

shorttakes

Motorcycle stolen from open parking area in Dharbandora

MARGAO: Forty-eight-year-old Anand Velip, a resident of Dharbandora, complained to Curcholem Police that an unknown person stole his motorcycle from an open parking area in Carmonem, Dharbandora. Police registered the offence under BNS of 2023. Head Constable Laxmikant Borkar is conducting further investigations.

Offence registered in online job scam

MARGAO: Following a complaint by a woman who was fraudulently induced to transfer Rs 1,77,000 in multiple transactions between March 6 and 7, Margao Police registered an offence under BNS 2023, and IT Act 2000. According to the complaint, an unidentified individual, using false identities, convinced the woman to participate in an online part-time job scheme involving task completion for monetary returns, thereby cheating her through impersonation using a computer source. Further investigation is underway.

Stabbing victim discharged, Quepem Police to record statement

MARGAO: Quepem Police have stated that they will soon record the statement of Sakshi Naik, as she has been discharged from Goa Medical College, Bambolim, after being stabbed by her boyfriend at Sirvoi-Quepem. Her boyfriend, Aanant Kadam, arrested in Satara, is in judicial custody at Colvale jail for 14 days. Earlier, the Police registered an offence against Kadam under BNS 2023. His mobile and car have been seized. Police recorded the statements of six individuals, including two eyewitnesses. PSI Yogesh Gaunker is investigating the case.

CCP extends tax payment deadline to June 30

PANJIM: The Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP) has extended the deadline for the payment of various municipal taxes to June 30, 2025. Taxpayers, including property owners and licensees within CCP's jurisdiction, are advised to pay dues such as House Tax, Trade and Occupation Tax, Signboard Tax and Sanitation Charges before the extended deadline to avoid interest charges. At the time of payment, taxpayers are required to produce previous tax receipts to ensure proper assessment and avoid interest on current dues. Payments can also be made online via the CCP website: www.ccpgoa.com. Failure to pay by the due date will result in the levy of interest as applicable, says a press release issued by CCP.

Civil aviation office relocated to new market complex in Porvorim

PANJIM: The Directorate of Civil Aviation has relocated its office from Room No. 19, Secretariat, Porvorim, to UG-4, 5 & 10, Building 'B', Goa Housing Board, New Market Complex, Porvorim, Goa - 403521. The shift will be effective from May 30. All future correspondence should be addressed to the new location. The department can be contacted on 0832-2913540/41, as stated in a press release issued by the Department of Information and Publicity.

Bahubhashik Mahila Sahityik Melawa scheduled for June 7

PANJIM: The Institute Menezes Braganza, Panjim, will host the Bahubhashik Mahila Sahityik Melawa on June 7, from 9.30 am. The event celebrates women's contributions to literature and features sessions with renowned female poets and writers, panel discussions, and guidance for aspiring authors. Sulakshana Sawant, social worker, will inaugurate the programme alongside the chairman and member secretary of the institute, and musician Ashwini Zambaulikar. The concluding ceremony is set for 4.30 pm.

Pre-kharif campaign set to cover North Goa from May 29 to June 12

PANJIM: The Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan 2025 - Pre-Kharif Campaign will be held across North Goa from May 29 to June 12, 2025. The schedule includes the following locations (forenoon and afternoon sessions): May 30: Meneur, Adavalpal/Sal, Mulgaon; May 31: Ona Maulinguem, Surla/Kudchure, Navelim; June 1: Parye, Morlem/Keri, Honda; June 2: Sanvordem, Pissurlem/Cotorem, Bhironda; June 3: Dongruli Thane, Nagargaon/Mauxi, Gulelim; June 4: Ibrampur Hankhane, Warkhand Nagzar/Alorna, Toxem; June 5: Tambose, Tuem/Mopa, Parcem; June 6: Hermal, Virnoda/Paliem, Dhargal; June 7: Pirna, Moira/Sirsaim, Nachinola; June 8: Ucasaim, Assagao/Bastora, Siolim Manya; June 9: Parra, Calangute/Anjuna, Candolim; June 10: Chodan, Chimbel/Mandure, Golti Navelim; June 11: Siridao, Cumarjua/Merces, St Estevam; June 12: Agassaim, Carabolim/Goa Vella, Corlim. For details, contact Dr Bommayasamy N, Rahul Kulkarni, Aishwar Kumar Tiwari, Dr Udharwar S V, Rahul Kumar or Vishwajeet Prajapati.

