

shorttakes

13-year-old girl reported missing from Mardol; abduction suspected

PONDA: A 13-year-old girl has been reported missing from Mardol since June 6, with her father suspecting that she may have been kidnapped. According to the complaint filed at the Mardol Police Station, the girl's father, a resident of Ponda and originally from Bihar, stated that his minor daughter left their residence wearing a pink-coloured suit and has not returned since. He described her as having a brownish complexion, thin build, round face, and approximately 5 feet in height. The complainant suspects that unknown person (s) may have abducted his daughter from his lawful custody. PSI Vinod Salunke of Mardol Police Station is currently conducting further investigation into the matter.

Kerala-Bangalore drug trafficking link exposed in Mandrem narcotics case

PANJIM: The Mandrem Police have uncovered a significant Kerala-Bangalore drug trafficking network following the arrest of Afsal Puthiyaveetil, 33, a native of Thrissur, in connection with a narcotics case registered at the Mandrem Police Station. During interrogation, Afsal disclosed that the contraband seized during the operation had been procured from one Shabeel K V, a resident of Udhyanagar-Kannur, Kerala. Examination of Afsal's call records revealed regular communication with Shabeel, thereby establishing their link in the narcotics trade. Further corroborating evidence came in the form of financial transactions between the two individuals. Acting on this information, police traced Shabeel K V to Frazier Town, Bangalore. He was apprehended on 5 June following due legal procedure and was subsequently brought to the Mandrem Police Station, where he has been formally arrested in connection with the case.

History-sheeter held for daylight robbery in Bhatlem

PANJIM: Chandrakant Kenavdekar, 65, a known history-sheeter, has been arrested by Panjim police in connection with a robbery committed on June 4, at Bhatlem. Kenavdekar reportedly stole a mobile phone and a bag containing Rs 9,000 from the residence of Top Bahadur Singh. The mobile phone had been left charging near the door, and the theft is believed to have occurred between 11 am and 5.30 pm. The total value of the stolen items is estimated at Rs 19,000. Panjim Police successfully recovered the entire stolen property. Investigations are ongoing.

One kilo of cannabis worth Rs 1 lakh seized in Campal

PANJIM: A narcotics raid conducted on Friday night near D B ground, Campal-Panjim, resulted in the seizure of 1 kg of suspected ganja valued at approximately Rs 1 lakh in the international market. The accused, Yuraj Karde, a driver and resident of Malim near Datta Mandir, Betim, Bardez, was caught red-handed in illegal possession of the green leafy substance. A car used in connection with the crime was also seized. The operation was executed based on reliable intelligence and under the overall supervision of Sudesh Naik, SDPO Panjim, and Rahul Gupta, IPS, SP North. The contraband has been taken into custody and further investigation is ongoing.

FDA shuts down Margao food unit over repeated safety violations

MARGAO: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of Goa has ordered an immediate halt to all food-related operations at a food business operator (FBO) in Margao for persistent non-compliance with food safety regulations. The strict action followed a reverification inspection conducted on June 5 at a unit located on Old Station Road, Margao. The visit was triggered by the FBO's failure to rectify issues flagged during an earlier inspection on April 28, 2025, when FDA officials identified 30 deficiencies posing potential risks to public health. Despite being served with an inspection report and a show cause notice, the FBO failed to submit a compliance report or adequately rectify the issues. During the latest inspection, it was found that only 5 of the 30 deficiencies had been addressed. Given the continued non-compliance and disregard for safety protocols, the FDA compounded the offence under Section 56 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. However, the fine imposed remains unpaid at the time of reporting. Due to serious public health concerns, the FDA directed the FBO to cease all food-related activities with immediate effect, and stated that operations can only resume upon full compliance with regulations. The inspection and enforcement were led by Designated Officer Sanjayot Kudalkar (South Goa), along with Food Safety Officers Atul Dessai, Amardeep Gaude Priolkar and Pradiक्षा Chopdekar.

Applications invited for fisheries training course

PANJIM: The Directorate of Fisheries is inviting applications for a six-month training course starting 1 July at Ela Dhauji, Old Goa. The course includes seamanship, aquaculture, engine maintenance, and more. Applicants aged 18-35 who have passed Class VIII can apply. Preference is given to SC/ST and youth from fishing communities. Stipends and allowances are offered. The deadline is June 20. Details: 0832-2224838 or fisheries.goa.gov.in.

