

shorttakes

Minor raped by an adult, accused absconding

MARGAO: In a distressing incident, a 14-year-old student from Salcete was allegedly raped by an adult. The police are currently searching for the accused. According to available information, the victim disclosed the incident to a doctor during a check-up at a hospital in Margao. The case was initially reported to the Fatorada Police Station and subsequently transferred to the Colva Police Station. In his complaint to the Colva police, the complainant stated that between May 17 and 18, in an abandoned house and a guest house in Salcete, the accused befriended his 14-year-old daughter, took her from his lawful guardianship without consent, and raped her. LPSI Varshada Naik Dessai registered a case against the accused for kidnapping and rape under BNS, Goa Children's Act, and POCSO Act. The police have recorded the victim's statement and have referred her for a medical examination.

7-year-old boy drowns in Tiracol river

PANJIM: A 70-year-old child drowned in Tiracol river while swimming with his family. According to sources, the family hails from Uttar Pradesh and had gone for a swim in the Tiracol river when the child, Neel Shiva Kaliya Gautam got drowned. His body was later recovered.

Man poses as medical distributor, dupes Vasco woman of Rs 50,000

PANJIM: A woman from Vasco was allegedly cheated of Rs 50,000 by a man who posed as a wholesale medical distributor on a WhatsApp group "All India Medical Distributor". According to police, the accused, identified as Manjeet Singh Saini, convinced the complainant to transfer the amount via GPay on the pretext of supplying medicines online. A case has been registered at Mormugao Police Station and is being investigated.

Mapusa accident victim succumbs to injuries

PANJIM: A 53-year-old woman, Yalamma Lakkundi, a resident of Morjim, Pernem and native of Surtur, Gadag-Karnataka, succumbed to her injuries sustained in a road accident near the football ground at Ganeshpuri, Mapusa while undergoing treatment at Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMC), Bambolim. The accident occurred on May 31 around 12 pm, and the victim was admitted to GMC.

Pedestrian killed in Korgao accident; accused arrested

PANJIM: A 57-year-old person identified as Chandrashekar Shetye was killed in a hit-and-run accident at Pethechwada, Korgao on June 1, while on his morning walk. According to police, he was struck by an unknown vehicle around 6 am and later succumbed to head injuries at Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMC), Bambolim, the same evening. Following an investigation, Pernem Police arrested the accused, Jocky Diago Fernandes of Deusuwada, Korgao.

Five arrested for illegal refilling of LPG cylinders at Seraulim

MARGAO: Colva police arrested five individuals from Rajasthan for their alleged involvement in the illegal refilling of LPG cylinders. The operation was conducted at a scrapyard in Seraulim, where the suspects were reportedly carrying out these activities without the necessary licenses or authorisation. Colva PSI Manju Vantamuri along with her team, conducted a raid leading to the arrest of the five individuals, who were subsequently brought to the police station for interrogation. During the inquiry, it was revealed that the individuals were engaged in the unauthorised refilling of LPG cylinders at the Seraulim scrapyard. Police have seized the LPG cylinders. A case has been registered against the arrested individuals under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Petroleum Act; Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and Explosives Act, 1884.

Karwar driver booked for rash driving, injuring two persons at Canacona

MARGAO: Diptesh Gaonkar of the Canacona Police Station had lodged a complaint against Rajesh Naik, a 58-year-old driver from Karwar, for driving his car in a rash and negligent manner and for colliding with an oncoming scooter, which left two female occupants injured near Hotel Matoshree, Canacona. In his complaint stated that Rajesh came on the on the wrong side of the road, without due care and precaution for human life, rammed into the two-wheeler. An offence under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 has been registered, and further investigation is underway.

