent, Sonu Township, Nessaí 4 road and Green Field.

VASCO: On May 3, from 9 am to 11.30 am. Affected areas are GSL gate, Airport residency, LG showroom, GSL colony, Smita apartment, Triveni apartment, Vidya Mandir school, Arolkar T/C, Sitara residence T/c and surrounding area.

CURTORIM: On May 4, from 9 am to 4 pm. Eclate will be affected area.

VASCO: On May 4, from 8 am to 11 am. Affected areas are Mestawada, Driver Hill, Orulem, down Mangor, near BSNL Tower, Gurudwara, Varunapuri, St Treasa, Shantinagar, Fakir Galli, IOCL, HPCL, Vasco Police Station, Vegetable Market, Morden Market, Cine vasco and near Old Fish Market.

# Right-angled road bend on Farmagudi slope raises safety concerns

Team Herald

SANTOSH NAIK



PONDA: A newly developed right-angled bend on the Farmagudi slope, formed during the ongoing National Highway (NH) expansion, has become a cause of concern for motorists travelling on the Ponda-Panjim stretch of the highway.

The sharp bend, situated along a 1.5 km steep slope from the Panjim to Ponda direction, transitions into an elevated stretch of equal length for vehicles moving in the opposite direction. The unique topography of the area, coupled with the road design, has prompted locals to urge authorities to introduce safety measures, including the installation of blinking yellow signals to slow down vehicles and prevent accidents.

As part of the highway expansion project, which includes the construction of an underpass and a four-lane highway along with service roads, work has

been progressing in the Ponda-Farmagudi area for the past year. However, following the widening of the road, the slope now appears to form a near right-angle, creating a hazardous curve due to the terrain's natural formation.

This sharp curve is located where the underpass is currently under construction—directly beneath the road. The danger arises

particularly for vehicles descending from Panjim towards Ponda, as the downward slope encourages speeding. In contrast, vehicles ascending from Ponda to Panjim must navigate the elevated road.

Vishal Fadte noted that the newly widened four-lane stretch is already in use, and speeding vehicles descending the slope are at significant risk. "In

case a speeding vehicle loses control at the sharp bend, it could fall nearly ten metres below onto the underpass road, posing serious danger to all," he warned. He strongly recommended the installation of blinking signal lights to reduce speed and ensure safer passage.

Echoing these concerns, Viraj Sapre from Ponda stressed the need for prop-

LURKING DANGER

- Steep 1.5 km slope from Panjim to Ponda encourages speeding, increasing accident risk
- Underpass under construction directly below the hazardous curve adds to the danger
- Vehicles at risk of falling nearly 10 metres if control is lost at the bend
- Locals demand blinking yellow lights and urgent safety measures to prevent accidents

engineering and safety measures at the site. "I am worried about the sharp bend on the elevated road. Authorities must act swiftly and take adequate safety precautions in advance," he said.

Locals continue to appeal for urgent intervention before accidents occur on what is increasingly being seen as a risky stretch of the highway.

## Sexual assault case: Doctor in judicial custody

Team Herald

MARGAO: Dr Samuel Arawattgi, accused of sexually assaulting a nurse employed at his clinic, has been remanded to judicial custody and sent to Colvale jail after being produced before the Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC), Margao.

The Cunclim Police arrested Dr Arawattgi, a resident of Benaum, last Friday night following a complaint filed by the victim's mother. The alleged incident occurred on the night of April 22, when the doctor reportedly took the nurse—an employee at his Salcete-based clinic and diagnostic centre—to his residence under the pretext of a house visit and allegedly assaulted her without consent.

Meanwhile, the accused has filed for bail before the Sessions Court. The matter has been adjourned, with the court issuing notices to Cunclim Police, the defence advocate, and the public prosecutor.

## DIVINE TRIBUTE

JOSEPH FERNANDES



Devotees throng Shree Lairai Devi Devasthan in Shirgao to pay tribute to Goddess Lairai, one of Goa's revered septet of deities – six sisters and a brother. They carry bamboo staffs adorned with colourful threads, known as beth, a tradition of this vibrant zatra

## Political analyst seeks FIR against Parulekar

Team Herald

PANJIM: Political analyst Trajano D'Mello has formally written to the Porvorim Police, requesting the registration of an FIR against former minister Dilip Parulekar, citing the Supreme Court's decision in the Serula Comunidade matter.

In his letter addressed to the Police Inspector of Porvorim Police Station, D'Mello has sought immediate compliance with an order issued by the Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) at Mapusa, which has been upheld

by the Additional Sessions Judge 2, Mapusa.

D'Mello pointed out that he had initially filed a complaint on October 18, 2014, and had prayed before the JMFC, Mapusa, for an FIR to be registered based on that complaint.

"In view of the above, I hereby request you to kindly register an FIR against all the accused persons as per the directions issued by the Judicial Magistrate First Class at Mapusa Court in its Order dated October 15.10.2015, which now stands confirmed," D'Mello stated in his letter.

## Delay in relocation leaves Ponda fish vendors operating from dilapidated market

SANTOSH NAIK



Fish vendors selling fish from existing shed which is in dangerous condition

Team Herald

PONDA: As the civic officials in Ponda dilly-dally to relocate the fish vendors to the new site, for almost a month, the latter still continue to conduct business from the existing place which is fraught with risks.

