

shorttakes

MAHARASHTRA YOUTH HELD IN CALANGUTE FOR POSSESSING DRUGS WORTH RS 53,000

CALANGUTE: The Calangute police have arrested a 22-year-old youth from Maharashtra for allegedly possessing illegal drugs valued at Rs 53,000. According to police, a team from the Calangute police conducted a raid near Palmarinha Resort, Porbowado-Calangute, during which the accused, identified as Omar Al Hamed from Aurangabad-Maharashtra, was allegedly found in illegal possession of a psychotropic substance suspected to be 'MDMA', weighing 5.3 grams. The raid followed intelligence received at Calangute Police Station indicating that a male individual was expected to deliver narcotic drugs to prospective customers. Accordingly, a raid was conducted in the presence of panchas, and the above-mentioned narcotic substance was seized. The accused was produced before the JMFC Court in Mapusa, which remanded him to three days' police custody.

AUTHORITIES LAUNCH CRACKDOWN ON ILLEGAL SAND MINING IN ZUARI RIVER

PANJIM: In a decisive move against illegal sand mining, authorities on Monday carried out a joint raid targeting unauthorised dredging operations in the Zuari River. The operation was conducted by the Quepem Mamlatdar in coordination with the Department of Mines and the Curcholem police, resulting in strict enforcement action against a company engaged in the fisheries business. According to sources, following the raid, the Captain of Ports dismantled the illegal setup and destroyed a suction pump. A boat used in the dredging activity was seized, and connected pipelines were removed to prevent further extraction. Sources said the removal of the equipment would allow the riverbed to naturally restore itself and that sand would be refilled within a few days.

53-YEAR-OLD CURCHOREM WOMAN DIES BY SUICIDE

MARGAO: A 53-year-old married woman from Curcholem died by suicide after hanging herself at her residence. Curcholem police stated that a phone call was received from a resident of Duhgali-Sanvordem, informing that a woman had committed suicide. A police team was immediately dispatched to the location. Police visited the scene, conducted a scene of unnatural death occurrence, and carried out an inquest panchanama over the deceased's body. Enquiries with family members revealed that the deceased had been suffering from sleep deprivation for the past 10 months. She was undergoing treatment at the Institute of Psychiatry and Human Behaviour (IPHB), Bambolim, and was reportedly under depression. The body was referred to South Goa District Hospital (SGDH), Margao, for post-mortem examination. The post-mortem report has confirmed the cause of death as 'asphyxia as a result of constricting force around the neck' consistent with the injury. The body was handed over to the family for final rites.

AGUADA SAND BAR TO CLOSE FOR INLAND VESSELS FROM MAY 21 TO SEPT 15

PANJIM: The Aguada Sand Bar will remain closed to all inland traffic vessels from midnight on May 21 until September 15. In a notice to mariners, Captain of Ports Octavio Rodrigues stated, "As per the provisions of the Goa Ports Rules 1983, the period of foul season in Goa is from the midnight of May 21, 2025, to September 15, 2025. It is therefore notified that until further notice, the Aguada Sand Bar shall remain closed for all inland traffic vessels with effect from the midnight of May 21, 2025." He further notified, "The lighthouses of Malim, Campal, Tejo Front and Tejo Rear, Reis Magos, and Aguada Beacon will cease to function from the midnight of June 1, until further notice."

GOVERNMENT FORMS 14-MEMBER MODEL TRANSGENDER WELFARE BOARD

PANJIM: The Goa Government has constituted a 14-member Model Transgender Welfare Board under the provisions of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, and the corresponding Rules, 2020. The board, headed by the Chief Secretary, has been established to implement and oversee various welfare measures for transgender persons.

ASSAGAO PARISH PRIEST CELEBRATES GOLDEN JUBILEE OF PRIESTHOOD

ASSAGAO: Fr Julio Carlos Mendes, Parish Priest of St Cajetan's Church Assagao celebrated his fifty years of priesthood. Coincidentally Fr Julio Carlos Mendes also celebrated his seventy fifth birthday recently. A large number of parishioners took part in the solemn Eucharistic celebration to mark the golden jubilee of their parish priest. Fr Mendes was born on January 3 in the 1950 at Corjuem Aldona and after pursuing priestly studies for 15 years from the age of 12 finally was ordained priest on May 4, 1975. Thereafter he served as assistant parish priest, chaplains and parish priest in the parishes of Taleigao, St Inez, Cansa Tivim, Assumption Chapel Guirim, Candelaria chapel Porvorim, St Rita chapel Carona Aldona, St Rita Church Camurlim, St Anthony Church Siolim, Our Lady of Flight Church Cunchelim and finally at Assagao thereby covering nine parishes. Also for a short while in the archbishop house. He is also credited to having taught solfa music to many youngsters some of whom are shining at high levels.

