

# Missing valuables deepen mystery over death of Sanguem youth in Ghaziabad

## Gold earring, laptop, phones and cash reported missing from Shaikh's room

Team Herald

**MARGAO:** Mystery continues to surround the death of 33-year-old Sameer Shaikh, a resident of Sanguem-Sanvordem, whose decomposed body was found wrapped in a blanket in the bathroom of his rented accommodation in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. His family has reported that key belongings—including a gold earring, laptop, two mobile phones and

Rs 15,000 in cash—are missing from the room he shared with four others. According to sources in Curchorem Police, Sameer's relatives, along with a team from Goa, visited Khoda Police Station (also known as Khoda Mankanpur Police Station) in Khora Colony, Ghaziabad, and brought the missing items to the attention of the investigating officer. The family raised strong suspicions regarding the circumstances of

his death and requested a detailed investigation. Officers from Khoda Police reportedly assured the family that the matter is under investigation and promised to contact them within two days. Curchorem Police have indicated that a case of murder is likely to be registered. PSI Gautam Shetker, who was sent to Uttar Pradesh following a missing person complaint lodged by Sameer's sister on June 2, has since returned to Goa.

The body was handed over to the family, brought back to Sanvordem and the final rites have been completed. A post-mortem was conducted by Khoda Police, and the viscera has been preserved for further forensic analysis. Sameer, who was working with an NGO in North India, had left Goa on May 30 for a meeting in Delhi. His sister spoke to him on that day, during which he said he was in a meeting

and would call back. He never did. Police sources believe he may have received an email calling him to Delhi before his death. Curchorem Police said Sameer had been living with four others in the Ghaziabad flat. Of the five occupants, two have been detained by Khoda Police, while the remaining two are absconding. One of them has switched off his phone, making it difficult to trace him.

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### shorttakes

#### 21-year-old Maharashtra youth dies after partying in Baga

**CALANGUTE:** A 21-year-old tourist from Maharashtra, identified as Shubham Patil, allegedly collapsed and died in Tito's Lane, Baga, Calangute, in the early hours of Friday, after a night of partying with friends. According to Calangute police, Patil, a native of Raigarh, Maharashtra, had been at a pub in Tito's Lane with friends. While returning to their hotel room after the party, he suddenly collapsed on the road and lost consciousness. He was immediately rushed to the Candolim Primary Health Centre, where doctors reported that he was "brought in an unconscious, unresponsive state" at around 5:30 am. He was later declared brought dead. Police said the body has been sent to the Goa Medical College morgue at Bambolim for preservation and medico-legal formalities. No foul play is suspected at this stage.

#### Russian national held in Arambol with drugs worth Rs 3.65 lakh

**PANJIM:** The Mandrem police arrested Denis Kriuchkoy, a 51-year-old Russian national residing in Arambol, for allegedly possessing drugs worth Rs 3.65 lakh. The raid was conducted near the Yoga Academy at Madhlawada, Arambol, between 12:40 am and 3:10 am on June 12. According to police, Kriuchkoy was found in possession of 300 grams of charas and 6.45 grams of MDMA, along with a mobile phone. Police stated that Kriuchkoy had been living in the Anjuna area since 2017 and was earlier arrested in 2021 in connection with the murder of a Russian woman. Though released on bail, he allegedly resumed drug trafficking in areas including Anjuna, Calangute, Arambol and Mandrem. His movements and activities were under close surveillance, officials said.

#### Unidentified body found floating in Zuari river

**MARGAO:** The body of an unidentified male was found floating in the Zuari river at Cortalim, Verna, on Monday, police said. Following an alert from Panjim PCR, Verna Police rushed to the spot and recovered the body of a man, estimated to be around 40, of thin build, and wearing a green T-shirt. Police conducted both the scene of the unnatural death (UD) occurrence panchanama and an inquest panchanama. The body has been preserved at South Goa District Hospital, Margao, for medico-legal formalities. PSI Rajdatt Arsekar of Verna Police Station is leading the investigation.

#### Teen motorcyclist hits pedestrian at Fatorda

**MARGAO:** Priscilla Cardoz of Navelim sustained injuries after being knocked down by a motorcycle at Fatorda on June 8. According to the complaint by Wilton Rebello of Fatorda Police Station, the teenager from Raia was riding his Yamaha motorcycle rashly and negligently while proceeding from KTC Bus Stand towards Old Market Circle. At Fatorda, he hit Cardoz, who was crossing the road, causing her to fall and sustain injuries. An offence has been registered under Sections 281 and 125(b) of the BNS 2023. Further investigation is in progress.

