

Goa's tree cover shrinks by over 22% in 12 yrs: Central govt report

Union Ministry report flags alarming environmental trends, including declining forest cover, rising hazardous waste, and worsening sanitation in Goa

Team Herald

PANJIM: Goa has witnessed a significant decline in its tree cover over the past decade, according to the latest data released by the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) in its EnviStats India 2025: Environment Statistics report.

The data reveals that Goa's tree cover, which stood at 334 sq km in 2010-11, has dropped to 258 sq km in 2021-22 — a reduction of 76 sq km or approximately 22.75 per cent over a span of 12

TREE COVER DECLINE IN (SQ KM)

- 2010-11: 334
- 2013-14: 325
- 2015-16: 323
- 2017-18: 272
- 2019-20: 260
- 2021-22: 258

TOTAL DECLINE: 76 SQ KM FOREST COVER (SQ KM)

- 2021: 2,267.22
- 2023: 2,265.72
- Change: -1.5 sq km



FISH PRODUCTION (TONNES)

- 2022-23: 140.31
- 2023-24: 135.73
- Change: -4.58 tonnes

FISHERFOLK POPULATION

- Across 41 villages: 12,651



HAZARDOUS WASTE GENERATION

- Earlier: 28,484
- Now: 44,873
- Increase: +16,389 MTA

years. The year-wise figures indicate a steady decline: 325 sq km in 2013-14, 323 sq km in 2015-16, dropping

more significantly to 272 sq km in 2017-18, then to 260 sq km in 2019-20, and finally to 258 sq km in 2021-22.

Among other Goa-specific highlights, the report notes a marginal decline in forest cover from 2,267.22 sq km in 2021 to 2,265.72

sq km in 2023.

The State's fish production also saw a decrease from 140.31 tonnes in 2022-23 to 135.73 tonnes in 2023-24. The fisherfolk population across 41 fishing villages in Goa is recorded at 12,651.

Hazardous waste generation, as per annual returns (measured in Metric Tonnes per Annum or MTA), increased significantly from 28,484 MTA to 44,873 MTA.

The report also highlighted pressing concerns regarding sanitation, with 3.7 per cent of households lacking access to proper fa-

ilities or resorting to open defecation. The slum population in the State stands at 2.89 per cent.

In terms of climate-related incidents, eight lives were lost in Goa due to natural extreme events during 2023-24, with 290 houses reported damaged. Provisional figures for 2024-25 indicate four lives lost and damage to 696 houses.

The area under organic farming registered with accredited certification bodies is 21,960.97 hectares, of which 12,287.40 hectares are under cultivation and 9,673.57 hectares under wild collection.

N Goa Police to hold grievance redressal sessions from June 14

Team Herald

PANJIM: In a move aimed at strengthening community engagement and addressing public concerns, the Office of the Superintendent of Police (SP), North Goa, has announced a series of Public Grievance Redressal sessions to be held across various police stations from June 14 to June 28.

According to an official circular, these sessions will be led by SP North Rahul Gupta (IPS) along with the Sub-Divisional Police Officers (SDPOs) of the respective subdivisions.

"SDPOs are instructed to hear the grievances put before them and should make all possible efforts to solve their grievances and give them timely solutions or justice. SDPOs are also instructed to maintain a

record of visitors attended by them and follow up on the action suggested or directions issued," the circular stated.

The initiative will cover key police stations including Panaji, Mapusa, Porvorim, Bicholim, Anjuna, Calangute, Saligao, among others.

In addition, all Police Inspectors (PIs) at the respective police stations will be available daily from 4 pm to 6 pm to attend to public grievances. SDPOs have been specifically directed to ensure proper hearing of all complaints, provide timely solutions, and maintain detailed records of these interactions.

APPOINTMENTS

WANTED

Two Trained Graduate Teachers

having qualification B.A; B.Ed to teach 1) English and Konkani 2) English and Social Studies on contract basis till end of academic year 2025-2026. Walk in interview has been scheduled on 16-06-2025 at 10 a.m. in Headmasters Office, Don Bosco High School, Panjim-Goa. Interested candidates as per Government Recruitment Rules, may attend the interview along with application, testimonials and valid employment card, all in original and Xerox copies.

