

shorttakes

Crime Branch arrests 2 Maharashtra natives with Rs 40 lakh worth Cannabis

PANJIM: The Crime Branch of Goa Police arrested two persons from Maharashtra for allegedly possessing 30 kg ganja worth Rs 40 lakh near Duler petrol pump at Mapusa on Wednesday. The accused have been identified as Sukdev Koli, 21, and Ravindra Bhil, 24. According to police, the accused were allegedly caught red-handed while being in possession Ganja in the dicky of their car. The police also attached the car as well as a mobile phone worth Rs 10,000 and a cash of Rs 370. An offence is registered under section 20(b)(ii)(C) of NDPS Act, 1985. The case is being investigated by PI Vikas Deykar under the supervision of Dy SP Crime Rajesh Kumar and SP Crime Rahul Gupta, IPS.

Three held with suspected whale vomit worth Rs 10 crore get bail

MARGAO: The Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC), Sanguem, has granted conditional bail to three persons arrested by Sanguem Police for allegedly possessing and attempting to trade a suspected uncured animal trophy — believed to be whale vomit (ambergris) — worth over Rs 10 crore. The accused have been identified as Sainath Shet (50) from Ponda, Ratuakant Karapurkar (55) from Zuarinagar, and Vegesh Redkar (40) from Sawantwadi. The suspected ambergris weighed approximately 5.75 kg and was seized during a raid conducted on June 5, 2025, based on reliable information. The court released the trio on bail upon furnishing a bond of Rs 20,000 each with one surety in the same amount. As a condition, the accused have been directed to report to Sanguem Police Station daily for 15 days.

GTDC floats tender for Aquamarine Park to boost Baga tourism

PANJIM: The Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC) has invited e-tenders for the development, operation, and management of an Aquamarine Park and associated tourism activities on a 2.975 sq mtr plot in Baga, North Goa. The project aims to establish a major marine tourism attraction at one of the state's most visited destinations. According to the tender notice, the facility will showcase at least 30 marine species and feature supporting infrastructure to enhance the visitor experience. The selected concessionaire will be responsible for the construction, upkeep, and operation of the park.

South Goa PI on leave after alleged accident, no case registered

MARGAO: A Police Inspector (PI) from one of the police stations in South Goa has reportedly gone on leave citing an accident, though questions have been raised regarding the circumstances of the incident. While no official details of the alleged accident have emerged and no FIR has been registered, the PI is currently undergoing treatment for a serious leg injury at a private hospital in North Goa. Sources indicate that the officer was involved in an accident in a village in Quepem taluka. However, the purpose of his visit to the area—whether it was an official investigation or a personal matter—remains unclear. The absence of an official accident report has raised eyebrows within the department and among the public.

Mapusa police arrest Liberian national for overstaying in Goa

PANJIM: Mapusa Police on Monday evening apprehended a Liberian national for allegedly overstaying in Goa without valid legal documents. The accused, identified as Jaso Freeman from Monrovia, Liberia, was found residing at Boquenchi Aradi, Parra in Bardez without a valid visa or authorization from the competent authorities. Police have initiated legal proceedings under the relevant sections of the Foreigners Act.

NCP marks 26th Foundation Day with call for Opposition unity

PANJIM: The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) — Sharad Pawar faction — celebrated its 26th Foundation Day on Tuesday with a strong call for unity among all opposition parties in Goa. Speaking at the event, NCP (SP) State president Jose Philip D'Souza stressed the need for collective action to defeat the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the 2027 Assembly elections. "It is high time all political parties set aside their differences and come together for the larger good of Goa," said D'Souza. He informed that the party has shortlisted candidates for several Assembly constituencies and is actively working to strengthen its organisation across the State. "We will soon open a new office in Panjim and establish offices in key constituencies to address public issues more effectively. We have also briefed our working president, Supriya Sule, on our progress," he added. The event was also attended by NCP (SP) general secretary Avinash Bhosle and other party leaders.