Bhasha Puraskar awardees announced for 2022-2025

PANJIM: The Directorate of Official Language has announced the recipients of the Bhasha Puraskar for 2022-2023, 2023-2024 and 2024-2025. Konkani (Ravindra Kelekar Puraskar): 2022-23: Manikrao Ram Nayak Gaunekar; 2023-24: Suresh Ramchandra Pai; 2024-25: Bhiku Bomi Naik. Marathi (B.D. Satoskar Puraskar): 2022-23: Shambhu Bhu Bandekar; 2023-24: Anil Gajanan Samant; 2024-25: Ramesh D Onskar. Awardees were selected by a government-appointed committee for their outstanding contributions to the promotion and development of Konkani and Marathi. The awards will be presented by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant at a special function on May 30 at 10 am, at Kala Academy, Campal-Panjim. The Bhasha Puraskar Yojana honours lifetime contributions to language development and aims to inspire the public by recognising literary excellence.

power shutdown

DIVAR: On May 30, from 9.30 am to 1.30 pm. Affected areas are Madel Church area, Oranda and Vicinity of Chorao village.

# Encroachments at Baga-Khandepar river bank raise flood fears

P'yat inspects illegal rock cutting, road and retaining wall after villagers warn of monsoon flooding

Team Herald

PONDA: Following concerns raised by villagers during Sunday's gram sabha regarding illegal encroachments along the flood-prone Baga-Khandepar riverside, the Curti-Khandepar panchayat, led by Sarpanch Nilkant Naik and the panchayat secretary, conducted an on-site inspection of the affected area.

The inspection covered various unauthorised developments, including a massive rock cut along the riverbank, an illegal road and a nearly 100-metre-long retaining wall built through land filling in the catchment area near a field. Villagers warned that if immediate action is not taken, the encroachments could

cause severe flooding of homes in Baga-Khandepar during the monsoon.

It may be recalled that the Dudhsagar (Khandepar) river, which flows from Karnataka, floods annually during the monsoon season. In 2021 and previous years, heavy flooding resulted in damage to homes, including the collapse of several mud structures. Locals now fear that recent encroachments will exacerbate the situation.

Residents observed that the massive rock, which once served as a natural barrier preventing floodwaters from entering Baga, has been cut and levelled, increasing the risk of flooding. Additionally, the illegally constructed retaining wall is likely to obstruct the natural flow of water,



Curti-Khandepar panchayat officials measuring the land filling in the catchment area

threatening to flood homes located opposite it.

Villagers Sandesh Gaude, Sitaram Gaude, Namdev Gaude and others from Ward No. 1 reported the construction of an unauthorised riverside road, allegedly used

for sand transportation and the cutting of the large riverside rock using a suction pump to extract sand. They reiterated that the rock had acted as a protective measure against flooding, and its removal now leaves the area

vulnerable.

Following the inspection, Sarpanch Naik assured residents that a concrete retaining wall would be constructed in place of the cut rock. Villagers also urged that, apart from Ganesh idol

immersions, no other activity should be permitted at the site.

Naik stated, "Following complaints by locals, we inspected the riverside at Baga. We found a huge rock at the riverbank had been cut, an illegal road had been constructed and illegal land-filling and a retaining wall measuring approximately 70 metres in length and 3.5 metres in height had been built."

He confirmed that the landowner has been directed to reinstate the site. Since the rock cannot be restored, the owner has been ordered to construct a concrete retaining wall in its place.

Regarding the illegal landfilling and retaining wall, Naik added that the panchayat body would hold discussions and take appropriate action soon.

## Goa Statehood Day celebrations today

Book releases, web series launch, photo-exhibition, felicitation of iconic Goan brands to mark the occasion

Team Herald

PANJIM: The State-level function of the 39th Goa Statehood Day will be held at the Dinanath Mangeshkar Kala Mandir, Kala Academy, Panjim, at 11 am on May 30.

The event will be graced by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, Panchayats Minister Mauvin Godinho, Social Welfare Minister Subhash Phal Dessai, Joint Secretary Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India, Archana Awasthi, IRS, and other dignitaries. Iconic brands of Goa will be felicitated on the occasion for their contribution towards the economic growth of the State and

for preserving Goa's identity. These are BigFoot, Loutolim; Café Tato, Panjim; Gomant Vidya Niketan, Margao; Paul John Distilleries, Concolim; Zantye Cashew, Bicholim; Dangui Optician, Mapusa; Mauzo Photo Studio, Margao; Dr Carmo Gracias Maternity Hospital, Margao; Titos, Baga and Sagar Naik Mule from Ponda.