Congress threatens 'jail bharo' over Velsao FIRs

Lashes out against police, railways as locals battle land encroachment, health woes

Team Herald

MARGAO/PANJIM: The Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) has launched a scathing attack on the police and Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) over the ongoing Velsao double-tracking dispute, warning of a statewide 'Jail Bharo Andolan' if "frivolous" charges against four individuals, including party leaders and a local sarpanch, are not withdrawn.

The GPCC said it was appalled that instead of acting on villagers' complaints about land encroachment and health impacts due to construction activity, the State police had filed an FIR against GPCC treasurer Orville Dourado Rodrigues, Cortalim leader Olencio Simoes, Velsao-Pale-Issorcim Sarpanch Maria Diana Gouveia, and landowner Sandra Rodrigues.

GPCC President Amit Patkar, addressing an urgent press conference, declared that none of the four would apply for bail and warned that "not only I, but the entire Congress leadership and thousands from

Railway contractors continued their illegal activities with full support of the Verna and Vasco police, who ignored villagers' pleas for protection

- Amit Patkar, GPCC President

When villagers complained, police did nothing. But when RVNL complained, they came in large numbers and registered FIRs against us

- Orville Rodrigues, GPCC Treasurer

The BJP government is speaking with a forked tongue. They once admitted double-tracking was for coal. Now they say it's for passengers. The truth is, this is a betrayal

- Olencio Simoes, GRE General Secretary



Goa will court arrest if the charges are not revoked immediately."

At a separate press conference in Panjim, Orville Rodrigues charged the police with bias, stating, "When villagers complained, police did nothing. But when RVNL complained, they came in large numbers and registered FIRs against us." He said the har-

assment, especially of senior citizens, had caused health issues in the area. "Despite pressure from RVNL agents, the villagers have stood firm and will continue to resist," he added.

Rodrigues also pointed out that even South Goa MP Captain Viriato Fernandes had appealed to halt dumping in the villagers' Right

of Way—but this too was ignored by the authorities.

Local landowner Sandra Rodrigues described her personal trauma, stating she had to conduct her father's last rites from her sister's home due to blocked access. "Every letter to our MLA has been rerouted to RVNL with no response. He hasn't visited us once," she

lamented.

Olencio Simoes echoed the sentiment, saying, "The BJP government is speaking with a forked tongue. They once admitted double-tracking was for coal. Now they say it's for passengers. The truth is, this is a betrayal." He highlighted that the Supreme Court had suggested Krishnapatnam Port as a coal alternative, which had all required infrastructure, making the second track through Goa unnecessary.

He further alleged that the government had effectively privatised the Mormugao Port Authority by granting it more autonomy and had ignored environmental and legal concerns raised over the double-tracking project.

The GPCC reiterated its call for the charges against the four to be dropped, police accountability restored, and the interests of Goan villagers prioritised over private commercial projects.

Open irrigation pits at Kavlem turn death traps for cattle and tourists

Team Herald

PONDA: Open irrigation pits in a field near the Shantadurga Temple in Kavlem have become a serious hazard for both cattle and tourists, with locals demanding immediate intervention to prevent further incidents.

On Friday night, June 6, a cow fell into one of the open pits. Local residents who spotted the animal informed the fire brigade and the rescue team, with assistance from the villagers, managed to pull the cow out safely.

These pits, dug over the past few years for irrigation in fields located in front of the temple, have remained uncovered even during the monsoon. Locals pointed out that the pits are rarely filled back with mud, despite



recurring incidents of cattle falling into them. "Each time, fire brigade personnel and villagers lose precious time in rescuing the animals," one res-

ident said.

The situation is exacerbated by the temple's status as a prominent tourist destination. "Since the Shantadurga Temple attracts visitors from across the country, some tourists even venture into the fields. If someone unknowingly falls into one of these pits, especially during the rainy season when they are filled with water, it could lead to a life-threatening situation," warned a local.

Residents added that the pits are particularly dangerous at night, as they become difficult to spot. They reported that at least four such pits pose an immediate risk and urged the authorities, particularly the Collector's Office, to take swift action by filling them with mud to ensure the safety of both humans and animals.

Ex Salvador do Mundo sarpanch, two others sentenced for outraging woman's modesty

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC), Mapusa, has convicted and sentenced former Salvador do Mundo sarpanch and current panchayat member Vijay Dalvi, along with Sweta Kandolkar and Shrikant Arlekar, to two months' simple imprisonment and a compensation payment of Rs 25,000 each for outraging the modesty of Dr Meenacshi Martins.