Mamlatdar commits to hold delayed Tenants Body elections, HC disposes plea

PANJIM: The High Court of Bombay at Goa has disposed of a writ petition filed by Shamir Coutinho, Chairman of the Tenants Association of Morombi O Grande, Mercês, after the Tiswadi Mamlatdar Kaushik Balkrishna Dessai, assured the court that elections to the Association's managing committee will be held by June 30. Coutinho had approached the Court seeking directions to the Mamlatdar to conduct the elections as required under Rule 4 of the Rules of 1975, and to convene a general body meeting for the same purpose. Appearing before the court, Additional Government Advocate Pravin Faldessai, on instructions from Mamlatdar Dessai, confirmed that a 15-day notice would be issued, and that the general body meeting would be tentatively scheduled for June 30. The term of the current managing committee expired on October 18, 2024, but elections were delayed due to the pending updation of the member list. The Mamlatdar had earlier directed the committee to continue functioning until fresh elections were conducted. Meanwhile, in related developments, an auction for the annual lease of the Vaddy Manos sluice gate, located at Patto, Ribandar, was held in December 2024, fetching an annual rent of Rs 10.5 lakh.

VILLAGERS ALARMED AS SCRAPYARDS MUSHROOM NEAR HIGHWAY IN DHAVLI

Residents demand urgent action as illegal scrapyards resurface near Ponda-Margao Highway, flouting HC orders and reigniting fire safety fears

Team Herald

PONDA: Two years after a massive fire ripped through scrapyards in Dhavli on May 5, 2023, the village is once again sitting on a ticking time bomb. The fear and trauma of that devastating blaze have returned, as locals raise alarms over the resurgence of illegal scrapyards packed with inflammable materials along the Ponda-Margao Highway.

Following a fresh complaint by concerned residents, the Kavlem Panchayat, led by Sarpanch Manuja Naik and Secretary Mayur Gaonkar, conducted a detailed inspection of the area on Tuesday. Several scrapyards were found filled with hazardous waste, including plastic, tyres, barrels, and even a bailing machine in operation—despite the structures being previously razed under High Court (HC) orders.

"The situation is serious. The same scrapyards that were gutted two years ago have been rebuilt, and new ones have emerged. These are not just safety hazards—they are illegal, untaxed, and turning Dhavli into an unregulated industrial zone," said Sanjay



“The situation is serious. The same scrapyards that were gutted two years ago have been rebuilt, and new ones have emerged. These are not just safety hazards—they are illegal, untaxed, and turning Dhavli into an unregulated industrial zone — Sanjay Dhavlikar, Complainant

Dhavlikar, one of the complainants.

Locals allege that not only scrapyards, but unauthorized business establishments and rented rooms have also cropped up, with some tenants operating without any identity verification. They have called on the Panchayat,

Public Works Department, and Deputy Collector to form a joint demolition squad as per HC directives. They also stressed the need for the Forest and Health departments to inspect suspected encroachments and look into open defecation issues on-site.

"Despite a prior HC



“A report will be submitted to the High Court. Action is imminent. Many scrapyards were earlier demolished but have resurfaced. This time, we will ensure they are permanently cleared — Manuja Naik, Sarpanch

order under which seven encroachments were removed, they've mushroomed again," Dhavlikar added. "Worse still, some landowners are aiding these illegal activities and even seek court stays against Panchayat action."

Speaking to the media after the inspection, Sar-

panch Manuja Naik confirmed that all observed scrapyards were illegal. "A report will be submitted to the High Court. Action is imminent. Many scrapyards were earlier demolished but have resurfaced. This time, we will ensure they are permanently cleared," she asserted.

Photos from the inspection revealed scrapyards overflowing with explosive material, a bailing machine in use, and villagers briefing the media on their grievances.

The memories of the 2023 fire still haunt the residents. On that day, empty plastic barrels, chemical containers, scrap metal, LPG cylinders and more went up in smoke, engulfing the highway in flames for hours and halting traffic for two days. The incident had required fire brigades from across South Goa to douse the blaze. Ironically, just a month before that tragedy, O Heraldo had run a story warning about a "ticking time bomb" in Dhavli warning that proved prophetic.