It will be a momentous moment for the State as Goa will be declared as a fully literate State under ULLHAS new India Literacy programme.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister will also inaugurate a photo exhibition 'Goa-Then and Now', showcasing some of the rare photos related to Goa's

Statehood. A web series 'Bharat Hai Hum' of the Department of Archives will also be launched. Further, the function will see the release of three books, 'Temples of Goa', 'Gomantkiya Durganchya Vatevar' and 'Vikas Path: Goa's Journey of Reform and Renewal'. Sponsor letters under CFF Scheme of Home Department and sponsor letters under Compassionate Scheme of Personnel Department will be distributed to beneficiaries at the Goa Statehood function.

Swayampurna villages and Swayampurna Mitras will be felicitated for their efforts towards making the State self-reliant.

Five government depart-

ments will be felicitated for following best practices in governance. These Departments/bodies are Department of Planning, Statistics and Evaluation for their work on Swayampurna Goa initiative; Goa Waste Management Corporation for their waste management initiatives; Department of Empowerment for Persons with Disabilities for their overall work related to Person with Disabilities; Department of Rural Development for active engagement and work for the betterment of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and the Department of Panchayat for wealth out of waste initiative, near Jogger's Park, Chicalim.

## Gracias Hospital to be honoured as 'Iconic Brand'

MARGAO: Dr Carmo Gracias Hospital, Margao, has been recommended by the Goa government as an iconic brand to be felicitated on the 39th Statehood Day, May 30. The hospital's legacy began in 1940 with Dr Antonio Santana Gracias, who established a maternity care centre.



His son, Dr Carmo Gracias, expanded its services in 1974, combining medical excellence with a foundation of faith—prayers were said before every procedure. In 2013, Carmo's son Dr Emmanuel Gracias brought in advanced techniques like laparoscopic (keyhole) surgery, further elevating the standard of care. Now called Gracias Maternity Hospital, it has expanded across South Goa, introduced infertility treatment, and adopted telemedicine and social media outreach.

Over three generations, the Gracias family has served more than 40,000 patients, earning the hospital recognition as a pillar of compassionate, community-focused healthcare.

## Governor, CM extend Statehood greetings

Team Herald

PANJIM: Governor P S Sreedharan Pillai and Chief Minister Pramod Sawant have extended their greetings and warm wishes to the people of Goa on the occasion of 39th Statehood Day.

Calling Goa Statehood Day, a significant milestone in the State's glorious history, the Governor said that it was on this day in 1987 that Goa became the 25th State of the Indian Union.

The Governor urged people to remember with

gratitude the leaders, intellectuals, and citizens who contributed to this historic achievement.

In his message, the Chief Minister said, "Goa was liberated from colonial rule in December, 1961. Achieving Statehood was much valued, as it was achieved after a lot of struggle and efforts put in by the people. It was a dream of the people of Goa, which was rightfully fulfilled in a truly democratic manner. Statehood gave a distinct identity and individuality to the people of Goa."

## Rains trigger flooding at Tonca



Team Herald

PANJIM: Heavy rains triggered flooding at Tonca, Panjim, affecting several residential homes on Wednesday night.

The residents complained that water entered into their houses and blamed the inundation on the lack of desilting in the St Inez Creek. The incident has reignited calls for urgent maintenance of the creek to prevent recurring flood threats in the area.

Chandriya Muthkundra, a resident, said, "Water entered into my house on Wednesday. All the belongings and other articles were damaged. It was only around midnight when rain subsided and we could flush out the water," she

said, adding that on Thursday morning Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP) workers came to the site.

Chandriya said that the main problem was due to blocking of the drainage. "We are experiencing it during every monsoon," she said, appealing to the CCP to make some measures to prevent it.

Some of the residents said that they have increased the ground level to stop the water entering their houses.

When contacted, CCP councillor Joel Andrade said, "Only one house was affected. How much we clean as part of pre-monsoon work, it is happening. We have already proposed construction of a master drain from Tonca to Miramar. It will be a permanent solution."

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