

shorttakes**BAIL DENIED FOR PI AND CONSTABLE IN ACB BRIBERY CASE**

MARGAO: The Sessions Court in Margao has rejected bail applications filed by suspended PI Sunil Gudlar and constable Mohammad Hussien Haryar, both attached to the Konknan Railway police station. The two were arrested by the Directorate of Vigilance's Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) last Tuesday for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 25,000 from a meat trader from Belagavi. The court heard arguments from Public Prosecutor V G Costa, who opposed bail on grounds that the investigation was at a preliminary stage and the accused could tamper with evidence or threaten witnesses. Advocate Galileo Teles, appearing for PI Gudlar, contended that the police say did not show clear evidence of a demand or acceptance of a bribe. Advocate Amey Prabhudesai represented constable Haryar. The ACB had received a complaint on April 21, from a meat trader, who provided a voice recording of Hussien demanding money. It was alleged that the officers initially demanded Rs 2 lakh for releasing seized beef and later settled for a monthly payment of Rs 25,000 as 'protection money'. A trap was laid, and the trader paid Rs 25,000 at the Konknan Railway Police Station, following which ACB officials raided the premises and recovered the money from PI Gudlar's cabin. Both officers were caught red-handed, according to ACB sources.

MURDER IN MARGAO: FOURTH HOMICIDE IN SALTETE THIS APRIL

MARGAO: Margao recorded yet another murder, taking the total number of homicides in Saltete for the month of April to four. The accused, H Rafiq from Uttara Kannada, Karnataka, is alleged to have murdered 38-year-old Bashir Gudu Sab Ahmed of Bhatkal, Karnataka, by pushing him from the second-floor window of a hotel on Station Road. According to police sources, both men had been staying in the same room at the Green View Hotel. On April 30, between 2.19 am and 2.45 am, Rafiq allegedly pushed Ahmed out of the window and fled the scene. The victim was found lying beside the hotel and was declared dead on arrival at the South District Hospital, Margao, by 108 emergency services. Initially treated as an unnatural death, the case was upgraded to murder after post-mortem examination revealed injuries consistent with foul play. Police have registered an offence under Section 105(1) of the BNS 2023. Hotel registers are being scrutinised and CCTV footage reviewed. A description of the accused has been circulated across Goa and neighbouring states, and teams have been formed to trace him.

MINOR GIRL ALLEGEDLY KIDNAPPED BY BOYFRIEND IN VERNA

MARGAO: A minor girl from Verna has been reported missing and allegedly kidnapped by her boyfriend, police said. The girl had left her residence on 28 April around 12 noon to buy milk and did not return. Her mother, a native of Uttar Pradesh residing within the Verna Police Station jurisdiction, lodged a complaint suspecting a local boy, who was friendly with her daughter, of abducting her from lawful guardianship. Verna police have registered an offence under Section 137(2) of the BNS and Section 8 of the Goa Children's Act. A description of the girl has been circulated to police stations across Goa and neighbouring states. Surveillance has been stepped up at bus stands and railway stations. The case is being investigated by PSI Mahesh Bhomkar under the supervision of PI Anand Shirodker.

JMFC REJECTS BAIL PLEA OF FOUR ACCUSED IN ASSAULT ON QUEPEM POLICE OFFICERS

MARGAO: The Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC), Quepem, has rejected the bail applications of four individuals arrested for allegedly assaulting Assistant Sub-Inspector Pundalik Gaonkar and police constable driver Rohan Narvekar of the Quepem Police Station while they were responding to a reported brawl at Shvinnagar, Xeldem. The four accused — Bhavik Divakar Prabhudesai (23), Sadasshiv alias Bhola Patil (22), Sameer Mohammed Mankavi (23), and Swapnil Chandrakant Assolkar (32), all residents of Cacora, Curchorem — are currently in police custody on a five-day remand. The Quepem police had opposed their bail, stating the accused are still required for investigation. According to the complaint lodged by ASI Gaonkar, on May 1, at around 3.10 am, a group of 5 to 6 individuals, including Joyson Fernandes of Cacora, allegedly obstructed and verbally abused the officers and slapped constable Narvekar, causing injury, before fleeing the scene in a car and scooter.

power shutdown

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.

PORVORIM: On May 5, from 9.30 am to 2 pm. Affected areas are Ganesh Temple, Jnyaan Vikas School, Riviera Residency Park, Paradise Om Earth, Shree Niketan Child Care and amp, Education Center Hotel Solmar, Exotica, Rajesh Shet, models Ventures, Sterling Hotel, Mandovi, Clinic, Tarun Bharat, and surrounding areas.

PONDA: On May 5, from 9 am to 2 pm. Affected areas are Commerce Centre and surrounding areas.

VASCO: On May 5, from 9 am to 2 pm. Affected areas are Bogmallo, Chicolna, Hollant, Coast guard headquarters, Ranghavi estate and Dabolim. And from 9 am to 11.30 am. Affected areas are Vaddem Lake, Susheela Sea Winds, Mundvel Nr GSL, St Andrew College Vaddem Lake, Near Pai Hospital and Mercus Vaddem.