Now, two years later, residents fear history is about to repeat itself. With more scrapyards and hazardous waste than before, they are urging authorities to act swiftly and decisively.

"The scrapyards are not only dangerous but also act as hideouts for anti-social elements," a local warned.

The message from Dhavli's residents is clear: enough is enough. It's time for the authorities to defuse the ticking bomb—before it explodes again.

Sinking road near Assagao school left unrepaired despite repeated warnings

Continues to crash as WRD delays retaining wall; locals fear tragedy as monsoon sets in

Team Herald

ASSAGAO: A potentially life-threatening situation is unfolding near the Assagao school, where a section of the main road continues to sink dangerously into a nullah, with authorities showing little urgency despite repeated appeals from local bodies.

The issue began nearly a year-and-a-half ago, when one side of the road near the school started giving way due to erosion by the adjoining nullah. During the last monsoon, the Assagao panchayat had installed temporary supports to ensure the road could bear vehicle loads—especially the Bal Rath school buses that use the route daily. However, no permanent solution has been implemented since.

Assagao Sarpanch Hanuman Naik expressed



serious concern and frustration over the Water Resources Department's (WRD) inaction. "We were told last monsoon that work couldn't be done during rains but that paper-work would be completed to ensure the retaining wall would be built before the next monsoon. Now the monsoon has arrived and not a single thing has moved," Naik said.

Naik accused the administration of waiting for a tragedy before

taking action, adding, "There's no accountability or seriousness. When we follow up, officials are often clueless about the status of the file."

When contacted, WRD Assistant Engineer (Sivilim), Vinoo Naik, explained that the estimated Rs 30 lakh project requires finance department approval as it exceeds the Rs 15 lakh threshold. "We've completed all technical groundwork. But the file may be stuck in the finance

department. Until approval comes through, tenders can't be floated, and work orders can't be issued," he said.

Naik admitted that even if approvals came now, actual work may not begin for two to three months due to water levels in the nullah during monsoon, effectively pushing construction into the post-monsoon season. He also acknowledged that the delay was entirely due to administrative bottlenecks, not technical feasibility.

With a school just 100 metres from the damaged stretch, locals fear a major accident is inevitable if urgent repairs are not carried out. The situation underscores growing public frustration over bureaucratic delays and lack of responsiveness from key departments—even in matters involving children's safety.

Cong raises alarm on Ponda kidnapping

Team Herald

PONDA: The Goa Congress has strongly criticised the ruling BJP government for its failure to maintain law and order, following the broad daylight kidnapping of businessman Sandeep Choudhary in Ponda on Tuesday.

Addressing a press conference at the Congress office in Ponda, General Secretary and local party leader Rajesh Verekar expressed deep concern over the deteriorating security situation. "The law and order in Ponda has collapsed. Crimes are rising, and people are living in fear," he said.

He also highlighted the shortage of police personnel and patrolling vehicles at the Ponda Police Station. "The Chief Minister, who is also the Home Minister, has failed the people. If this contin-

ues, Ponda may soon be known as a crime city instead of a temple town," Verekar warned.

Meanwhile, police stated that for 38-year-old Sandeep Choudhary, who was abducted in a Swift car with a fake number plate has now been traced in Bangalore.

A team has dispatched to the neighbouring state to investigate the case.

APPOINTMENTS

AGUADA ANCHORAGE
THE VILLA RESORT
GOAHIRING
FOR THE FOLLOWING
POSITIONS

1. Front Office Associates
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 rhys@aguadaanchorage.com

Carmel Higher Secondary School Nuvem – Goa 403 713

Invites applications from eligible candidates having valid registration with Employment Exchange, Goa and Residence Certificate for filling up the following posts: -

General Stream:

Sr. No	Particulars	Type of vacancies	Educational qualifications
1	Teacher Gr.I in Hindi	On lecture basis @ 10 periods/week	M.A(Hindi), B.Ed.
2	Teacher Gr I in Computer Science	On lecture basis @ 08 periods/week	M.C.A/M.Sc.IT/M.Sc (Computer Science)/ M.E IT

