

Moira trio held for merciless assault on Nachinola couple

Accused identified as Ranganath Shetye (55), Vinod Shetkar (47) and Kaushal Shetye (32), all residents of Moira; victims' family claim 20 persons including two cops and power dept employee are involved in the attack

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Mapusa Police on Tuesday arrested three persons in the alleged merciless assault on a couple from Nachinola at Bastora junction.

The police have arrested Ranganath Shetye (55), Vinod Shetkar (47) and Kaushal Shetye (32), all residents of Tambdi Matiti, Pirozone Moira, disclosed Rahul Gupta IPS SP North, adding that more persons will be nabbed soon.

It may be recalled that Vivek Shirodkar and his three-month pregnant wife, Shruti Shirodkar, who operate a Shawarma van at the junction, were attacked.

The arrest comes after

“The question is should we stay in Goa or not? The complaint was filed on Monday night, but no arrest has been made as yet. There were around 20 persons involved in the assault. Of them, two are police personnel, and one is a government employee employed in the Electricity Department. If police are not in a position to arrest the culprits then they should tell us

— Aman Shirodkar, brother-in-law of Shruti, victim of assault

the family members of the couple from Nachinola, accused the Mapusa Police of treating them poorly, as they claimed that despite producing photographic evidence, the men-in-uniform had refused to arrest the culprits.

Aman Shirodkar, brother-in-law of Shruti had com-

plained saying, “The question is should we stay in Goa or not? The complaint was filed on Monday night, but no arrest has been made as yet. There were around 20 persons involved in the assault. Of them, two are police personnel, and one is a government employee employed in the Electricity De-

partment. If police are not in a position to arrest the culprits then they should tell us.”

“We have produced photos of some of the accused but still the culprits are at large. I along with other family members waited the whole night hoping that police will arrest the culprits and bring them to the police station, but nothing has been done,” he added.

“Is it the way that police will give justice to the people? If they cannot, they should tell us,” he said.

Claiming that they have already identified three accused and two of them are roaming openly, the family members alleged that there is no action from po-

lice in the case at all. They claimed that they received a call from a politician asking them to compromise.

Earlier in the day, the police statement read: “Yesterday’s Bastora incident reported at Mapusa Police Station, a complaint was filed by Ms Shruti Vivek Shirodkar of assault and violence by unknown persons last night. FIR has been registered vide Cr No 83/2025 U/S 126(2), 352, 351(3), 118(2), 74, 109 r/w 3(5) BNS in Mapusa PS at 1.15 am. The Mapusa Police Station team has been working on the case since the reporting. Police have identified the accused persons. Multiple teams have been formed to arrest the accused involved.”

Mobile-cum-stationery shop gutted in Taleigao

Owner claims products worth Rs 15 lakh were destroyed in the blaze

HERALDPIC



Team Herald

PANJIM: A mobile-cum-stationery shop located in Taleigao was completely gutted in a fire late Monday night. However, no injuries were reported in the incident.

Personnel from Fire and Emergency Services (FES) from Panjim responded promptly to control the blaze. Though the fire-fighters managed to douse the flames, it was not before the fire had destroyed the

“I was informed about the fire by a friend. I immediately rushed to the shop. When I opened the shop there was a blaze. It is suspected that electric short circuit could have been the reason behind the fire incident

— Govind Chari, shop owner

stock inside the shop.

Speaking to reporters, Govind Chari, the shop owner, said, “I was informed about the fire by a friend. I immediately rushed to the shop. When I opened the shop there

was a blaze. It is suspected that an electric short circuit could have been the reason behind the fire incident.”

Chari said electronic items and stationery products worth Rs 15 lakh were destroyed in the blaze.

M’rashtra man gets rigorous imprisonment for possessing drugs

PANJIM: A local has sentenced Vinod Chawan, a resident of Pandarpur, Maharashtra, to five years of rigorous imprisonment for illegal possession of narcotics.

Chawan was arrested on November 11, 2017, near the Panjim market while carrying 1.10 kg of ganja.

The case, investigated by PI Arun Dessai, then serving as a PSI, was examined in court. Following the trial, Chawan was found guilty under the relevant sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. In addition to the prison term, the court imposed a fine, highlighting the judiciary’s stringent approach toward drug offences.

The prosecution, led by PI Dessai, presented compelling evidence.

ROOF MATTERS

UPENDRA NAIK



As schools reopen on Wednesday, the roof repair work at the Government Primary School in Taleigao is still underway. According to the headmistress, bad weather and the delay in delivery of tiles from outside the State are the main reasons for the delay. Over 130 students will be temporarily shifted to the old panchayat building, opposite the present school location. However, they are expected to shift back to the school on Monday.

Goa targets 21,200 rooftop solar systems by 2027

Team Herald

PANJIM: Goa has set a target of installing 21,200 rooftop solar systems by 2027, generating 65 MW of clean and green energy, and ensuring affordable, sustainable power access for poor and middle-class households under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana (PM-SGMBY). Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said on Tuesday.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter) after chairing a high-level meeting at Mantralaya, the Chief Minister

Sawant informed that over 4,700 feasibility approvals have already been granted under PM-SGMBY.

Installed systems have collectively generated 7.34 MW of solar power, and subsidies totalling Rs 4.28 crore have been disbursed to beneficiaries.

He said the meeting’s discussions centred on accelerating the onboarding of contractors who will provide 25-year maintenance commitments.

There was also a focus on promoting the adoption of rooftop solar in vari-

ous buildings, including new and existing homes, hotels, residential complexes, and government offices.