Two sustain injuries as vehicles collide at Sancoale

MARGAO: Two individuals sustained injuries in a collision involving two vehicles at Sarfona, Sancoale. According to Verna Police, the driver of the Maruti Suzuki Brezza, Praneeth Reddy Maddula, 24 years old and a resident of Hyderabad, was travelling from Vasco towards Panjim via St Jacinto Island. On reaching Sarfona, he allegedly lost control of the vehicle, veered into the opposite lane, and collided with an oncoming Maruti Suzuki Swift DZire Tours car. As a result of the collision, the driver of the Swift DZire, Sayed Mohammed of Vasco, and a passenger in the Maruti Suzuki Brezza, Saimanitega Naraparaju of Hyderabad, sustained injuries. Verna Police registered a case under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023. Head Constable Sudhakar Jadhav is investigating.

Jharkhand native found dead in rented room at Cuncolim

MARGAO: Thirty-seven-year-old native of Jharkhand, Fulikar Bari, was found dead in his rented room at IDC Cuncolim. The police said that they received information from Primary Health Centre, Balli, and subsequently conducted the on-site investigation. The body has been sent to South Goa District Hospital, Margao, for medico-legal procedures. Further investigation into the matter is underway.

Jharkhand native found dead in rented room at Colva

MARGAO: The Colva Police found Sanjay Kullu, 40 years old, a native of Jharkhand, in an unconscious state in his rented room at Colva. According to the Colva Police, on receiving information from the Casualty Police team, officers were sent to the location. The on-duty doctor at casualty in the South Goa District Hospital, Margao, pronounced him dead on arrival. Police stated that inquiries with his landlord revealed that the deceased was an alcoholic and was found unconscious in his room. The police sent the body to SGDH Margao for further medico-legal procedures. Further investigation is underway.

CBI attaches ex-I-T officer's 14 assets including those in Goa

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has attached 14 properties, including those in Goa, in a disproportionate assets case against a former Additional Commissioner of Income Tax.

According to a statement, the CBI had registered a disproportionate assets case on September 9, 2022, against the then Additional Commissioner, Income Tax. It was alleged that the accused while posting and functioning as Dy Commissioner/ Joint Commissioner/ Addl. Commissioner during the period January 1, 2008 to June 30, 2018 in Income Tax offices at New Del-

The assets, worth over Rs 7.52 crore, were allegedly acquired through corrupt means while the officer served in various Income Tax offices from 2008 to 2018. The properties are located in Goa, Ghaziabad, Lucknow, Hardoi, and Barabanki

hi, Moradabad, Lucknow and other places, as public servant, indulged in corrupt practices and acquired disproportionate assets of Rs 7,52,61,831 to his known source of income which he cannot satisfactorily account for. During the course of investigation, 14 immovable assets, worth in crores, were found to be acquired or possessed by the accused and his family members. These properties are

located at Ghaziabad, Lucknow, Hardoi, Barabanki and Goa. Investigation is continuing, the statement added.

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Nachinola farmers to restore 1 lakh sqm of fallow land

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Nachinola Farmers Club (NFC) has unveiled a plan to revive 1 lakh square metres of fallow Comunidade land in Nachinola, aiming to bring the area back under cultivation this year.

Addressing the media, NFC president Vitthal Naik noted that much of this fertile land lies unused, prompting the club to step in and lead the revival effort.

"We intend to seek assistance from the agriculture department, our local MLA, and the minister. The project is expected to cost around Rs 5 lakh, and we are actively raising funds. Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte has already pledged to provide seeds for the cultivation," Naik said. He also appealed to the public for financial support and announced that a dedicated account has been opened with the Bank of India for contributions.

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support local farmers and recently launched a facility centre to further strengthen agricultural activity in the region. This year, large quantities of vegetables have already been supplied to the Horticulture Corporation through the centre. The rice grown through the new initiative will also be marketed here.

Naik expressed optimism that the project's success would inspire other farming groups in Bardez to reclaim and cultivate unused land.

Ind body submits key recommendation aimed at reforming GST regime

Team Herald

MARGAO: The Goa Chamber of Commerce & Industry (GCCCI) has submitted a detailed memorandum to Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant, putting forth a set of key recommendations aimed at reforming the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime. The suggestions come in anticipation of the upcoming GST Council meeting and reflect concerns raised by several sectors of the Goan economy.

