

# Unseasonal rains, gusty winds wreak havoc in Salcete

Trees uprooted, homes flooded, property damaged across South Goa; firefighters on toes as they battle dozens of emergencies

Team Herald

**MARGAO:** Heavy unseasonal rains accompanied by gusty winds lashed Salcete on Tuesday night and throughout Wednesday, resulting in widespread tree falls, waterlogging, short circuits, and damage to property amounting to several lakh rupees.



The rainfall has caused extensive damage to properties, including homes and infrastructure, and has left many areas submerged — Gil Souza, Fire Station Officer

Gil Souza, Fire Station Officer (FSO) at the Margao Fire Station, said that in the last 24 hours, the fire station attended 17 calls across Salcete. These included incidents of trees uprooted onto roads, paralyzing traffic, house collapses, waterlogging, and short circuits. Fortunately, no injuries were reported.

"The rainfall has caused extensive damage to properties, including homes and infrastructure, and has left many areas submerged," said Souza, adding that estimates for damages were being prepared in most cases. Firefighters from the Fire and Emergency Services, Margao, were on the

move throughout the day on Wednesday.

The heavy downpour, accompanied by thunder, lightning, and strong winds, struck various parts of Salcete Taluka at around 10:30 pm on Tuesday with Fire Services reporting that four calls were received on Tuesday and 14 more on Wednesday.

In one incident, a dead tree fell on a house near Ramola



A firefighter cutting a tree which came down crashing on the road at Cuncolim

Super Market at Sernabatim, Colva, causing damage.

In another case, a bhendi tree fell on the road near the western bypass bridge at Telaulim, Navelim, also causing damage. A huge jackfruit tree toppled onto the road near Maria Hall on the way to Varca at Benaullim, leading to traffic congestion.

The Margao Fire Station also responded to a major call reporting an oil spill near Easy Buy Mall at Colmorod, Navelim.

the road near Yashodhan Society at Aquem, Salcete Waterlogging was reported at multiple locations, including inside a house near Don Bosco College in Fatorada. Similar flooding was reported in a house near Woodburn Resort, Navelim, and another near Chicken Planet Restaurant in Aquem, both of which were cleared.

Short circuit incidents were also reported. One occurred in a building near KFC Restaurant at Davorlim, and another near the railway station diesel

tank at Rawanfand. residents.

Fire personnel remained on their toes throughout the day, attending to numerous incidents. A jungle tree that had fallen on the road near Apollo Victor Hospital at Malbhat, a banyan tree near the Jacknibandh bus stop at Dramapur-Navelim, and trees that had fallen near Rupa Bar at Moti Dongor, near Classic Hospital at Malbhat, and behind Muthoot Finance at Colmorod were all cleared by the teams.

A mango tree that had fallen on a compound wall at Fukru Mondo, Benaullim, and another tree that fell on a road and compound wall at Baga, Davorlim, were also cleared. In an animal rescue operation, fire personnel saved a bull stuck in the mud near Folga Restaurant behind the wholesale fish market in Margao.

Heavy trees also fell on the roads at Karmal Ghat, where Canacona fire personnel cleared branches to reopen traffic. At Khotigao, a tree fell on an electrical line, blocking the road. Firefighters, along with electricity department staff, responded to the scene and cleared the area.

# Five cars damaged; house roof blown away in Calangute

Team Herald

**CALANGUTE:** Five cars were damaged and a house roof was blown off following strong winds and sudden heavy rains that lashed the Calangute-Baga coastal belt on Wednesday morning.

At around 8.30am, massive branches of a mango tree crashed down at Khobrawaddo, Baga, damaging five cars parked in the open. According to Pilerne Fire Station officials, one car was completely crushed while four others, including a tourist taxi and a car registered in Andhra Pradesh, sustained partial damage. The total estimated loss is over Rs 10 lakh. Fortunately, no injuries were reported.