Upper Age Limit: 45 years

Interested candidates as per Government Recruitment Rules, may apply within 7 days with full Bio-data, handwritten application, testimonials, valid residence certificate, valid employment card and other certificates to the **Principal, Carmel Higher Secondary School, Nuvem.**

Sd/-
Principal

Roadside vendors continue to disrupt traffic, create nuisance in Margao

Footpaths vanish, chaos grows as vendors spill onto streets

Team Herald

MARGAO: The persistent encroachment of public spaces by roadside vendors in the commercial town of Margao has become a major source of inconvenience for commuters and the general public.

Vendors selling tender coconuts, fruits, and other goods have occupied key roadside areas, particularly near the bus stop from where buses depart for Quepem, leading to traffic congestion and hindrance to pedestrian movement.

Despite repeated complaints and visible traffic disruptions, no concrete action has been taken by the authorities to address the issue. The situation is especially chaotic during peak hours when school and office commuters are on the move. Several vendors set up their stalls on footpaths and the edges of narrow roads, forcing pedestrians to walk on the road and putting their

“The authorities must act now. This issue has been going on for far too long. Commuters face daily hardship, and it's only getting worse —Ramesh Shirodkar, Local shop owner

“Public spaces aren't meant for private business encroachment. The local body needs to enforce regulations strictly and relocate these vendors to a designated area

— Shivanand P Borkar, Concerned resident

safety at risk.

"The authorities must act now. This issue has been going on for far too long. Commuters face daily hardship, and it's only getting worse," said Ramesh Shirodkar, a local shop owner near the bus stop.

Shivanand P. Borkar, another concerned resident, voiced strong criticism of the lack of enforcement. "Public spaces aren't meant for private business encroachment. The local body needs to enforce regulations strictly and relocate these vendors to a designated area," he said.

The problem is not lim-

ited to the bus stop area. Similar scenes of roadside occupation can be found in and around the Margao Municipal Council (MMC) market. These areas, meant for smooth flow of people and traffic, have now turned into crowded, disorderly spaces where pedestrians and motorists struggle to navigate.

Residents and commuters are now urging the MMC and traffic authorities to take immediate action. They have demanded better regulation of street vending and the creation of organized vending zones to strike a balance

between livelihood and public convenience.

Until a firm decision is taken, the daily commute through the heart of Margao remains a challenge for thousands who use these roads. With the monsoon approaching, the situation is likely to worsen, raising further safety concerns.

ST. XAVIER'S HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL, MAPUSA, BARDEZ-GOA

Managed by DIOCESAN SOCIETY OF EDUCATION (DSE)

Sr. No.	Name of the Post	Qualifications	No. of Post	Interview Time
1.	Teacher Grade I in Commerce (CCL- Contract basis till 15.10.2025)	M.Com., B.Ed.	01	8:30 a.m.
2.	Teacher Grade-I in Hindi (Contract basis till the end of the A.Y 2025-26)	M.A. in Hindi & B.Ed.	03	8:30 a.m.
3.	Teacher Grade -I in Konkani (Contract basis till the end of the A.Y 2025-26)	M.A. in Konkani & B.Ed.	01	10:00 a.m.
4.	Physical Education Teacher (Contract basis till the end of the A.Y 2025-26)	B.A./B.Com./B.Sc. & M.P.Ed. or M.A./M.Com./M.Sc. & B.P.Ed.	01	10:00 a.m.
5.	Teacher Grade I in Physics (CCL-Contract basis till 15.10.2025)	M.Sc.(Physics), B.Ed.	01	10:00 a.m.
6.	M.T.S (Contract basis till the end of the A.Y 2025-26)	X pass	01	11:00 a.m.

Candidates below 45 years of age having valid Employment Exchange Registration, Residence Certificate and requisite Qualifications as per Recruitment Rules in force, may attend a **Walk-in-Interview on Friday 20.06.2025 in the office of The Manager, St. Xavier's Higher Secondary School, Mapusa Goa.**

MANAGER