WANTED Librarian

having qualification BLIS/XII, Library Science and

Watchman

SSC on contract basis till end of academic year 2025-2026. Walk in interview has been scheduled on 16-06-2025 at 10 a.m. in Headmasters Office, Don Bosco High School, Panjim-Goa. Interested candidates as per Government Recruitment Rules, may attend the interview along with application, testimonials and valid employment card, all in original and Xerox copies.

WANTED One Special Educator

having qualification B.A/B.Sc; Sp.B.E.d to teach in the Secondary Section on contract basis till end of academic year 2025-2026. Walk in interview has been scheduled on 16-06-2025 at 10 a.m. in Headmasters Office, Don Bosco High School, Panjim-Goa. Interested candidates as per Government Recruitment Rules, may attend the interview along with application, testimonials and valid employment card, all in original and Xerox copies.

WANTED One Trained Graduate Teacher

having qualification B.Sc; B.Ed to teach Mathematics and Science on Maternity Leave of 6 months on contract basis. Walk in interview has been scheduled on 16-06-2025 at 10 a.m. in Headmasters Office, Don Bosco High School, Panjim-Goa. Interested candidates as per Government Recruitment Rules, may attend the interview along with application, testimonials and valid employment card, all in original and Xerox copies.

AGUADA ANCHORAGE

THE VILLA RESORT

2025

HIRING FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS

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 2. Reservations Associates
 3. Resort Manager
- Candidates with excellent communication skills and fluent in English will be preferred. Candidates for the post of Resort Manager must have min 3 years prior experience in a similar position. Competitive salary + benefits provided. Email your CV to rhyss@aguadaanchorage.com

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(An English Medium Co-Educational Sr. Sec. School Affiliated with CBSE)

Website - www.stpaulsschoolcity.com

Email - 10760@cheshiksha.in

KUCHAMAN CITY (RAJASTHAN) - 341508

REQUIRES 20 TRAINED/ UNTRAINED/ GRADUATE / NON GRADUATE / FRESHER / EXPERIENCED.

Male/Female PGTs/ TTs/PRTs Teachers to teach English, Maths, S.Studies, Science & Computer Subjects. 20 k to 30k Salary + Lodging and Boarding facilities. Travelling expenses will be provided for joining the School. The interview will be held at Goa only.

The interview Date, Venue & schedule will be informed soon. Send your updated profile on 7851017400.

Accountant cum Admin Immediate Joiner

We are seeking a well-organized and proactive Accountant cum Admin to join our team at a reputed company based in Goa. The ideal candidate should possess strong accounting knowledge, excellent communication and interpersonal skills, and the ability to manage both financial and administrative tasks efficiently. This role requires multitasking across book keeping, office coordination, and correspondence while ensuring accuracy and professionalism in all interactions. Experience: Minimum 4 years in accounting and administrative roles. Contact: 98221 48859 / vikjewel@yahoo.co.in

GKB HI-TECH LENSES PRIVATE LIMITED

One of the prominent ophthalmic lens manufacturing units in Goa is looking for our casting project.

Plant In-charge - Production: (Posts 1)

Qualification: Bachelor's degree/ Diploma Experience: 7-8 years' experience Male candidates preferred Handling day to day production activities & process. Man power planning Overseeing overall production operations effectively Effective Communication, Able to handle a team and coordination, Problem solving abilities, Leadership skills. Location: Karaswada, North Goa

Production Engineers: (Posts 3)

Qualification: Bachelor's degree/ Diploma Experience: 4-5 years' experience Handling engineering projects, supervising other employees, preparing project reports, etc. Basic knowledge of MS office, Team work Location: Karaswada, North Goa Interested candidates kindly send your CV on WhatsApp: +91 7378668955 | Email: careers@gkbhitech.com

Konkan Railway implements monsoon safety measures

Team Herald

MARGAO: Konkan Railway has rolled out a comprehensive monsoon safety plan and schedule, effective from June 15 to October 20, to ensure passenger safety and minimise disruption during the heavy rains.