Another significant decision involved the gradual phasing out of older schemes like the Goa Vinamulya Vidyut Yojana (GVVY) and integrating it within the PM-SGMBY framework.

Sawant said the government intends to emphasise the mandatory installation of rooftop solar systems for specific sectors in the future.

FDA shuts down two food businesses in Bardez

Issues notices to others during inspections at Madel, Tivim, Karaswada and Mapusa Yard

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) conducted a surprise inspection across nine premises dealing in food manufacturing and sales, resulting in the closure of two operations and notices issued to others for non-compliance.

Led by FDA Director Shweta Dessai, the inspections targeted manufacturers of farsan, sweets, chips, caterers, and fruit vendors across Madel, Tivim, Karaswada, and the bustling Mapusa Yard.

The enforcement team included officials Richard Noronha, Amit Mandrekar, and Darlan Diukar.

During the drive, two premises—a manufacturer

ENSURING FOOD SAFETY

- During the drive, two premises—a manufacturer and a caterer—were ordered to cease operations due to serious violations of food safety norms
- Two more food manufacturing units were served improvement notices for lapses that

- require urgent corrective action
- Fruit samples were also collected for laboratory analysis
- Team kept a close watch on vendors operating in the Mapusa Yard to ensure adherence to food safety regulations

and a caterer—were ordered to cease operations due to serious violations of food safety norms. Additionally, two more food manufacturing units were served improvement notices for lapses that require urgent corrective action.

Fruit samples were also collected for laboratory analysis, with the team

keeping a close watch on vendors operating in the Mapusa Yard to ensure adherence to food safety regulations.

The FDA reiterated its commitment to safeguarding public health and warned that routine inspections will continue, with strict action against violators.

Truckers oppose Mormugao Port flyover toll

Fear it would erode their earnings

Team Herald

PANJIM: Local truck and heavy vehicle owners have strongly opposed the newly imposed Rs 300 toll per trip at the recently inaugurated Mormugao Port flyover.

Implemented this week, the toll has raised serious concerns among transporters and logistics operators who depend on the flyover for daily access to the port.

The local operators said the toll came as an unexpected shock. Rajesh Naik, a truck owner from Vasco, said “We were not given sufficient notice to adapt our business. A Rs 300 charge per trip is substantial, especially for those making multiple daily trips. This will severely cut into our already narrow profit margins.”

The transporters warned that the toll will significantly increase their operational

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— Rajesh Naik, a truck owner from Vasco

“We cannot afford to bear these extra costs, and clients are already pushing for the lowest rates. If we raise our prices, we risk losing business to competitors who might take longer alternative routes to avoid the toll, potentially causing congestion elsewhere

— Suresh Patil, who manages a fleet servicing the port

expenses. With fuel prices already high and maintenance costs rising, the added toll fee is viewed as an unnecessary strain.

The feared that they will either have to absorb the cost—leading to reduced earnings—or pass it on to customers, raising the overall cost of port operations.

Suresh Patil, who man-

ages a fleet servicing the port, said, “We cannot afford to bear these extra costs, and clients are already pushing for the lowest rates. If we raise our prices, we risk losing business to competitors who might take longer alternative routes to avoid the toll, potentially causing congestion elsewhere.”

Two discharged, Goa now has 8 Covid cases

Team Herald

PANJIM: Two patients successfully recovered and were discharged on Tuesday, bringing down the number of active Covid cases to eight from Monday’s count of 10.

Stating that the Goa Medical College and Hospital, Bambolim is fully prepared to handle COVID-19 cases, Rajan Patil, hospital Medical Superintendent, said, “We now know what is needed to deal with the virus. We have backup ventilators, a functioning intensive care unit, and all necessary personal protective equipment including masks. At this moment, we are not seeing any spike in cases, and we have no patients currently requiring admission.”

Patil said the hospital has 16 beds ready for Covid pa-

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— Rajan Patil, GMC Medical Supdt

tients, including nine with ventilators and noted that GMC is prepared to deal with vector-borne diseases.

With the monsoon season underway, he cautioned that many people may experience flu-like symptoms, which may or may not be Covid and emphasised the importance of staying safe.

Massive boulders at Kundaim on the verge of collapse

Commuters fear boulders could roll down any time; urge authorities to clear them immediately

SANTOSH NAIK



Team Herald

PONDA: Commuters have raised concerns over the presence of massive boulders on the hillside along the Kundaim bypass on the National Highway, which they claim are on the verge of collapse and could roll down any moment, endangering the lives of people and have appealed to the authorities to clear them immediately.

It is pertinent to note that the ongoing widening work of the Kundaim

bypass has been in progress for the past two years, involving hillside cutting in certain areas, which appears to have exposed these massive boulders. Recent rains have likely further destabilised them, leaving them in a dangerously loose state and at risk of falling at any moment.

This road widening project was initiated following demands from Kundaim residents due to tragic accidents at Manaswada Junction, and locals are advocating for two-way

traffic on the completed bypass.

According to locals, this section of the National Highway is used by both motorists and pedestrians. The potential for falling boulders to land on the highway could lead to severe accidents with grave consequences.

The residents have urged the authorities to assess this situation and undertake the necessary measures to remove these loose boulders to ensure the safety of commuters using the Kundaim bypass.

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 • Asst. Prof. Riancy Mascarenhas: +91 8275330409
 • Principal, Prof. Helic M. Barretto: principal@rosarycollege.ac.in