

Relief for Pondaites as Sub-District Hospital finally gets a surgeon

Post remained vacant for over two-and-a half-years following suspension of previous doctor, putting patients to inconvenience

Team Herald

PONDA: After two-and-a-half years, the government finally appointed a surgeon at the Ponda Sub-District Hospital.

Dr Sydney Palha's appointment addresses long-standing concerns raised by the media and local residents who have had to seek surgical services at the Goa Medical College (GMC), South Goa Hospital, or private hospitals due to the lack of such services in Ponda.

While the appointment of a surgeon is a significant step forward, the primary demand from the people of Ponda remains the full upgradation of the SDH. Key requirements include the



KEY DEMANDS

- Upgradation of SDH
- CT scan facility,
- A blood bank,
- Essential emergency services

establishment of a CT scan facility, a blood bank, and other essential emergency

services. Given Ponda's central location, residents from the neighbouring talukas of Dharbandora and Sattari would also greatly benefit from these upgrades.

Naresh Naik from Ponda pointed out that despite being inaugurated 12 years ago, the absence of a CT scan forces accident victims to be transferred to GMC.

The lack of a surgeon had caused considerable hardship for patients, many of whom were compelled to travel to Panaji or Margao for even minor surgical procedures. With this new appointment, there is renewed hope among residents for better access to timely and quality medical care

The surgeon's post had remained vacant following the suspension of the previous doctor. Despite repeated appeals over the past two and a half years, the position had not been filled. It's worth noting that South Goa MP Captain Viriato and Opposition leader Yuri Alemão had also visited the hospital last year, highlighting the urgency of the situation.

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mence consultations and procedures soon.

Local resident Arun Naik acknowledged the persistent efforts of the Local MLA and Minister Ravi Naik in pursuing the filling of the surgeon's position. He also emphasized the critical need for an immediate blood bank at the SDH.

Social worker Viraj Sapre mentioned that he had recently written to the Prime Minister's Office on April 15, urging the urgent filling of the vacant surgeon post due to the difficulties faced by the community. He further stressed that a CT scan and other emergency facilities are essential, as many common citizens cannot afford the costly services offered by private hospitals.

Canacona gears up for Gadeutsav zatra on May 17

10,000 devotees likely to attend the annual event; MLA chairs high-level joint departmental meet

Team Herald

CANACONA: In a proactive move to ensure the smooth conduct of the upcoming annual Gadeutsav zatra at Mahalwada, Pinguinim, Speaker of Goa Legislative Assembly and MLA of Canacona, Ramesh Tawadkar, chaired a high-level joint departmental meeting on Thursday with key officials from various departments. An annual event is expected to be attended by more than 10,000 devotees across Goa.

With the tragic Devi Lairai Festival stampede in Bicholim still fresh in public memory, the meeting placed a sharp focus on safety, inter-departmental coordination, and crowd management. The zatra, scheduled for May 17, is expected to draw thousands of devotees from across the State.

Held in the presence of Deputy Collector Pratarao Naik Gaonkar, DySP (Traffic), Police Inspector of Traffic and Canacona Police Station, Fire Station In-Charge, and senior officials from key civic and emergency departments, the review meeting emphasised a zero-compromise approach to safety.

"All necessary steps are being taken to ensure a

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peaceful, spiritual, and organised Gadeutsav. Crowd control, traffic diversions, fire safety, medical aid, and overall preparedness are being fine-tuned to the last detail," said Tawadkar, urging departments to work in synergy and ensure timely deployment of infrastructure and personnel.

Special attention was given to traffic movement planning, emergency response systems, and deployment of police and fire personnel. Authorities assured the public that adequate arrangements are in place for seamless darshan and a spiritually fulfilling experience.

As Canacona braces for one of its most significant cultural celebrations, officials reiterated their commitment to maintaining the sanctity and tradition of Gadeutsav.

GOACAN demands high-level inquiry into minibus accident

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Goa Civic Consumer and Action Network (GOACAN) has expressed deep concern about the loss of life in the mini bus accident at Queenynagar junction at Upasnagar, Sancoale and has called for stern action against those responsible.