In a statement, the Konkan Railway administration said that loco pilots have been instructed to maintain train speeds at 40 kmph during heavy rainfall and poor visibility conditions. Additionally, train services will be temporarily suspended if water accumulation on tracks exceeds 100 mm, resuming only once the water recedes to

safe levels.

Ahead of the monsoon, extensive preparations have been made. Drainage systems have been cleaned and inspected, and landslide-prone areas have undergone detailed surveys. A dedicated team of 636 patrolling personnel is actively monitoring vulnerable zones to detect and respond to potential hazards promptly.

Emergency response systems are fully operational, with excavators and accident relief wagons stationed strategically at Ratnagiri, Chiplun, Verna, and Kankavli to ensure quick mobilisation in case of incidents.

VANISHING ACT

HERALD PIC



Siolim link road: More a curse than a boon

Ever since the newly constructed link road at Gaunsa Vada, Siolim, was opened to the public, it has proved to be both a blessing and a curse—more often the latter—for the villagers. Heavy vehicles now ply this narrow stretch, endangering not only the lives of schoolchildren, but also the very integrity of the road. The route runs perilously close to Holy Cross High School, where the constant noise from passing traffic

severely disrupts teaching and learning. Teachers can barely hear themselves during classes, and when especially noisy vehicles back by they are forced to shut the windows to block the din. As a result, students are left to study in stuffy classrooms with little ventilation—particularly unbearable during the summer. The widened road now almost touches the school building, leaving barely any space for parents to safely drop off or pick up their children—raising serious child safety and rights concerns. As night falls, the road



A luxury car crashed on the Siolim link road last night, with the occupants fleeing after removing the number plates—seemingly to delay identification. Herald has flagged the dangers of this winding stretch in Monday's Citizen Herald, highlighting frequent drag races and risky driving. With no arrangement yet by the authorities to block the wide gap, villagers living at both ends of the link road fear for the lives of the hundreds of school children who walk to school and back everyday.

Saligao-Pilerne road to re-open soon, says MLA amid allegations of mismanagement

Tem Herald

CALANGUTE: Calangute: The Saligao-Pilerne road, which has remained closed to traffic for the past two weeks, will be reopened in a few days, Saligao MLA Kedar Naik announced

on Friday, June 6. The road had sustained significant damage due to heavy rainfall following the early onset of the monsoon. In addition, it was recently excavated for the laying of electricity cables and has been awaiting repairs.

"We started concreting the road on Wednesday. The repairs had started in May but got delayed due to the pre-monsoon rains. Once the concreting is done, we're putting pavers and in a few days it should be completed. This is a temporary arrangement to provide relief during the monsoon. Once the rainy season is

over, we will undertake proper hot-mixing of the road," Naik stated.

Meanwhile, on Thursday, Congress workers staged a protest at the PWD office in Mapusa, where they submitted a memorandum alleging deliberate negligence in road repairs. According to them, the road is being intentionally left in a damaged state to inconvenience industries at the Pilerne Industrial Estate, thereby creating an opportunity to solicit bribes for its repair.

"Why is the road being dug again and again? This is the question on people's minds. In three months, two tenders were taken to dig and repair the road and even then no repairs have been done. It looks like they only want to take tenders for the same road and waste taxpayers' money," said Atul Naik, president of the Saligao Congress Block Committee.

Another crash sparks fresh demand for streetlights on Arlem-Nuven bypass

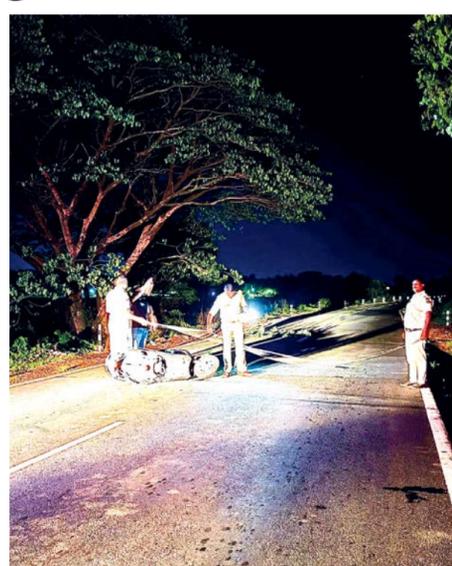
Team Herald

MARGAO: Another serious accident in the early hours of last Friday, has reignited urgent calls for the installation of streetlights along the notoriously dangerous Arlem-Nuven bypass.