Fire officials promptly arrived at the scene and cut the remaining branches to prevent further damage to nearby vehicles. The duty crew included Sub-Officer Sunny Phayde and firefighters Vishal Patil, Shrikant Sawant, Jitendra Bali, Pralahad Kotkar, Sairaj Mandrekar, Videsh Mapsekar, along with their driver.

In a separate incident at Umtawaddo, Calangute, the roof of a house belonging to Vincent Pereira was torn off by gusty winds. While

the property suffered significant damage, no injuries were reported.

Meanwhile, late on Wednesday night, a tree fell on a compound wall and a parked car and scooter at Verem, near the Nerul petrol pump. Both

the two-wheeler and car were damaged in the incident. Several other weather-related incidents were also reported along the coastal belt as the region continues to experience the impact of pre-monsoon turbulence.

# Access road to Kerya paddy fields washed away



Team Herald

**PONDA:** The heavy pre-monsoon rainfall has washed away the access road leading to the paddy fields at Kerya, Khandepar, leaving local farmers struggling to reach their fields.

The kuchha road, constructed by the Public Works Department (PWD) to assist farmers with access to their fields, was severely damaged by the sudden downpour. The rain has not only eroded the road but also caused mud to spread across the paddy fields, further hampering agricultural

activity.

Farmer Tukaram Gaude expressed concern over the situation. "The government had constructed the mud road to facilitate movement of man and machinery in the field, but rain has washed away the road. It is difficult to go to the fields in the absence of a road," he said.

He pointed out that farmers had previously lost their traditional pathway due to road widening at Kerya. "Farmers never keep their land fallow, but if the road is not restored, we may be forced to abandon our fields this year," he lamented.

# Woman injured as tree falls on house in Volvoi

Team Herald

**PONDA:** A woman sustained injuries and several houses were damaged following stormy winds that led to multiple tree-felling incidents in Ponda on Thursday.

At Fondchebhat-Volvoi, Pratiksha Pramod Naik was injured when roof tiles fell on her head after a tree located near her house collapsed onto the structure. The incident occurred on Thursday morning. She was subsequently hospitalized. The house also suffered structural damage. Ponda Fire personnel responded promptly and cleared the debris.



In another incident, at Sacre-Shiroda, a mango and coconut tree fell on the house of Siana Fernandes following strong winds. Fortunately, the occupants escaped unhurt as they were not inside at the time. Siana's daughter, who was in one of the rooms,

shouted for help after hearing a loud crash caused by a coconut falling on the metal shed and the mango tree collapsing onto the roof. Though there were no injuries, the house suffered damage. The Ponda Fire team cleared the site.

Ponda Fire Station reported receiving a total of nine calls related to tree-felling incidents on Thursday. These included four cases where trees fell on houses and five where trees blocked roads. All locations were attended to and cleared by fire personnel.

# Water level at OPA barrage rises with rains

Team Herald

**PONDA:** Recent pre-monsoon showers have significantly improved the water level at the OPA Barrage on the Dudhsagar River, reaching its full capacity of 5 metres.

The OPA Water Works Project supplies approximately 150 million litres per day (MLD) of treated water to Tiswadi and Ponda talukas. The raw water is sourced from the perennial Dudhsagar River, where around 18 bandharas (check dams) have been constructed to store water. Several of these bandharas had released water during the summer due to declining levels.

In addition to the Dudhsagar River, the project also receives raw water through pipelines from Ganjem Barrage and Salaulim Dam.

Last week, the water level at the OPA barrage stood at 3.72 metres. However, continuous premonsoon showers over the past three days have raised the level to 5 metres—its full capacity. Officials explained that any level beyond 5 metres poses a flooding risk to nearby vil-



ages, and as a precautionary measure, the gates of the barrage were opened to release excess water.

# Vice-president unveils statues of Charaka and Susruta at Raj Bhavan

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** Vice-President of India, Jagdeep Dhankhar, on Thursday unveiled the statues of Acharya Charaka and Sage Susruta at Raj Bhavan, Dona Paula, in the presence of Governor P S Shreedharan Pillai and Chief Minister Pramod Sawant.