GOACAN in a letter to South Goa District Collector Egna Cleetus, IAS, has sought an inquiry by a Deputy Collector rank official into the circumstances that led to the mini bus accident which resulted in the death of

two persons and serious injuries to 25 others.

This mini bus accident has exposed the serious lapses and deficiencies in the public transport system in the Mormugao Taluka, GOACAN coordinator Roland Martins said.

The subletting of bus operations, lack of information with the owner about the driver, driving in an intoxicated condition, overload of passengers etc. The fact that the bus had already 14 challans issued by Goa Traffic Police and RTO, its permit should have been cancelled, Martins said.

SPIRITUAL WALK

JOSEPH FERNANDES



The parishioners of Aldona participate in a solemn procession on the occasion of the feast of St Thomas on Saturday. Such processions are integral to the religious practices of Goan Catholics

Stage set for by-polls in two panchayat wards today

Team Herald

MAPUSA: The stage is set for by-election in two village panchayat wards slated for Sunday, May 11.

The by-election will be held in ward VII of Assonora village panchayat and in ward I of Tivim village panchayat. The polling will be held from 8 am to 5 pm.

Seven candidates are in fray for the by-election to two panchayat wards. In ward VII of Assonora village panchayat, there will be a triangular battle between Mita Milesh Naik, Shankar Pandurang Naik and Vijay Babai Banaulikar. The by-election has been necessitated due to death of Milesh Naik.

Ghanashyam Pundalik Aroskar, Niraj Narayan Nagvekar, Ramchandran Chandrakant Salgaonkar and Ravindra Shiva Aroskar are contesting for ward I of Tivim village panchayat.

Two African nationals arrested for overstaying

Team Herald

MAPUSA: The Mapusa Police arrested two African nationals Chigozie Ezekiel (24) from Nigeria and Ismale Baba (29) from Ivory Coast on the charge of illegally staying in India without valid visas or passports.

The arrests were made on Friday at Boquenchi Aradi, Parra, Bardez. Police suspect a possible connection between the arrested individuals and the Rs 1.6 crore drug seizure case registered by the Crime Branch same day.

The Mapusa Police team headed by PSI Bablo Parab and staff made efforts to apprehend both the accused persons.

The Mapusa Police have registered cases against both the accused under Section 14 of Foreigner Act 1946, 6(a) of Passport Entry into India Rules 1950.

Nigerian held with Rs 1.65 crore worth drugs at Parra

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Crime Branch arrested a 23-year-old Nigerian national Nnanyelugo Abasili from a rented room at Aradi, Parra and recovered different type of narcotics worth Rs 1.65 crore on Friday night.

The Crime Branch police seized 2,400 ecstasy tablets (1.123 grams), 60 gram cocaine, 99 gram brown heroine, 19 grams crystal MDMA and Rs 70,000 - all amounting to Rs 1,64,94,050.

Abasili was residing in the State on a student visa since April 28. The Crime Branch executed the raid, acting on a tip-off from the Telangana Anti-Narcotics Bureau. "Leads given by Telangana Anti Narcotic Bureau were developed by Goa Police and after a week of surveillance by Crime Branch PIs Tushar Lotlikar and Laxi Amonkar, this success

Leads given by Telangana Anti Narcotic Bureau were developed by Goa Police and after a week of surveillance by Crime Branch PIs Tushar Lotlikar and Laxi Amonkar, this success was achieved - Rahul Gupta, SP Crime

was achieved," SP (Crime Branch) Rahul Gupta, IPS told reporters.

The raid was conducted by PI Hiru Kavlekar consisting of Lady PSI Pragati Malik, ASI Shriram Salgaonkar and constables Sandesh Kamblil, Swapnil Simepurushkar and Pundalik Navelkar.

The Crime Branch has registered a case against Nnanyelugo Abasili under Sections 21 (b) and 22(C) of Narcotics Drugs and

Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. PI Hiru Kavlekar is conducting investigations under the supervision of DySP (Crime Branch) Rajesh Kumar and SP Rahul Gupta.