AROUND 80 HAJ PILGRIMS FROM GOA TO DEPART VIA MUMBAI

VASCO: Goa Haj Committee Chairman Urfan Mulla stated that around 80 Hajis from Goa will depart for the annual Haj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia from Mumbai. "A vaccination drive for all pilgrims is scheduled to be held at Anjuman Hall on Saturday. With the support of Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, we have ensured that all necessary arrangements and preparations are in place as per the Saudi requirements," he said. Mulla further added that the pilgrims will travel by train from Margao to Mumbai on May 20, and their flight from Mumbai to Jeddah is scheduled for May 22. He also announced that special orientation camps for Haj pilgrims would be conducted at various locations, including Vasco, to brief them on the pilgrimage process and important travel guidelines. This year, India's Haj quota has been increased to 1,75,025, up from 1,36,020 in 2014.

Borim locals urge removal of dangerous pipeline bridge remains in Zuari River

Team Herald

PONDA: Residents of Borim have raised serious concerns over the remains of an old pipeline bridge lying submerged in the Zuari river, warning that the deteriorating structure poses a significant risk to barges, fishing canoes, and boats, particularly during nighttime navigation.

The remnants, which include round pillars and footings from the collapsed pipeline bridge, are still visible from the Borim bridge, especially during low tide. Local communities have now urged the authorities to act swiftly and remove the remains to prevent potential accidents.

The defunct pipeline bridge was originally constructed beside the Borim bridge to supply water from the OPA water project to the



Round pillars and footings of the collapsed pipeline bridge visible from the Borim Bridge, particularly during low tide

Agro Chemical Fertilizer Factory in Vasco. However, after the factory began

receiving water from the Salaulim project, the bridge fell into disuse.

Due to a lack of maintenance, the structure eventually collapsed, with parts

of it falling into the river. While the main pipeline is no longer visible, the

underwater supports and foundation pillars still remain in the riverbed, endangering passing vessels.

"There is a genuine fear of accidents involving barges and canoes at night. The remains can be hazardous, especially when water levels are high or visibility is low," said a concerned local.

Residents also recalled that until a few years ago, the remains of a collapsed Portuguese-era bailey bridge adjacent to the pipeline bridge had similarly posed a threat to river traffic. Those remains were eventually removed after public concern, prompting locals to now call for similar action regarding the pipeline bridge debris.

Locals have urged authorities to inspect the area and ensure the complete removal of the submerged structures before a mishap occurs.

power shutdown

BICHOLIM: On May 7, from 9 am to 2 pm. Affected areas are Desai Bhat Keran and surrounding areas.

MARDOL: On May 7, from 9 am to 2 pm. Affected area are VP Keri, Vijayadurga Devasthan and Kunkolim (Mardol).

PONDA: On May 7, from 9 am to 2 pm. Affected areas are Tisk and surrounding areas.

PORVORIM: On May 7, from 9.30 am to 2 pm. Affected areas are Vision Solitair, Menezes Gym, TVS showroom, Anil D'Silva, Nexa Subnis Park, Resicom and surrounding areas.

CORTALIM: On May 7, from 9 am to 2 pm. Affected areas are Sancoale, Baandaar, Sailant and surrounding areas.

CURTORIM: On May 7, from 9 am to 4 pm. Affected area are Ashwini.

MARGAO: On May 8, from 9 am to 2 pm. Affected areas are main gate of MES, Shenvi School, Ghantamorod, Fuslabhat, Fatima Church, Dicarpalli, Chadwaddo and Bogdewaddo.

CUNCOLIM: On May 8, from 9.30 am to 2 pm. Affected areas Gotton, Goechebhat, De mani, Malangini, Cuncolim Market, Culwada, Zulphashet, Cuncolim Municipal Building, Masconi, Savorcotto and Naigillo.