CALANGUTE: On May 5, from 9 am to 1 pm. Affected areas are Sautawaddo, Baga Beach, River Side, Baga Arpora, Retreat House Baga and Surrounding areas.

CHANDOR: On May 5, from 8 am to 2 pm. Affected areas are Chandor bazaar, Sailabhat, Chandor church and Cotta.

PONDA: On May 6, from 9 am to 2 pm. Affected areas are Sahakar Bhandar and surrounding areas.

CHANDOR: On May 6, from 8 am to 2 pm. Affected areas are Galli and Fatramoll.

PORVORIM: On May 6, from 9.30 am to 2 pm. Affected areas are Patel Estate, Rockfirst, L and T House, Tata Housing, Umer sheikh, football ground, Hamza masjid, Ramnagar and surrounding areas.

VASCO: On May 6, from 9 am to 2 pm. Affected areas are Chichalim Panchayat, Sai service and surrounding areas.

CHINCHINIM: On May 6, from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm. Affected areas are Gabriel garage, Health centre, Palvem, Dandewado, Deusa, Chinchinim bazaar and Telephone exchange under VP Chinchinim.

Allegations of exam manipulation rock Goa College of Architecture

Finger of suspicion points to Examination in-charge; three professors demand his immediate removal and disciplinary action against him

Team Herald

PANJIM: An incident of malpractices and manipulation by the Examination in-Charge has come to light in the Goa College of Architecture, Altinho.

Three professors are learnt to have brought the incident to the notice of the principal and have demanded immediate removal of the Examination in-charge Aniruddha Pawar and disciplinary action against him in order to restore credibility of the examination session.

It all started when two sealed envelopes containing the result of grading and attendance sheets of semester III (Visual Arts and Crafts) and semester



VII (Design Studio) went missing in January this year. The result of the grading and attendance sheet of semester III was prepared. But without informing the examination committee the examiner incharge sought a constructed and manipulated grade sheet allegedly prepared by the course convenor Beena Gangani.

The grading sheet was signed by the team of examiners led by the convenor Beena Gangani for the course Visual Arts and Crafts for semester III while, the grades of design studio was signed by team of examiners led by Viswesh Kandolkar.

During the time both envelopes went missing, the result of semester III was declared by the Examina-

tion in Charge Aniruddha Pawar by seeking fabricated and constructed grades for course Visual Arts and crafts again from the team of examiners led by Beena Gangani. Subsequently the result was declared using the fabricated grades by the Examination in Charge and the Principal on February 7.

Exactly a week later the two missing sealed envelopes were traced by the examiner in-charge and the result of semester VII was declared on February 28. But since a different result containing the grades of semester III was compiled by the examination in charge and the principal declared the result prior to the tracing of the original grades sheet. The manipu-

lation of the grading sheet became unknown. It has been noticed that there is a difference in grades in the declared result.

Dr Gouri Desai, Member, Board of Studies, Goa University and the former examiner in charge has also written to the Goa College of Architecture principal and the Vice Chancellor expressing her serious concern about the authenticity of the conducted supplementary exams without opening the original envelopes and mishandling of the marking process. She has urged the principal to take appropriate measures and to regain the trust in the entire examination process of the College.

BITS Pilani student's death ruled suicide

Team Herald

Post-mortem confirms asphyxia

MARGAO: The post-mortem examination of Krishna Kasera, a 20-year-old student of BITS Pilani, Zuarinagar campus, was conducted on Friday at the South Goa District Hospital, Margao. Following the completion of medico-legal formalities, the body was handed over to his family for the final rites, which were later performed in Margao in the presence of relatives.

According to sources at Verna

Police Station, the student was a native of Lucknow and resided on campus. The incident came to light when BITS Pilani Public Relations Officer Arjun Halarnkar informed Verna Police that a male student had committed suicide by hanging in his hostel room.

PI Anand Shirodker of Verna Police Station, along with his team, visited the scene at the Shared Hostel Block on the BITS Pilani campus

in Zuarinagar, Sancaole. Upon inspection, it was found that Krishna Kasera had hanged himself using a bedsheet tied to the window grill.

A campus doctor had declared the student dead on the spot. Verna Police then secured the presence of a Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) team and panch witnesses and conducted an Unnatural Death (UD) panchanama along with an inquest panchanama. The body was

preserved at the South Goa District Hospital pending further procedures.

The post-mortem report has confirmed the cause of death as asphyxia. Police sources confirmed that statements were recorded from fellow students, hostel residents, and family members, and it was revealed that the student had died by suicide. While no foul play is suspected at this stage, police have stated that investigations are ongoing.

Ageing Borim Bridge raises safety concerns among commuters

Team Herald

PONDA: The nearly four-decade-old Borim Bridge, which continues to be used after repeated repairs, has become a growing concern among commuters and locals, who question the safety and longevity of the ageing structure.

The bridge, inaugurated on August 27, 1986, by then Chief Minister Pratapsingh Rane in the presence of the then Urban Minister Luis Proto Barbosa and former Shirola MLA Subhash Shirodkar, has witnessed increased traffic stress, especially in the past decade. Locals point out that the bridge bore the brunt of diverted heavy traffic from the Zuari Bridge during the construction of the new Cortalim Bridge, significantly increasing its load.

