

# GMC doctor will not be suspended: CM

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** Following widespread criticism over Health Minister Vishwajit Rane's public admonishment to Dr Rudresh Kuttikar in Goa Medical College and Hospital's emergency ward on Saturday, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Sunday announced that the Dr Kuttikar will not be suspended as he has discussed the issue with Rane.

team remain fully committed to ensuring the highest standards of healthcare for every citizen. We also appreciate the tireless efforts and invaluable service of our doctors, who continue to save lives," Sawant said. The assurance came from the chief minister after the medical fraternity as well as the Opposition criticised the health minister for publicly humiliating the doctor serving at the state's premier hospital.

Meanwhile, Goa Association of Resident Doctors (GARD) said the act of recording the distressing episode and disseminating it to the media constituted a grave insult to the entire medical fraternity. Speaking to O Heraldo, advocate Melissa Simoes

said, "No government servant should be treated in this manner. Person representing the public has no business to behave in this manner. If one has to reprimand a person for misbehaving they cannot misbehave and reprimand them. This is definitely not leadership or good leadership by any stretch of imagination. There is a process for everything and due process has to be followed. One cannot barge into a well functioning hospital, create a ruckus and leave."

Meanwhile, the National Students Union of India (NSUI) has written to the President and the Chief Minister demanding dismissal of the health minister from the cabinet. Alert Citizens of Goa member Advocate Mahesh

Mahabrey said, "Recently Chief Minister Pramod Sawant declared the State as 100 percent educated. But we see the behaviour of MLAs does it indicate that we are educated? The chief minister must take action against the minister before it is too late."

Congress leader Tulio De Souza, "This is not an attack on one doctor but an attack on the entire medical fraternity of Goa. There is disquiet even in the doctors of private hospitals."

The Goa State Chapter of the Association of Surgeons of India (ASI) has strongly condemned what it described as "undignified and utterly disrespectful" behaviour by Goa's Health Minister towards a casualty medical officer on duty at GMC.

## Vehicles damaged in drunken driving at St Inez, FIR filed

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** An inebriated driver and a woman in a car hit a parked vehicle belonging to a restaurant owner, damaging both vehicles at St Inez, on Sunday morning.

They tried to leave, but were stopped by locals. An activist reported that the woman allegedly assaulted the driver and used abusive language.

The accident occurred around 7 am, but police arrived at 8 am and took the male driver into custody. The woman initially refused to pay for damages, but later agreed. She was seen making calls and shooting video of the police on her cellphone.

Francis Coelho, a witness to the incident stated the duo appeared drunk and could barely walk.

PI Vijaykumar Chodankar confirmed that both individuals were under the influence of alcohol, and an FIR has been filed.

## Margao feast fair pandal collapse raises safety concerns

Team Herald

**MARGAO:** The annual feast fair at Margao officially commenced on Sunday, but safety concerns loom large following a pandal collapse at the fair site on Friday evening, which has ignited public outcry over poor planning and lack of coordination among authorities.

The South Goa District Collector responded by issuing immediate directives aimed at improving crowd management and enforcing safety protocols.

However, confusion prevails, as Fatorda and Margao police reportedly state that they are unaware of these instructions.

This disconnect has alarmed residents and stall owners who rely on the feast for both spiritual and economic reasons. "It's shocking that the police aren't on the same

page as the Collector," said Milagres D'Souza, a Margao resident.

"We've been attending this fair for years, but this level of chaos is unacceptable. Someone needs to be held accountable before something worse happens," he stated.

Vendors who have set up stalls at the fair voiced similar frustration over the lack of communication from authorities with regard to safety measures.

"We rely on this event for our livelihood, but we also expect basic safety," said Rohan Shirodkar, a food stall owner who has participated in the fair for over a decade. "No one told us about emergency exits, fire safety, or any protocol. It's all very disorganised."