CHICALIM: On May 8, from 9 am to 2 pm. Affected areas are Chicalim, Green Vally, Holy Cross and surrounding areas.

CURTORIM: On May 8, from 9 am to 4 pm. Fondegal area will be affected.

BICHOLIM: On May 8, from 9 am to 2 pm. Affected areas are Konati, Haturli, Varpal and surrounding areas.

PONDA: On May 8, from 9 am to 2 pm. Affected areas are Yashwantnagar, Saraswati temple and surrounding areas.

PROVORIM: On May 8, from 9.30 am to 2 pm. Affected areas are Orra Developers, Vallen, Devashree, Candolim Urban and surrounding areas.

BARDEZ-PERNEM: On May 10, from 6 am to 2 pm. Areas affected are Bardez and Pernem taluka. Restricted supply will be made available to essential loads like District hospital, Assnora Water Works, Mopa Airport etc from Thivim substation. For Bicholim taluka power will be available from Amona substation with restriction to all HT consumers.

Spirit of Goa Fest rescheduled to May 7 and 8 at Colva

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Spirit of Goa Festival, which was postponed due to the tragic incident at the Lairai Zatra in Shirgao, will now be held on May 7 and 8, at the SAG grounds, at Colva.

The festival was originally scheduled from May 2 to 4, but barring the inaugural day, it was postponed for the remaining two days in the wake of the stampede in Shirgao.

Visitors can look forward to a diverse showcase of locally distilled spirits, traditional Goan cuisine, live music, masterclasses, arts and crafts demonstrations and family-friendly activities. The Spirit of Goa Festival invites everyone to experience the essence of Goa in an unforgettable celebration of its traditions, flavours, and artistry.

The entertainment setup will feature a world-class audio system by Coda (Germany), showcasing Goa's local talent on a globally benchmarked stage.

Head-on crash near St Jacinto leaves car driver seriously hurt

Team Herald



Team Herald

VASCO: Two persons were injured in a head-on collision between an ambulance and a car near St Jacinto Island, Vasco, on Tuesday afternoon.

According to sources, the accident took place when the ambulance was travelling from Vasco towards Panjim, while the car was heading in the opposite direction.

The impact of the collision caused both airbags in the car to deploy; however, the car driver sustained grievous injuries.

Both vehicles were badly damaged in the mishap. Fortunately, there was no patient in the ambulance



at the time of the accident. The collision resulted in traffic disruption on the national highway for some time.

The injured car driver was immediately rushed to Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMC), Bambolim, for treatment. Police later conducted the panchanama and are carrying out further investigations into the incident.

26-year-old Vasco resident critically injured in Baina flyover collision

Team Herald

VASCO: A 26-year-old youth was seriously injured in a head-on collision between a two-wheeler and a car on the Baina flyover connecting Varunapuri to Sada, on Sunday evening.

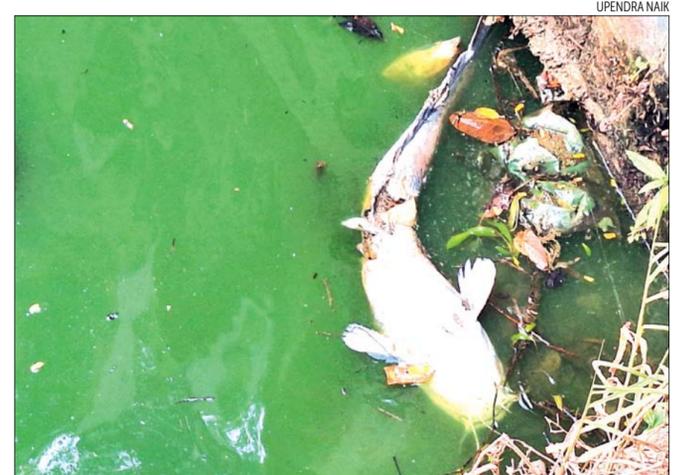
The police identified the injured as Ameer Shveel, a resident of Pixem-Dongrim, Vasco.

The accident caused major traffic disruption on the flyover until the ill-fated vehicles were removed, police said.

According to police, the two-wheeler rider was travelling at high speed and collided with an oncoming car. The impact of the collision threw the rider off the vehicle, causing him to sustain severe injuries. He was immediately rushed to the Sub-District Hospital, Chicalim, for treatment and was later shifted to Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMC), Bambolim.