SP Gupta said that the Goa Police has been aggressively taken action against drugs trafficking this year. In the first four and half months, the total seizure by Goa Police stands at Rs 68.36 crore worth drugs and 74 arrests, out of which Crime Branch seized Rs 57 crore worth drugs and arrested 15 persons which involved busting of two international drug trafficking rackets operating in India.

SP Gupta has urged the public and house owners to report any suspicious activities to the police or directly to him, assuring that the identity of informers will be kept confidential.

Hoax bomb threat emails traced to foreign VPNs: SP

Team Herald

PANJIM: The State authorities have received four hoax bomb threat emails, traced to IP addresses originating from France, Hungary etc, informed SP Rahul Gupta, IPS, on Saturday.

However, investigations revealed the senders used VPNs to mask their actual locations likely within the country. The VPN service provider is US based. SP Gupta informed that foreign VPN services generally do not cooperated with information requests, making it difficult to identify the culprits.

On Friday morning, the North Goa Collectorate office received an email stating that a bomb has been planted in the chamber of one of the additional collectors. Following this the staff was evacuated and entire building was searched.

Heavy Rush "BIG DISCOUNT SHOPPING FESTIVAL", LIFESTYLE SHOPPING EXHIBITION AT SGPDA MARGAO



Margao, May 10: BIG DISCOUNT SHOPPING FESTIVAL, the Life Style Shopping Exhibition at SGPDA GROUND in MARGAO is seen crowded for past 2 days. There are lot of Furniture stalls in the exhibition where people rushed to the stall as they were offering good discounts. Furniture Stalls have lot of Dining Tables, Diwans, Wooden Showcases, Centre Tables, Etc. Other stalls like Pratik Motors, Prestige, Paramount Marketing, Usha International Ltd, Ather Electric Bike, AG Furniture Studio, Sikha Home Appliances, Kitchen Ware, Afgan Dry Fruits, Harsh Enterprises, Smith Furniture, Gujarat Namkeen, Jijee Jewellery, Sankul Food,



Laxmi Enterprises, SS Furniture & Traders, Rajasthan Papad, Samra Furniture, Kitchenware, Home Products, Sofa Sets & Home Furniture, Imported Curtains, Shower Curtains, Lazy World Bean Bags, Money Counting Machine, Ladies & Gents Fashion, Toys, Imported Watches, Magic Mop, Ladies & Gents Shoes, Children Clothes, Imported Jewellery, Bedsheets, Herbal Products, Door Mats, Bombay Halwa, Mens Wear, Health care Products & many more. The exhibition is come after a long time and is open for the public from 10.30 a.m. to 9.00 p.m. till 18th May 2025. So don't Miss.

CM urges media to avoid speculation over action taken report

Team Herald

PANJIM: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Saturday urged the media to refrain from speculating on the findings of the fact-finding committee report on the stampede incident at the Shree Lairai Devi temple at Shirgao last week.

SHIRGAO STAMPEDE

Speaking to media persons on the sidelines of a programme at the Raj Bhavan, Sawant said he would make a statement after personally reviewing the report. "I request the me-

dia not to speculate. I will go through the report and then make a detailed statement," he said.

"The government has not yet officially released the report. I will read it

tomorrow (Sunday) and I will comment on it before the media on Monday. If necessary, the report will be presented before the State cabinet," Sawant said.

GOA FORWARD QUESTIONS GOVT'S MOVE TO HUSH UP INQUIRY REPORT

BICHOLIM: The Goa Forward party North Goa District general secretary Santosh Kumar Sawant on Saturday questioned the State government's move to hush up fact-finding inquiry report on Stampede during the Shree Lairai Devi zatra at Shirgao on May 3. He demanded to know where was the drone which the government boasted of being deployed at the site? "Is there a brazen hush up of the fact-finding committee inquiry which will not give justice to innocent souls and those battling for life in hospitals? We want to reiterate that Goan lives matter," Sawant said.

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