#### SC reinstates Dr Veena Kumar as Animal Husbandry Director

**MARGAO:** In a significant development, the Supreme Court has reinstated Dr Veena Kumar as officiating Director of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services (AH&VS), reversing her controversial removal last month. The senior-most officer in the department was first appointed to the position on June 4, 2024, but was abruptly replaced by Dr Nitin Naik on June 20 following a recommendation by Animal Husbandry Minister Nilkanth Halarnkar. Dr Veena challenged the decision in the Goa High Court, which declined intervention, prompting her to approach the Supreme Court. In an interim order dated, the apex court stayed her removal and directed immediate reinstatement until the next hearing on July 22. A Bench comprising Justices Sanjay Kumar and KV Viswanathan observed the government failed to provide valid grounds for replacing Dr Kumar, terming the move arbitrary. The court suspended the June 20 replacement order while allowing the state time to file its response before the July 22 hearing.



#### Dr Shamila Monteiro reappointed as Director of Fisheries

**MARGAO:** Dr Shamila Monteiro, who was serving as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Department of Environment, has been transferred and posted as Director of Fisheries with immediate effect. The reappointment comes nearly ten months after she was relieved from the position following the Cutbana jetty crisis, where an alleged cholera outbreak claimed the lives of five labourers and left over 160 individuals infected with dengue and cholera. The order, issued by Under Secretary (Personnel) Raghuraj Faldesai, also follows the transfer of IAS officer Yashaswini B, who had been holding the charge, out of Goa. During her previous tenure, Dr Monteiro faced criticism over the LED fishing controversy, with sections of the fishing community accusing her of favouring fishers using LED lights—a practice banned due to its detrimental effects on marine life. Her reinstatement marks a significant development in the state's fisheries administration.

### FAITH IN FOCUS

SABY MASCARENHAS



On the occasion of the feast of Siolim's patron saint, a statue of St Anthony was taken to every vaddo of the village in a beautifully decorated vehicle, led by Fr Mario Carvalho, assistant to the parish priest, and accompanied by parish youth. The motorcade began from St Anthony's Church at 6.30 pm under the guidance of Parish Priest Rev Dr Socorro Mendes

## Ex-mayor demands withdrawal of order changing booth officers

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** Former Mayor of the Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP), Surendra Furtado, has written to the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), urging the immediate rescinding and withdrawal of the order issued by the Panjim Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) that changes 28 out of 30 Booth Level Officers (BLOs) for the Panjim Assembly constituency.

In his letter, Furtado stated, "I am shocked to learn about the sudden transfer and changing of 28 out of

the 30 BLOs without assigning any reason, in an unprecedented fashion in the electoral history of Panjim constituency."

He said the move by the election authorities raises serious concerns and threatens the sanctity of the electoral process. "Such an exercise is unheard of and has been undertaken without citing any reasons," he said, calling the action both "unprecedented and uncalled for", and claiming it has left him and the voters of Panjim "in great shock and surprise".

"It is submitted that

the said action has raised many questions and left the whole of the constituency of Panjim wondering as regards the need and desirability of such an exercise," he added.

Furtado warned that the mass transfer of BLOs could cast "severe doubts on the process of preparing electoral rolls" and called upon the CEO to act swiftly. "You, as the authority concerned, are duty bound to ensure that such an exercise is not carried out and that the said order is cancelled, rescinded and withdrawn forthwith," he urged.

## Betalbatim VP, TCP inspect controversial project

Team Herald

**MARGAO:** The Betalbatim Panchayat, in collaboration with the Town & Country Planning (TCP) department, Public Works Department (PWD) and Block Development Office (BDO), conducted an inspection of a controversial project in the village on Tuesday. The inspection aims to address con-

cerns raised by former Minister Micky Pacheco, who has called for strict action against the project.

Speaking to officials during the inspection, Pacheco reiterated his demand for decisive measures. He emphasized the need for swift intervention, citing potential violations of regulations.

Panchayat officials clarified that

the matter is currently pending before both the High Court and the District Court, as well as under review by the Additional Director of Panchayats. They noted that their role is to submit the inspection report to the relevant court if required. At this stage, the inspection was carried out to verify the allegations raised by the complainant.

## Health officials warn of dengue threat as monsoon begins

### Goa steps up prevention efforts; early action, interdepartmental coordination key to halting mosquito-borne disease

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** With the rains lashing the State, Goa's health authorities have sounded an alert over dengue—a key vector-borne disease that continues to pose a serious threat. While 567 cases were reported last year, over 200 occurred before the rains, largely due to unsafe water storage practices.

This year, the number of cases has declined. From June 2023 to May 2024, only 33 dengue infections have been recorded, compared to 116 during the same period last year, ac-

**“Dengue transmission typically begins with the monsoon. The female mosquito, which spreads the disease, bites during the day and can breed in just a teaspoon of stagnant water”**

**Dr Kalpana Mahatme, Health Officer**

According to Dr Kalpana Mahatme, State Programme Officer and Deputy Director of the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme.