The Vice-President was accompanied by his spouse, Dr Sudesh Dhankhar, and First Lady of Goa, Rita Shreedharan Pillai. Union Minister Shripad Naik, Power Minister Ramkrishna 'Sudin' Dhavalikar, MP Sadanand Shet Tanavade, and Deputy Speaker Joshua De Souza were also present.

Addressing the function, Vice-President Dhankhar said that the armed forces had recently made the nation proud. Referring to their role in Operation Sindoor, he stated, "Operation Sindoor has sent a loud and clear message to the world that India will not tolerate terrorism. Such an operation was necessary. This

has made everyone understand India's strength," he concluded.

Commending the work of the Governor, Dhankhar also praised the Vaman Vriksha Kala Udyan, popularly known as the "Bonsai Garden". He said that the Atharva Veda is often considered a gold mine of health knowledge, serving as a foundational text for Ayurveda, India's ancient system of medicine.

The Vice-President further called for a greater focus on alternative medicine and urged for evidence-based validation of ancient texts to ensure their relevance and application to modern challenges.

Governor Pillai said Raj Bhavan now has 1,008 bonsai plants and encouraged students and teachers to visit the garden. Chief Minister Sawant noted that a statue of Sage Susruta also stands at the Royal Australian College of Surgeons, Melbourne, and said the works of Charaka and Susruta provide detailed insights into illnesses and medicinal treatments.

# Chirag Nayak joins Congress

Team Herald

**MARGAO:** Chirag Nayak, son of acclaimed entrepreneur, intellectual and literary figure Datta Nayak, formally joined the Congress party on Thursday in a ceremony attended by several senior party leaders and prominent citizens of Margao.

The event marked a significant political development for the Congress party in Goa ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections.

Nayak was welcomed into the party fold by Congress Goa in-charge Manikrao Thakre in the presence of key leaders, including Congress Goa co-in-charge Dr Anjali Nimbalkar, Congress Central Committee member Girish Chodankar, State President Amit Patkar, and Leader of the Opposition Yuri Alemo.

While addressing the gathering, Chirag Nayak said his entry into politics was motivated by a desire to fill a 35-year void in Margao's development.

"Margao has remained deprived of real progress for the past three and a half decades. I have joined the Congress to change that," Nayak declared.

# Gadkari to lay foundation stone for observatory towers on Zuari Bridge

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, will perform the ground-breaking ceremony for the iconic observatory towers atop the new Zuari Bridge at 6 pm on Friday, May 23. The function will be held at the Chicalim panchayat hall.

The project, estimated at a cost of Rs 270.07 cr and expected to be constructed over a span of five years, will feature observatory towers inspired by the Eiffel Tower in Paris. With a revolving restaurant and an art gallery, it is designed to serve as a global tourist attraction and is poised to become a landmark in Goa's rich tourist landscape.

To be executed on the DB-FOT (Design, Build, Finance, Operate, and Transfer) model, the initiative will involve zero financial burden on the Government. The concessionaire will be responsible for full construction and will operate

the facility for a concession period of 50 years. Strategically placed between pylons on two pile cap foundations, each tower will rise to a height of 125 metres, featuring shaft dimensions of 8.50 metres by 5.50 metres.

The upper levels will house two expansive floors with minimum dimensions of 22.50 metres by 17.80 metres, equipped with capsule lifts for panoramic ascents. Complemented by viewing galleries, cafeterias, and state-of-the-art tourist amenities, the towers will offer a holistic experience. A dedicated walkway bridge of 7.50-metre carriage width will be constructed on either side in the marine portion, allowing seamless tourist access. Parking facilities will be provided on both ends of the bridge, ensuring convenience for visitors.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, on Thursday, said that the Zuari Observatory Towers will be completed within the next two-and-a-half years.

