

# IN FOUR-AND-HALF MONTHS, ACCIDENTS CLAIMED 95 LIVES

60 victims were aged between 24 and 40, and most were riders & pillion riders; traffic warriors call for awareness campaigns in schools & colleges

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** Nearly 60 per cent of persons in the age group of 24 and 40 lost their lives in the road accidents reported across the State during the last four-and-half months.

Of the 95 deaths reported in the last four and half months of this year, 60 were in the age group of 24 and 40 and most of them were two-wheeler riders and pillion riders.

Expressing concern over rising road accidents majorly involving youngsters, the traffic warriors have underscored the need of awareness campaigns in schools and colleges on traffic regulations and to take stringent measures.

Goa Civic and Consumer Action Network (GOACAN) coordinator Roland Martins stated that schools and colleges should take note of the increase in road accidents and create awareness on traffic regulations. The fatalities have devastated many families, as they lost their only earning member while it left some permanently disabled. "The deaths of youth in the age group of 24 and 40 is concerning because it is the productive age," he said.



FILE PHOTO

Martins stressed the need to create awareness in schools and colleges and among peer groups and bring traffic discipline in a bid to reduce the accidents involving youth.

"On Thursday, May 15, on the occasion of International Day of Families, let us remember all those families who have lost a family member and/or has a family member who is living with a permanent disability due to a road accident in the State," Martins said, adding that the Department of Social Welfare should also take measures due to the impact.

Goa Road Safety Forum president Dilip Naik said, "The government is not serious and not bothered who

dies on the road. There is a lack of will of the government and it is not interested in bringing down the road fatalities."

According to Naik, one of the reasons for road accidents is the issuing of driving licences to youth merely based on their vehicle skills. These youth do not know or obey traffic rules and jump traffic signals and cause accidents. This must stop. The government should also ensure that only roadworthy public vehicles are allowed on roads.

Naik further pointed out that signboards in the State were not as per the IRC specifications and suggested that the police should take strict action against those riding two-wheeler

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**-Roland Martins, GOACAN coordinator**

**"In Goa every year nearly 250 people are killed in road accidents and if we follow Decade of Action for Road Safety then the number of road accidents will be reduced to nearly 125 or even less**

**-Dilip Naik, Goa Road Safety Forum president**

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**-Anant Agni, MARG member secretary**

triple seat and without a helmet. He said that many countries have followed the Decade of Action for Road Safety adopted by the UN General Assembly resolution and have reduced fatalities by 50 per cent.

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Member Secretary of MARG (Movement for Amity Towards Roads in

Goa) Anant Agni said, "The deaths of 60 persons in road accidents in the last four-and-half months is concerning. Schools and colleges should continuously create awareness of traffic related issues and bring road culture among the students. We were trying to do it but the government in the past outsourced an agency from Pune. But it did not do much except distributing booklets to students. Measures should be taken to stop rash and reckless driving by the youth."

## Water supply to Taleigao areas within 10 days: PWD

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** Public Works Department (PWD) Chief Engineer, Subhash Belgaonkar, on Tuesday, said residents of Vodlem Bhat and Borbhat will start receiving water in the next eight to 10 days.

Belgaonkar said "The work is underway, with a new pipeline being laid. The delay in resuming supply is due to the need to clear connections. The previous contamination issue arose from residents releasing sewage water directly into the lines. Sewage should be released into septic tanks. The department has now changed the line and is providing new connections."

It is pertinent to note that residents of Vodlem Bhat and Borbhat in Taleigao have been without PWD drinking water for the past two weeks following complaints of contamination.

## CHAOS & CONFUSION



UPENDRA NAIK

Broken traffic signal at Santa Cruz-Bambolim underpass is resulting in massive congestion, thereby causing inconvenience to motorists as well as pedestrians

## A call for introducing KTC service for Mercers residents

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** The members of the Senior Citizens Welfare Association for Santa Cruz Constituency met Kadamba Transport Corporation Limited (KTCL) chairman Ulhas Tuenkar with a request to introduce bus service for the residents of Mercers at the earliest.

During the meeting, Association president John Nazareth submitted a memorandum highlighting the original objective of the KTCL, which was to provide affordable transport facilities to all villages, prioritising public service over profit.

Acknowledging the extensive connectivity KTCL buses provide to most cities and villages, Nazareth pointed

out that Mercers, despite being located just three kilometres from the Panjim Bus Stand, currently lacks KTCL bus service.

He requested the chairman to introduce KTCL bus service in Mercers at the earliest. The delegation comprised John Nazareth, vice president Dinesh Narvekar and secretary Saturino Mesquita and others.

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** The Bicholim Police on Wednesday arrested two thieves and recovered two mobile phones stolen from the Chief Minister's office at Sankhali. The theft was reported on Saturday night.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant stated that the theft at his party office at Sankhali was the work of a petty thief, while the Opposition alleged that it

exposed the police system and collapsing law and order in the State.

Sawant said the office, located by the roadside, may have been an easy target for the thief. "Two mobile phones were stolen from the office and the persons involved have already been arrested. They found the office open and stole mobile phones. There was no cash in the office," he said.