"Dengue transmission typically begins with the monsoon. The female mosquito, which spreads the disease, bites during the day and can breed in just a teaspoon of stagnant water," Dr Mahatme

said. Unlike the malaria mosquito, which bites at night, the dengue mosquito targets multiple people in the daytime, increasing the spread.

Last year, housing societies began reporting cases. "People love keeping aquatic plants, but standing water attracts mosquitoes. We created a standard operating procedure, asking societies to appoint nodal

persons to check for stagnant water. We're not asking people to stop keeping plants, just to throw out water once a week," she added.

Every April, Dr Mahatme issues an advisory to all government departments. With limited manpower—spread across 34 health centres—she has urged each department to appoint a nodal officer to inspect premises for water leaks and pooling, particularly under flower pots, which are ideal breeding grounds. "Keeping Goa healthy is a constant effort," Dr Mahatme concluded.

## Mastermind behind kidnapping case in Ponda police net

### Accused held in Kolhapur while five accomplices remain at large; financial dispute suspected motive

Team Herald

**PONDA:** Ponda Police on Thursday arrested Munir Shafik (22), a resident of Mangaluru and the alleged mastermind behind the kidnapping of Ponda-based businessman Sandeep Choudhary (38). The arrest was made in Kolhapur, while five other accused involved in the abduction remain absconding.

Addressing the media, DySP Shivram Vaigankar stated that the accused was apprehended on Thursday morning just as he was preparing to flee to Mumbai from Kolhapur. "He was arrested before he could escape. His five accomplices are still on the run," said Vaigankar.



It has emerged that the accused and the victim were known to each other, and a financial dispute is suspected to be the motive behind the crime. Choudhary, who runs a scrap business in Karnataka, had business dealings with the accused, who is said to be one of his scrap suppliers.

Police believe that unpaid dues may have led to the kidnapping. The victim is currently in shock and recovering from the ordeal.

It may be recalled that on May 10, Choudhary was abducted from his residence at Jofinagar, Ponda. The kidnapers took him to Bengaluru, where he was

also assaulted. He later managed to escape from captivity and informed the police of his location. He was brought back to Goa on Wednesday evening.

The operation involved coordinated efforts from police teams in Ponda, Mar-dol, Collem and Karnataka. According to police, the kidnapping involved six individuals. The accomplices abducted Choudhary in a car, while Munir Shafik followed them in a separate vehicle.

DySP Vaigankar said investigations are underway to determine the full motive behind the kidnapping, identify and apprehend the remaining suspects, and seize the vehicles used in the crime.

## Youth dies by suicide at Mobor beach in presence of girlfriend

Team Herald

**MARGAO:** A 24-year-old man from Gogal, Ahmad Allauddin Sayyed, was found hanging from a tree at Mobor Beach, allegedly having taken his own life using a nylon rope as ligature material. Colva Police confirmed that the deceased had visited the beach along with his girlfriend.

According to police, they received information from OP staff member Keshav Salgaonkar that a male individual had been found hanging on a tree at Mobor

Beach. A police team was immediately dispatched to the scene. Upon enquiry, the deceased was identified as Ahmad Allauddin Sayyed, a resident of Gogal.

Further investigation revealed that the deceased had gone to the beach with his girlfriend. After taking a bath in the sea, the couple returned to shore. While his girlfriend was drying her clothes a few metres away, Sayyed allegedly used a nylon rope to hang himself from a tree.

Police stated that enquiries with the family members indicated Sayyed

had been suffering from depression due to a family dispute and had expressed suicidal tendencies in the past. It was also learnt that this was not his first attempt at suicide.

A post-mortem examination was conducted, and the Police Surgeon opined that the cause of death was "asphyxia as a result of constriction of neck structures vide injury No.1". The viscera has been preserved for chemical analysis. The deceased's body was handed over to the family after completion of medico-legal formalities.

## Ponda market vendors meet CM, escape eviction

Team Herald

**PONDA:** A timely intervention by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has brought much-needed respite to a group of vendors in Ponda who were facing eviction from the old fish market building.

Cloth vendors, grocery sellers, and tailors operating from the decades-old structure had been served a 72-hour eviction notice by the PMC, but the vendors opposed the move.

With their businesses at stake, the vendors threatened to stage an agitation at the PMC office. However, during the Chief Minister's visit to Ponda on Monday for a government event, the vendors seized the opportunity to voice their concerns.

Moved by their plight, CM held a meeting with officials and instructed them to initiate dialogue with the vendors, understand their needs, and formulate a mutually acceptable relocation plan.

**APPOINTMENTS**

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For details regarding the post and application for the same, please visit the College Website [www.grkarelaw.edu.in](http://www.grkarelaw.edu.in)  
Date: 14/06/2025  
**(Dr. Maria Goretti Simoes)**  
Officiating Principal