The trio was convicted under Sections 504, 509 and 354 read with Section 34 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and was ordered to undergo two months' simple imprisonment and pay a fine of Rs 2,000 each, failing which they would face an additional six months' imprisonment. They were also sentenced to two months' simple imprisonment and fined Rs 1,000 each under Section 323 read with Section 34 of IPC, with a default clause of two months' additional imprisonment. The Court directed the

BRIEF FACTS

- All accused abused Dr Martins using offensive language
- Outraged her modesty vulgar gesture
- Damaged victim's mobile phone while she was recording incident
- Assaulted her with fist blows, stones, causing injuries to her

JMFC Nilima Shrikant Kankonkar observed that since the accused had outraged the modesty of a woman, insulted her dignity, and made assertions on her character, a lenient view could not be taken. The accused failed to respect and protect the dignity of the complainant by abusing her in filthy language and intruding on her privacy, the Court noted.

three accused to pay Rs 25,000 each in compensation to Dr Martins. In the event of non-payment, they must pay an additional Rs 25,000 each. If paid, the compensation is to be forfeited in favour of the State, the Court ruled.

However, the accused were acquitted of the charge under Section 506(ii) read with Section 34 of IPC.

The Court also directed that the accused must not commit any further offence

against the complainant or interfere with her in any manner.

The incident occurred on July 30, 2017, at property bearing Survey No. 149 at Alto Porvorim, Bardez, adjacent to the KTC Depot. According to the prosecution, the accused, along with unidentified persons, abused Dr Martins using offensive language. Dalvi further outraged her modesty with a vulgar gesture. Kandolkar allegedly damaged Dr Martins' mobile phone while she was

recording the incident and then assaulted her with fist blows and stones, causing injuries to her left eye and other parts of the body.

In her order, JMFC Nilima Shrikant Kankonkar observed that since the accused had outraged the modesty of a woman, insulted her dignity, and made assertions on her character, a lenient view could not be taken. "The accused failed to respect and protect the dignity of the complainant by abusing her in filthy language and intruding on her privacy," the Court noted.

The chargesheet was filed on September 21, 2017 by then PSI Nikhil Palekar, under Sections 509, 504, 354, 324 and 506(ii) read with Section 34 of IPC. The victim's statement was recorded under Section 164 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Advocates S Shet and Prashant Gadkar represented the accused, while Additional Public Prosecutor Sukesh Talawnekar appeared for the State.

Ponda-Bethora border road turns into garbage dumping site

Team Herald

PONDA: The roadside stretch along the Bondbag-Durgabhat area, which lies on the border between Ponda Municipal Council (PMC) and the Bethora-Nirankal-Kodar Panchayat, has turned into an unofficial garbage dumping site, causing severe nuisance to residents of both jurisdictions.

Locals allege that passers-by frequently discard parcels of wet and dry waste at the spot, attracting stray animals, insects, and flies. The situation has led to growing health concerns and repeated complaints from residents, who now demand strict action from both the PMC and the panchayat.

Resident Mangaldas Gaude



said, "Neither PMC nor the panchayat is clearing the garbage. The Health Department must inspect the site. When we try to eat,

flies and insects swarm around, making it difficult to even have a meal. The Ponda MLA and minister must intervene."

Residents also flagged the area as dangerous. "Last year, a woman lost her life after being attacked by a wild bison in Bondbag. This

year, in the nearby Durgabhat area, a two-year-old child died after being mauled by a stray dog," said a local, adding that the garbage dumped often includes raw chicken waste and leftover food, which draws stray dogs and even wild bison to the isolated stretch.

Local resident Naresh Naik suggested the installation of CCTV cameras to identify and penalise those dumping waste illegally. Sources in PMC claimed that the municipal body regularly clears garbage, but acknowledged that the secluded nature of the road encourages some individuals to dump waste irresponsibly.

Locals have urged the authorities to take immediate and coordinated action to prevent further dumping and ensure public safety.

CONGRATULATIONS

Mr. Roy D'Silva

On being elected as the President of CUNCOLIM INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION

Best Wishes:
R. M. Jewellers
Prop. Rafik Mohammad
Powerhouse, Aquem, Margao.

CONGRATULATIONS

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Best Wishes:
Mr & Mrs. Dorety Ligorio Desouza
Canacona - Goa.

CONGRATULATIONS

Mr. Roy D'Silva

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Best Wishes:
Mr Damodar Shirodkar
Chairperson, Margao Municipal Council.

CONGRATULATIONS

Mr. Roy D'Silva

On being elected as the President of CUNCOLIM INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION

Best Wishes:
Topsy Turtle
Liquor Store · Tasting Room · Wine Room
Powerhouse Circle,
Aquem, Margao.