BJP State president Da-

modar 'Damu' Naik too downplayed the theft saying that it was an act of petty thieves. "They were petty thieves and appear to be outsiders. I don't have information," he said.

Earlier, based on CCTV footage, the Bicholim police detained two persons, who later confessed to the crime. PSI Rashmir Parab Matonkar is conducting further investigations under the guidance of Bicholim PI Vijay Rane Sardesai.

## Two arrested, mobile phones stolen from CM's Sankhali office recovered

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## Captain of Ports issues directives to prevent vector-borne diseases

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** In preparation for the monsoon season and to mitigate the risk of vector-borne diseases such as malaria, dengue, and chikungunya, the Captain of Ports has issued important directives for all barge owners, water sports boat owners, docks, ship repair and manufacturing yards, canoe owners, and all other boat owners. These preventive measures should be implemented at the earliest.

These include ensuring that rainwater does not accumulate in the cargo holds of barges and that any collected water is regularly drained. For barges and other inland vessels, owners and masters should prevent water stagnation in tires used as fenders, for instance, by drilling a drainage hole at the bottom of each tire.

Owners of smaller vessels, crafts, canoes and water sports boats are advised to properly cover their vessels with tarpaulin during the monsoon season or to store them upside down when

### SLEW OF MEASURES

- Owners directed to prevent water from accumulating in vessels
- Advised to properly cover their vessels with tarpaulin
- Compulsory screening of labourers for malaria; health cards mandatory
- Directed to drain rainwater form dock areas

not in use to prevent rainwater accumulation. Any water that does collect should be regularly removed.

Owners are responsible for ensuring that labourers working on trawlers, vessels, or at jetties undergo malaria screening and obtain health cards from the Directorate of Health Services. Similarly, owners/in-charge of docks, ship manufacturing, and repair yards must ensure that labourers working in these areas are screened for malaria and possess

health cards. Additionally, these establishments must ensure that rainwater does not accumulate in the yards or dock areas.

The CoP has asked all owners and masters of barges, passenger launches, ferry boats, tinnels of fishing trawlers and operators of mechanised and non-mechanized crafts, including tourist and cruise boats, as well as owners/in-charge of docks, ship manufacturing, and repair yards, to strictly adhere to these directives and any violation of these instructions will be taken seriously.

**Clube Recreativo E Cultural De Chinchinim (CRCC)**

**LOTTERY COUPON DRAW**

**HELD ON 11/05/2025 AT CRCC GROUND 10 PM.**

**1st Prize - 6935 (Bullet 350)**

**2nd Prize - 3860 (Vespa)**

**3rd Prize - 7930 (Tvs Access)**

\*NOTE: PRIZES SHOULD BE COLLECTED WITHIN 90 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF DRAW

Michael Beny Da Costa  
(President CRCC)  
8007305777

## Children jumping off ferry for swim prompts temporary suspension of Durbhat-Rasoi service

Residents say there were concerns that children gaining unauthorised access to the ferry could sustain potential injury from vessel's underwater fan

Team Herald

**PONDA:** Followed instances of children jumping from the top of the anchored ferry at Durbhat to swim in the Zuari River to beat the heat, the ferry service between Durbhat and Rasoi has been temporarily suspended by the Captain of Ports.

According to locals, it's been 20 days since the service has been temporarily suspended as children were gaining unauthorised access to the ferry at the Durbhat ramp and jumping into the river; not only from the side railings but also from the roof, posing a significant safety risk. There were

concerns about potential injury from the ferry's underwater fan.

Durbhat Adpoi Agapur sarpanch Chandan Naik, stated that the panchayat has not received any complaints regarding the suspension of ferry service. He said, "The Captain of Ports' decision was due to the dangerous activity of children jumping from the ferry for bathing. We were unable to reach the Captain of Ports officials for their comment on the matter."

Locals said "We have also learned that the ferry previously operating between Durbhat and Rasoi has now been redi-



SANTOSH NAIK

The Durbhat ferry ramp wears a deserted look

rected to the Adpoi to Rasoi route. Consequently, there are now two ferries operating between Adpoi and Rasoi. This ferry service is a crucial link for numerous workers commuting from Ponda taluka towards Mormugao taluka via Rasoi and the Verna Industrial Estate, as well

as other passengers travelling between Vasco and Ponda."

There have been mixed reactions to the Durbhat ferry's suspension. Some commuters and industrial workers have reportedly welcomed the increased frequency on the Adpoi-Rasoi route, noting its short-

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**- Chandan Naik, Durbhat Adpoi Agapur sarpanch**

er five-minute travel time compared to the 25 minutes for the Durbhat-Rasoi route, which also results in diesel and time savings.

However, residents in the Durbhat and Adpoi vicinity opine that the government should maintain the Durbhat-Rasoi ferry service, highlighting its long-standing operation and the Durbhat ramp's location within a residential area, considered

safer, especially for women. They pointed out that while the Adpoi-Rasoi route is shorter, the 1 km approach road to the Adpoi ferry ramp passes through an isolated area, which could be risky for women travelling alone. Additionally, they have concerns about narrow roads and speeding vehicles in the Adpoi area posing a safety risk to locals.

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