Locals have urged the authorities to act swiftly to ensure the fair proceeds without further incident and have demanded a formal inquiry into incident.

## Pedestrian killed in Dabolim accident

Team Herald

**VASCO:** A 57-year-old woman was killed after she was knocked down by a vehicle near the AAI Terminal building at Dabolim on Saturday.

According to the Vasco Police, the accident when the driver Manju Naiker (34), a resident of Quepem drove his vehicle in a rash and negligent manner while proceeding from Shantinagar junction towards Vales junction, and on reaching near the AAI Terminal building, knocked down pedestrian Anjana Adel, a native of Curcholem and presently residing at Shantinagar, Vasco. The woman was crossing the road towards the Dabolim Airport side, police said.

Anjana, who sustained injuries, was rushed to the Sub District Hospital, Chicalim, where she succumbed.

The Vasco Police have registered a case against Naiker under BNS 2023. The accused was arrested and later released on bail.

MAX. TEMP 34.3 °C  
MIN. TEMP 27.4 °C

idharudhar



Lights, camera... suspension!

## Tensions flare at Taleigao gram sabha amid activist's silent protest

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** Heated arguments erupted during the Taleigao gram sabha on Sunday, as local activist Cecille Rodrigues staged a silent protest wearing a helmet and with messages pinned to her clothing on both the front and back.

Speaking to reporters, Cecille Rodrigues said, "Last month I had lodged a complaint against MLA Jennifer Monserrate but an FIR has not been filed yet. So this is my protest at the gram sabha today. Now whenever I come to the gram sabha, I will come like this."

"This to pass on the message that do not mess around the citizens of Taleigao," she said.

In addition to the protest, two major local issues were discussed

### RUMDAMOL GRAM SABHA TURNS STORMY OVER BROKEN WATER PIPELINES, DAMAGED ROADS

**MARGAO:** Tensions ran high as the Rumdamol-Davorlim gram sabha witnessed heated discussions over broken water pipelines, sewers, and damaged roads due to excavation work for laying a gas pipeline.

During the meeting chaired by Sarpanch Mubina Fanibandh, the residents complained that while laying the gas pipeline, roads were dug using earthmovers, which led to the rupture of 30-year-old GI water pipelines. Though temporary repairs were carried out using PVC pipes, locals expressed fears that any future work would again necessitate road digging, disrupting water supply.

Panch Vinayak Valvaikar stated that the main demand of the gram sabha was the immediate restoration of all damaged infrastructure.

during the meeting. The first involved fields being set on fire and the second issue involved septic water contamination of the village's drinking water.

The panchayat urged farmers to refrain from setting fields on fire

and assured the attendees that their concern will be addressed.

Xavier De Almeida, a farmer and a local resident, suggested imposing a fine on those releasing sewage water into agriculture fields.

## Colva's corroded infra poses imminent danger

Locals say seven to eight poles have fallen, several others are on the verge of collapse

Team Herald

**MARGAO:** The iconic Colva Beach is facing a growing safety crisis as numerous electric poles have fallen due to severe rusting, with several others on the verge of collapse posing a significant threat to both locals and tourists.

Residents indicate that at least seven to eight poles have fallen in recent weeks, with several others appearing to be in imminent danger of collapse. This alarming situation has prompted strong criticism from the local community, who attribute the issue to



negligence on the part of the Tourism Department. Residents claim that repeated warnings about the deteriorating infrastructure have been ignored.

"It's only a matter of time before someone gets seriously injured or worse," said a resident, pointing to the lack of preventive maintenance and delayed response

from the authorities. The fallen poles, which served as street lighting along the beachfront and adjacent walkways, have created hazardous conditions for pedestrians and have left significant portions of the beach in darkness during the night.

"This is not just about aesthetics or convenience—it's a life-threatening issue," said Jose Fernandes, a Colva resident. "The Tourism Department must stop passing the buck and take immediate responsibility for the safety of both locals and tourists."



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