Recently, major repair works were undertaken, including the addition of truss supports beneath the bridge. While some commuters say the bridge is now "on life support," officials clarify that the truss was installed to facilitate bearing replacement and overall strengthening. Authorities maintain that repair and reinforcement works are carried out as required to ensure structural integrity.

Commuter Shailesh Naik expressed his apprehension, stating, "I don't know how far the government



Major repair works were undertaken, including the addition of truss supports beneath the Borim Bridge

will continue with repairs on the already overburdened bridge. In case of an untoward incident, people will face inconvenience as the bridge connects South and North Goa and also handles interstate traffic.

The ferry service is an option, but it will serve only a few, while thousands of commuters will suffer." Naresh Naik echoed similar concerns, remarking, "The Borim Bridge has been overused and overburdened.

It has undergone multiple repairs, and now the government is building a new bridge on a war footing."

Locals note that, although the bridge is officially 38-years-old, due to the intense and sustained pressure from diverted traffic, its effective wear-and-tear feels closer to 50 years. A few years ago, damage to the finger-type expansion joints had caused panic among commuters until it was promptly repaired.

Amid these worries, controversy surrounds the proposed new Borim Bridge, as farmers in Loutolim and Borim oppose its alignment through their fertile khaz-lands. These traditional farmers fear losing their agricultural livelihoods.

Against this backdrop, commuters are urging the government to expedite a practical and long-term solution for the Borim Bridge, stating that the current structure is clearly overstretched.

Borim Sarpanch Jayesh Naik welcomed the upcoming repair and hotmix carpeting work on the bridge. He informed that the bridge would remain closed to traffic at night from 10 pm to 6 am for two weeks to facilitate the repairs. He also urged commuters to adhere to the speed limit of 30 km/h on the bridge and avoid over-speeding.

Fatorda MLA slams government for scrapping free water scheme

Team Herald

MARGAO: Fatorda MLA Vijai Sardesai has strongly criticised the BJP-led Goa government for discontinuing the state's free water supply scheme, calling the move 'anti-poor, anti-Goan, and deeply insensitive to the needs of common citizens'.

The decision, he said, marks yet another blow to families already struggling with rising living costs and unfulfilled promises.

The free water scheme, which had previously provided 16,000 litres of free water per household per month, was seen as a lifeline for thousands of low-income families across Goa.

Its withdrawal has triggered a wave of discontent, with Sardesai accusing the government of systematically rolling back welfare benefits in favour of vested interests.

"This is not just a rollback of a scheme — it is a rollback of compassion. The BJP Goa government is showing its true colours by withdrawing a basic necessity like water from the needy," said Sardesai and added that first they cheated Goemkars with the hollow promise of three free LPG cylinders per household. Now they have deprived people of something as essential as water.

Sardesai alleged that the current administration is prioritising policies that benefit "outsider cartels and lob-

bies" over local Goans.

"Goans are being excluded from their own state's development. Instead of introducing more welfare measures to cushion the economic blow faced by poor and middle-class families, the government is busy pandering to corporate and non-local interests," he added.

The Fatorda MLA called the move "unjust and unpardonable," warning that it could lead to further erosion of public trust in the government.

He also demanded the immediate reinstatement of the free water scheme and full implementation of other unfulfilled promises made before the elections.

Goa notifies Road Safety Policy 2025, targets 50% cut in Fatalities by 2030

Team Herald

PANJIM: In response to the rising number of road accidents and a burgeoning vehicle population, the Goa government has notified the Goa Road Safety Policy 2025, aiming to cut road fatalities by 50 per cent by the year 2030.

The policy seeks to create a safer and more efficient road transport ecosystem by employing advanced technology solutions such as automation, artificial intelligence (AI), and data analytics.

As of September 2024, Goa had 13.23 lakh registered vehicles, including 8.69 lakh two-wheelers, with the total number growing at an annual rate of 17 per cent. The state recorded 2,682 road accidents and 286 fatalities during 2023-24 alone.

To address these alarming figures, the policy outlines robust enforcement measures, including 100 per cent saturation of High Security Registration Plates (HSRP), mandatory Vehicle Location Tracking Devices (VLT), and the installation of speed governors in all transport vehicles.

An AI-based Traffic Management System will be introduced through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, focusing first on high-risk corridors. Automated Testing Stations will be set up in each district, and driver training will be scaled through Integrated or Regional Driving Training Centres in line with Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) guidelines.

Happy Golden Jubilee

TO

REV FR CARLOS MENDES

Congratulations n good wishes on the completion of 50 years of priestly service in the vineyard of the Lord.

During your tenure in our village of Guirim, among other tasks, your edifice of "Assumpt Sabiniicho Asro" stands tall as a testimony of your hard work n foresight.

May God bless you with His Holy Spirit now n always.

Best Wishes From:

Lawrence Lobato Faria, Ongus Menexes, Dalton Pereira, Luis Pereira Guirim Vancio & Darly Desouza, Benny M Pereira UK

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