At around 3 am, a driver sustained injuries after crashing on the pitch-dark, 5-kilometer stretch — a road that has become a well-known hazard for night time commuters.

Local residents and commuters have long raised concerns about the lack of basic infrastructure on this critical bypass, which connects the busy junctions of Arlem and Nuven in South Goa. With zero illumination after dusk, drivers are forced to navigate in near-total darkness, significantly increasing the risk of collisions, particularly involving speeding vehicles and poorly visible road conditions.

"This was completely preventable," said Siddesh Bhagat, a resident who rushed to help at the scene. "We've been asking for



Police conducting panchanama at the accident site

lights for years. How many more people need to get hurt before someone finally acts?"

The Arlem-Nuven bypass sees heavy daily traffic, including commercial

vehicles, two-wheelers, and buses. Yet, despite its importance, no visible efforts have been made to improve lighting or road safety. Multiple accidents — some fatal — have been reported

over the past few years, often occurring in the late evening or early morning hours.

Local civic groups and residents have submitted numerous petitions, met with elected representatives, and even staged peaceful demonstrations demanding action. However, their appeals have largely gone unanswered, leaving the community feeling ignored and vulnerable.

The latest accident has once again highlighted the urgent need for immediate intervention. Streetlights are a basic necessity on any major road, and their absence on such a busy stretch is both negligent and dangerous.

Citizens are now renewing their demand for authorities to prioritize the safety of this bypass. It is a matter not just of convenience, but of life and death. Without swift action, the Arlem-Nuven bypass may continue to claim lives — lives that could be saved with something as simple as proper lighting.

Bumper crop brings smiles to farmers in Cuncolem's 'Pineapple Village'

Locals overcome wild animal menace and weather challenges to reap sweet reward

Team Herald

PONDA: Farmers from Cuncolem in the Veling-Priol-Cuncolem Panchayat area, part of the Priol constituency in Ponda taluka, are rejoicing over a bumper pineapple harvest this year, despite facing multiple challenges including wild animals and delayed flowering due to weather conditions.

Cuncolem, famously known as the "Pineapple Village", lies on the slopes near the Kundaim Industrial Estate and is also



renowned for its agriculture and horticulture. The region boasts of Jayo (jasmine) flowers from Mardol, noted for their strong fragrance, and pineapples

celebrated for their delicious taste. These, along with other fruits and vegetables, are often sold by local farmers along the Mardol bypass on the Pon-

da-Panaji highway.

Jaynath Naik, a pineapple grower from the village, shared that this year's harvest has been exceptionally good. "Most of our customers are local Goans who know the quality of pineapples grown here. We get satisfactory prices ranging from Rs 100 to Rs 150 depending on the size," he said. Naik added that while some outsiders attempt to cash in on Cuncolem's reputation by selling their own pineapples, local buyers can distinguish between genuine village-grown pro-

duce and others.

Naik and his wife expressed their happiness at the harvest, though they noted the difficulties faced due to wild animals. "Wild bison, monkeys, and wild boars often destroy our crops, and we are forced to keep night vigils to drive them away. Some villagers even purchase costly firecrackers and fireworks to scare off the animals," he said. He added that the harvest was delayed by a month this year.

Vinod Naik, another local farmer, explained,

"Pineapple usually takes a year to mature, with the harvest ready by April. But last year's delayed rains caused late flowering. Despite having to clean the pineapple bagayats in August-September to remove weeds and facing adverse weather conditions, we've still managed a bumper crop by May."

The successful harvest has brought smiles to the faces of Cuncolem's farming community, reaffirming the village's status as Goa's cherished 'Pineapple Village'.