The memorandum was formally handed over by GCCCI President Shrinivas Dempo, who underscored the need for simplification in compliance mechanisms, improvement in ease of doing business, and tailored solutions to address specific hurdles faced by tourism, exports, IT, and real estate industries.

Among the prominent suggestions was a call for rate rationalisation, including a phased roadmap to reduce the overall tax burden and correct existing inverted duty structures.

Lawyer plans mega convention of activists

Team Herald

MARGAO: In a significant political development, veteran advocate and former MLA Radharao Gracias has announced plans for a mega convention of activists to chart a new course for the upcoming 2027 Goa Assembly elections.

The move comes despite the fact that Gracias had campaigned for Congress during the recent Lok Sabha elections. Gracias expressed his frustration with the Congress party's inability to capitalise on public discontent against the ruling BJP. "The Congress does not seem to be capable of reorganising itself to take

advantage of the public ill will towards the BJP and as such may give the BJP another undeserved shot at power," he said, signalling his complete loss of confidence in the party's current trajectory.

Gracias revealed that numerous activists across the State have approached him to organise a collective response to what they perceive as political stagnation. He announced plans for a mega convention of activists where crucial decisions about future electoral strategy will be made, with details currently being finalised for a public announcement.

Gracias outlined his vi-

sion for a unified activist movement that would transcend the current fragmented approach to opposition politics.

He criticised the existing pattern where activists fight isolated battles in different parts of Goa—from Bhoma highway to Porvorim temple issues, from Velsao to various other local causes—only to allegedly disperse once individual issues are resolved. "The purpose is to create a union of all activists so that wherever there is an issue, all the activists work together concertedly, to see that as a group, we can fight and not just go home after one issue is over," he explained.



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For the export sector, the chamber recommended the refund of GST on capital goods to help ease financial strain. In a move aimed at strengthening the hospitality industry, GCCCI has called for a uniform 12% GST rate across all hotel accommodations and the extension

of input tax credit (ITC) benefits to standalone restaurants. They further advocated for ITC on hotel construction, including for homestays and warehousing facilities, in order to stimulate infrastructure investment in the sector.

In the real estate segment, the memorandum highlighted the need for reforms to address complications in joint development

agreements and the taxation of long-term leases. It also proposed simplification of annual returns—specifically GSTR-9 and GSTR-9C—to ease the compliance burden on businesses. Other recommendations included a request for clarification regarding ITC on promotional goods, enhancements to the GSTN portal to aid in reconciliation efforts, and relaxation of interest liability in cases where ITC reversal exceeds 180 days.

GCCI further emphasised the importance of resolving issues arising from the inverted duty structure, which they said continues to impact working capital and dampen industry sentiment.

President Dempo expressed confidence that Chief Minister Sawant would represent Goa's concerns effectively at the Council meeting and reiterated the Chamber's commitment to working with the government in refining and implementing these much-needed reforms.

Minister warns Goans against selling land to outsiders

Expresses concern that Goans may one day become landless if they continue selling their ancestral properties

Team Herald

PONDA: Ponda MLA and Agriculture Minister Ravi Naik has expressed concern that Goans may one day become landless if they continue selling their ancestral properties to outsiders, particularly to 'Delhiites' and others offering high prices.

Speaking to the media after inaugurating several development works undertaken by the Ponda Municipal Council (PMC), Naik urged Goans to resist the lure of money and preserve their land for future generations.

"If people continue to sell their land, then one day Goans and their future generations will become landless," Naik warned. "Do not fall prey and sell ancestral land. Cultivate and preserve it for the future," he pleaded. He added that the sale

of large tracts of land is also leading to the displacement of wild animals, which are increasingly encroaching on residential areas.

As part of PMC's development initiatives, the Minister laid the foundation stone for multiple projects, including a 5 TPD (tonnes per day) Bio-Methanation Power Generation Plant and the commissioning of a wood chipper machine at Kerya, Curti-Khandepar. He also inaugurated a 30 kW on-grid solar power system installed on the rooftop of the Ponda Municipal Market Complex.