It may be recalled that a decision taken on April 3, during a meeting between the Ponda Municipal Council (PMC) and fish vendors operating at the Ponda Market to relocate them to the basement parking area of the Ponda Market Complex Building from April 4 onwards.

The move was prompted by the deteriorating condition of the existing fish market building, where fall-

ing plaster from the ceiling posed a danger to both vendors and customers.

However, as of today, nearly a month later, the relocation has yet to take place. Fish vendors continue to operate from the unsafe structure, despite the risks.

The relocation was intended as a temporary measure to facilitate the demolition of the current fish market and the construction of a new facility. Fish vendors, however, have cited the lack of essential amenities - such as water and electricity - at the new site as the reason for the delay.

PMC sources have acknowledged the concerns, stating that efforts are ongo-

ing to provide the necessary infrastructure. The electrification work is reportedly nearing completion, and the fish vendors are expected to be shifted shortly. Additionally, chicken vendors are also set to be relocated to the same area.

The existing ground-plus-one fish market building is approximately 40-years-old. While fish vendors operate from the ground floor, the upper level houses cloth and other vendors. This first floor is also in a precarious state, with exposed and rusted beam rods and fallen plaster. These vendors, too, will be relocated ahead of the planned demolition of the entire market building.

## Wandering bison spread panic among Priol locals

Team Herald

PONDA: Herds of bison invading the Kulagar Bagayat has sparked panic among residents of Ghano and Savoiverem in Verem-Waghurme Panchayat, within the Priol constituency. Bison have also been sighted in the nearby panchayat areas of Kerim and Bethki Khandola.

According to locals, the movement of bison has significantly increased in the areas of Ghano, Saway, and Shilwado. On Wednesday, a bison was spotted roaming freely in the Kulagar area of Ghano, with footage of the animal going viral on social media. The increased activity has led to mounting fear among the locals.

Residents have expressed concern that the bison are repeatedly damaging their crops here thereby causing losses to horticulturists and farmers who solely depend on agriculture for their livelihood.

A horticulturist from Shilwado-Savoiverem explained that the area is a major centre for pineapple cultivation due to its hilly terrain.

He added that earlier farmers had a hard time handling monkeys but now with the intrusion of bison, it was even worse for them. These intrusions have caused extensive damage to crops, particularly pineapple plantations. Bison are now considered the primary threat to agricultural and horticultural produce, with banana, pineapple, and cashew crops suffering the most destruction. The animals typically enter the Kulagars during the evening.

Locals have appealed to the Forest Department to implement safety measures



to prevent bison from entering cultivated areas. They also highlighted issues with the Agriculture Department's subsidy schemes, noting that despite the provision of seed subsidies, many farmers were unable to avail themselves of these benefits due to incomplete land documentation and other administrative hurdles.

Farmers from the region have urged both the Forest and Agriculture Departments, in collaboration with animal welfare organisations, to take immediate action. "If no action is taken regarding these animals, it will become impossible to maintain the gardens," they warned.

It may be recalled that last year, a woman at Bond Baag, Bethora, was fatally injured after being attacked by a bison. She had mistaken the animal for a buffalo and attempted to chase it away during the late evening hours. Following the incident, wild bison were also spotted in Ponda City and along the Dhavli Highway.

## Fire at Nuvem panchayat ghar sparks alarm over lack of safety measures in public buildings

Team Herald

MARGAO: A recent fire at the Nuvem Panchayat Ghar has raised serious concerns over the lack of fire safety measures in public buildings, including Panchayat ghars across Salcete taluka, prompting calls for immediate action from civic leaders and residents alike.

The incident, which occurred just a day ago, has served as a wake-up call for authorities, highlighting the widespread

absence of basic fire safety infrastructure in local government offices.

Former Chairperson of the Margao Municipal Council, Savio Coutinho, expressed deep concern over the issue, stating that most government buildings—particularly panchayat ghars and municipal offices—lack even the most basic fire-fighting equipment.

He emphasised that fire audits and the installation of emergency fire-fighting sys-



tems, as advised by the fire department, should be implemented without delay.

According to Coutinho, impor-

tant public documents stored in these offices appear to hold little value for the authorities, as the issue of fire safety is typically ignored until a fire breaks out—only to be forgotten soon afterwards.

Echoing similar concerns, Dixon Vas, Sarpanch of the Cavellossim Village Panchayat, stated that all public offices must comply with mandatory safety measures.

"Fire extinguishers, emergency exits, and regular mock drills

are essential. These are not just for malls or commercial spaces, but are equally necessary in government buildings," he said.

Local residents have also voiced concern too. Shirish Naik from Davorlim urged the government to treat the issue with seriousness and issue clear, strict instructions to all departments to ensure fire safety compliance.

The Nuvem fire has once again highlighted the glaring gaps in disaster preparedness across

government infrastructure in Goa. While no casualties have been reported in the incident, the damage caused to property and official records serves as a strong reminder of the risks posed by negligence in safety protocols.

As public pressure mounts, stakeholders now await a concrete response from the authorities to implement fire safety norms and protect both lives and essential public assets in the future.

### APPOINTMENTS

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