Upon receiving information, the Mormugao Police rushed to the accident site, removed the vehicles, and cleared the road for traffic movement.

NOXIOUS HABITAT



A dead catfish floats belly-up in St Inez Creek at Taleigao, likely due to poor tidal flushing or pollution. Despite ongoing clean-up efforts, the creek's health remains a concern

Mormugao council takes up key civic issues in meeting

Team Herald

VASCO: The Mormugao Municipal Council (MMC) deliberated several pressing civic issues, including the inauguration of the new fish market, the condition of Hindu crematoriums, unauthorised structures, and the gates erected by the Mormugao Port Authority (MPA) at Baina during an ordinary meeting on Tuesday.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Mormugao Chairperson Girish Borker said the new fish market is almost ready, with only a few minor changes required. He added that the inauguration is being de-

layed as dates are still to be discussed with the Urban Development Minister.

"While we expect to inaugurate the market this month, the crucial issue is that the fish market was never officially notified, despite being in existence for years. This was possibly an oversight by the council and I have insisted that it be notified immediately," Borker said.

He stated that the MMC would issue a three-month notice to all registered or listed vendors to begin operations. If they fail to do so, the remaining stalls will be allotted to traditional fishermen of Goan origin.

On the issue of Hindu crematoriums, Borker said that although both crematoriums in Vasco and Mormugao are operated by the council, the Vasco crematorium is in urgent need of renovation. He added that there is a plan to carry out the renovation with assistance from Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL).

Regarding the gates installed by the MPA at Baina, ward councillor Deepak Naik stated, "We had passed a unanimous resolution to remove the gates and demolish the compound wall, yet no action has been taken. If the municipal council does not act within seven days, I will approach the court."

Chinchinim-Deussua p'yat launches tailoring and embroidery course to empower women

Team Herald

MARGAO: In a significant step towards women's empowerment and skill development, the Village Panchayat of Chinchinim-Deussua, in collaboration with the Department of Handicrafts, Textiles and Coir, Government of Goa, has launched a tailoring and embroidery course aimed at equipping local women with valuable vocational skills.

The course was officially inaugurated by Sr Flavia Vas, headmistress of St Mary of the Angels Convent High School, Chinchinim, in the presence of Dr Medora D'Costa, Sway-

ampurna Mitra, at the school premises, with enthusiastic participation from women across the village. Designed to promote self-reliance, the initiative provides hands-on training in tailoring and embroidery by Poonam Desai, enabling women to pursue self-employment or small business ventures in the textile and handicrafts sector.

Speaking at the launch along with the panchayat members, the Sarpanch of Chinchinim-Deussua, Frank Viegas, stated, "This initiative is a part of our broader vision to empower women and encourage local entrepreneurship. With

support from the State government, we are committed to creating more such opportunities that contribute to the holistic development of our villagers."

Sr Flavia stated, "I am proud to announce the launch of our tailoring and embroidery course for women. This initiative marks a significant step towards empowering women in our community by equipping them with valuable skills that can lead to financial independence and personal growth."

"This course is not just about stitching fabric; it is about stitching together confidence, creativity, and new opportunities. To every woman who joins

this journey—know that you are investing in yourself, your future, and your family. We are here to support you every step of the way."

"Let us walk together in faith, courage, and hope as we continue to build a brighter tomorrow."

Dr Flora highlighted the importance of such courses in reviving traditional skills while fostering economic independence among women.

The programme has received positive feedback from the community and is expected to open new avenues for income generation, contributing to the overall growth of the village.

Missing Verna minor returns home

Team Herald

MARGAO: A minor girl who had gone missing from her residence in Verna on April 28, 2025, after leaving to bring milk, has returned home, Verna police confirmed.

According to police, the girl was allegedly kidnapped by her boyfriend. Upon her return, she was produced before the court and her statement has been recorded.

The victim's mother, a native of Uttar Pradesh and residing within the jurisdiction of the Verna Police Station, lodged a complaint stating that her daughter had left their home to buy milk and did not return. She strongly suspected that a boy from Verna, who was friendly with her daughter, might have kidnapped her from her lawful guardianship.

The case is being investigated by PSI Mahesh Bhumkar under the supervision of PI Anand Shirodker.