PMC Chairperson Anand Naik, Chief Officer Suyash Sinari Khandepar, councillors Deepa Kolvenkar, Ritesh Ravi Naik, Geetali Talaulikar and others were present at the occasion. Chairperson Anand

Naik stated that the solar system was installed at a cost of Rs 12.76 lakh, in line with the Central Government's promotion of solar energy. "PMC has around 12 electricity meters. The solar power system will help us save Rs 20,000 to Rs 23,000 monthly," he said.

Chief Officer Sinari explained that PMC currently operates a 1.5 TPD waste treatment plant at Kerya. With the addition of the newly inaugurated 5 TPD plant, the total capacity has now increased to 6.5 TPD.

"Ponda generates around 4.5 TPD of waste daily. In addition to PMC's waste, that from Curti-Khandepar is also processed at the Kerya plant. With this new capacity, there will no longer be a need to send our waste to the Saligao treatment plant," he said.

Museum of Goa hosts visual chronicle of India's rural diversity

Team Herald

CALANGUTE: The FACES Project, a visual chronicle of India's immense human diversity, was recently presented at the Museum of Goa in Pilerne. Developed by the National People's Archive of Rural India (NARI), the initiative seeks to question and interpret what it means to 'look Indian' in a country shaped by geography and complex identities.

The project, driven by Mumbai-based duo Kaniya Gupta and Shreya Katayani, uses storytelling, photojournalism, and art to highlight the lives of India's rural and marginalised communities.

"In a country as diverse as India, where geography often shapes identity, facial features can sometimes be a giveaway and sometimes, like in the case of residents of India's north-eastern region, a cause for discrimination," the creators explained.

Gupta recounted the origins of the project: "The FACES project germinated in 2014 when a young boy from Arunachal Pradesh was brutally assaulted in the national capital. When onlookers asked why he was assaulted, they were told that he looked 'different'."

"A person from the North-East looks very different from someone in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, or from Gujarat or Jammu and Kashmir. But they're all just as Indian as those who are usually represented in mainstream media," she added.

Gupta further elaborated that NARI's broader mission

is to document and preserve India's vast rural heritage while challenging stereotypes and engaging youth in the process. The stories they collect focus not only on appearance but also on how lives are influenced by local climate, landscape, traditions, and the natural environment.

Among the unique stories highlighted is that of the Kharai camels from the Kutch region. These rare, swimming camels are adapted to the coastal mangrove ecosystems and rely entirely on vegetation from the surrounding islands, swimming between them to graze.

96 rented rooms checked during tenant verification drive in Curti, Bandora

Team Herald

PONDA: The police and army conducted a joint tenant verification operation where the identity cards of 272 individuals residing in 96 rented rooms in Curti and Shapur-Bandora were checked.

During the verification, it was found that approximately nine landlords had rented out rooms without verifying the identity of their tenants. Reports detailing these violations will



be submitted to the Deputy Collector for further action. This State-wide campaign by the Goa Police includes the participation of Army

personnel in the combing operation. In Ponda, the focus was on Shapur, Ponda and its surrounding areas, where identity cards of the

tenants were scrutinised. The high migration rate in this region, attributed to the presence of industrial estates, has led many locals to rent out rooms for their livelihood. This verification campaign aims to ensure that the necessary criteria for tenant verification have been met, including proper reporting by landlords to the police. This measure is crucial to prevent the misuse of rented premises for any illegal activities.

APPOINTMENTS

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Age Not exceeding 45 years. (Relaxable by 5 years for ST/SC and 3 years for OBC)

Applications along with self-attested photocopies of mark sheets of all educational qualifications from SSC onwards, birth certificate, experience certificate and valid 15 years Residence Certificate in Goa issued by Competent Authority should reach, the Principal, Rosary College of Commerce and Arts, Navelim, Salcete, Goa - 403707, within 15 days from the date of publication of this advertisement. The applicant should clearly specify the contact details like mobile no., email id, postal address in the application.

Late or incomplete applications will be rejected. Call letters to appear for the written exam will be sent by email only.

Date: 4th June 2025 Prof. Helic M. Barretto Principal