## APPOINTMENTS

### Accountant cum Admin Immediate Joiner

We are seeking a well-organized and proactive Accountant cum Admin to join our team at a reputed company based in Goa. The ideal candidate should possess strong accounting knowledge, excellent communication and interpersonal skills, and the ability to manage both financial and administrative tasks efficiently. This role requires multitasking across book keeping, office coordination, and correspondence while ensuring accuracy and professionalism in all interactions.

Experience: Minimum 4 years in accounting and administrative roles.

Contact: 9145275424 / ankitawebster@gmail.com

**दि न्यू इंडिया एशियटिक्स कंपनी लिमिटेड**  
**द न्यू इंडिया अशियटिक्स कंपनी लिमिटेड**

नोंदणीकृत आणि मुख्य कार्यालय: 87, एम.जी. रोड, फोर्ट, नूबय - 400001  
 सी.आय.एन.क्रमांक: L66000MH1919G0100526 | आय.आर.डी.ए.नोंदणी क्र.: 190

**प्रशिक्षणाक 500 अप्रेंटिसांची गुंतवणूक**

द न्यू इंडिया अशियटिक्स कंपनी लिमिटेड, एक आघाडीची औद्योगिक क्षेत्रातील सामान्य विनोद कंपनी, अप्रेंटिस कायदा 1961 (वेळोवेळीत दुकडत केल्ल्या प्रमाण) खाली उक्त्या बाजारांतल्यान 500 अप्रेंटिसांक गुंतवणूक खातीर अर्ज आपयता.

अर्ज करपाची पदतः - उमेदवारांनी 06/06/2025 ते 20/06/2025 (दोनूय दीस धरून) नमगती फक्त ऑनलायन पध्तीन अर्ज करचे, ही विनयवणी. हेर खंयच्याय मार्गान / माध्यमांतले अर्ज स्विकारचे नात.

पिठाव (01/06/2025 दिसा):  
 किमान पिठाव: 21 वर्सां, चडांत चड पिठाव: 30 वर्सां.  
 शिक्षणाक पात्रताय (01/06/2025 दिसा):  
 मान्यताय प्राप्त विद्यापिठाचो (बी पदवीधर / समकक्ष).  
 उमेदवार जें राज्य / केंद्रशासित प्रदेश खातीर अर्ज करता, त्या राज्याचे प्रादेशीक भाशेचें गिन्यान ताका / तिका आसप गरजेचें.  
 स्टायपेंड: - रु. 9,000/- दद म्हयन्याक  
 प्रशिक्षणाची काळ - 1वर्सां

ही सुचोवणी फक्त माहिती खातीर आसा. राज्य / केंद्रशासित प्रदेश आनी श्रेणी प्रमाण रिच्या सुवातीच्या तपशिला खातीर आनी ऑनलायन अर्ज खातीर, उपकार करून आमच्या संकेतस्थळाच्या माहिती आनी नवदत विभागाक नेट दिवची <http://www.newindia.co.in> आनी <https://bfsissc.com>.

नूबय

**NIRMALA INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION**  
**M. A. in Wellness Counselling Post-Graduate Programme**  
 (Affiliated to Goa University)  
 Altinho, Panaji, Goa Ph: 2225631  
 email: nieannex31@gmail.com

Walk-in interview is scheduled for the following posts on contract basis for the academic year 2025-2026 at Nirmala Institute of Education.

**Assistant Professor - 4 nos.**

**Essential Qualifications:**

a) Master's Degree in Psychology/Counselling/Wellness Counselling with not less than 55% of marks.

b) NET/SET

Interested eligible candidates are requested to attend the walk-in interview along with an application, one photograph, one set of self-attested photocopies of their educational qualification certificates, experience certificates, residential certificates etc. on 28th May 2025 between 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the premises of Nirmala Institute of Education.

The appointment of the candidate to the post will be subject to the approval of appointment by Goa University. Salary is commensurate with experience.

**VICE PRESIDENT (NES) DI/ADVT/453/2025**