

shorttakes

Man arrested with stolen truck worth Rs 5 lakh from Banastarim

PONDA: The Mardol police have arrested a 30-year-old man in connection with the theft of a truck from Banastarim. The accused, Rajkumar Vishwakarma, son of Hiralal Vishwakarma, residing at Shantadurga Engineering, IDC Kundai, and originally from Futiya, Chandauli, Uttar Pradesh, was apprehended with the stolen vehicle. The complaint was filed by Franklin Stephen of Taleigao, on behalf of Francisco Martins Event Production LLP, Kundaim. The stolen vehicle, a brown truck (GA-07-F-5001), was valued at approximately Rs 5 lakh. Rajkumar was placed under arrest during the investigation and produced before the Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC), Ponda, who remanded him to 13 days of judicial custody.

Illegal sand transporter held in Ponda; sand worth Rs 7,500 seized

PONDA: Mardol Police on Thursday arrested Kankappa Biradar, a resident of Ponda and native of Karnataka, for transporting sand without a valid transit pass. He was caught red-handed at Karmale, Keri, with approximately 5 cubic metres of sand in a tipper truck. The sand, valued at Rs 7,500, was illegally extracted from an undisclosed location without lease or licence, causing a loss to the government exchequer. The sand is classified as a minor mineral. PSI Abhilash Naik of Mardol Police Station is conducting further investigation.

Scooter worth Rs 1.14 lakh stolen from near Ravindra Bhavan, Margao

MARGAO: A complaint has been filed with Fatorada Police by Jyotiranjana Barik of Aquem, Margao, alleging theft of his scooter near Ravindra Bhavan. The incident occurred between 3 pm on May 14 and 1 am on May 15. The stolen vehicle worth approximately Rs 1,14,000. Police have registered the offence under Section 303(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, and further investigation is underway.

Illegal laterite stone extraction reported in Quepem

MARGAO: Glancia Fernandes, Geologist from the Directorate of Mines & Geology, Panjim, has filed a complaint with Quepem Police regarding illegal extraction of laterite dimension stones in Zanodem village. The extraction was allegedly carried out by the landowner without obtaining prior permission from the competent authority, resulting in theft and loss to the State Government. The value of the illegally extracted material is yet to be assessed. The offence has been registered under Section 303(2) of BNS, along with Sections 4 and 4(1A) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, read with Rules 3 and 38 of the Goa Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1985. LPSI Rifha Barreto of Quepem Police Station is investigating the matter.

Coconut tree damages Benaulim house; fire services respond to four incidents in a day

MARGAO: A house near the Holy Trinity Football Ground at Vastwado, Benaulim, suffered damage after a coconut tree fell on it, prompting a swift response from the Margao Fire Station. According to Gil Souza, Station Fire Officer (FSO), this was the most significant of the four incidents attended by the fire personnel that day. Though the exact value of the loss is yet to be assessed, the fire service estimated that property worth Rs 2,00,000 was saved. Firefighters rushed to the scene, safely cleared the fallen coconut tree, and confirmed that no one was injured in the incident. The operation was led by Sub-Officer C Carvalho along with his team. In a second incident, a jungle tree collapsed onto an electric wire and a compound wall at Vagona, Maina Curtorim. The fire crew responded promptly, removed the obstructing branches, and restored access. The third call was to a waterlogging issue in a house near Adarsh School, Pajifond, Margao, caused by a broken roof during heavy rainfall. The crew found water inside the house and removed it, confirming that there was no ongoing flooding at the time of inspection. The homeowner was advised to place a tarpaulin over the damaged section of the roof to prevent further water ingress. In the fourth incident, a man was rescued from a lift stuck inside the Kamat Commercial Complex near Old Hari Mandir, Margao.

Rs 15 lakh theft reported at Cuncolim residence

MARGAO: A burglary at the residence of Santana Dias in Cuncolim resulted in the theft of gold ornaments and cash worth approximately Rs 15 lakh. The accused gained entry by breaking open the main door lock and looted items from a metal cupboard. Cuncolim Police registered the case under Sections 331(3) and 305 of the BNS 2023 based on the complaint. PSI Aditya Sawant is conducting the investigation.

Abandoned baby girl shifted to care centre

MARGAO: A one-month-old baby girl found abandoned on a bench near a chapel at First Ward, Colva, has been shifted to Matruchaya, Dhavli, for care after initial treatment at South Goa District Hospital. Colva Police confirmed the baby is in good health. Legal formalities were completed, and an offence has been registered under Sections 93 and 125 of the BNS and Section 8 of the Goa Children's Act against unknown persons. Police are reviewing CCTV footage to identify the culprit. PSI Sunil Patil of Colva Police Station is leading the investigation.

Nursing education workshop held in Calangute to promote diabetic care

CALANGUTE: A full-day nursing education programme, Step-In, aimed at enhancing diabetic care, was conducted on Thursday at the AAM Sub-Health Centre in Calangute. The workshop was organised by the Candolim Primary Health Centre in collaboration with the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Directorate of Health Services (DHS) Goa, and the Novo Nordisk Education Foundation. It aimed to impart diabetic education to nurses from various Primary Health Centres (PHCs) across North Goa. Participants were trained on treatment modalities, timing of dosage, and the importance of thorough patient investigation before commencing treatment. The session also included guidance on monthly, six-monthly and annual investigations necessary for early detection of complications. Additionally, the workshop provided training on dietary modifications, exercise routines, anthropometric measurement techniques, and procedures for checking neuropathy and vibratory sensation. A total of 60 nurses attended the session from PHC Aldona, PHC Siolim, PHC Saligao, PHC Candolim, PHC Mayem, and CHC Pernem.

Sewage overflows onto main road in Ponda, locals raise health concerns

Team Herald

Stench near Almeida High School sparks questions over sewage system efficiency despite operational STP

PONDA: Residents of Ponda have raised serious concerns after choked sewage was seen overflowing from sewerage chambers along with rainwater onto the main road near Almeida High School. The overflow, which drained into nearby gutters, has created an unbearable stench in the area, prompting calls for immediate intervention from the concerned authorities.

Locals pointed out that a similar incident had occurred a few months ago near the PMC office at Tisk-Ponda, where a blockage was eventually cleared. However, the recurrence of such issues has cast doubt on the overall efficiency of the town's sewerage infrastructure.

Social workers Viraj Sapre and John Mascarenhas voiced their concern over the health risks posed by the overflowing sewage and questioned the functioning



of the Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP). Sapre stated, "It has already been claimed that the Sewerage Plant for Ponda is operational. However, a tanker from Margao

was seen suctioning the choked sewage here. This raises questions about the actual efficiency of the STP."

Both Sapre and Mascarenhas have urged the sewerage department officials

to visit the affected site and take immediate action to prevent further overflow.

Additionally, locals reported that during the

rains, water seepage into sewerage chambers is commonly noticed in the low-lying areas of Curti, adding to the burden on the already struggling system.

Ro-Ro ferry on Chorao-Ribandar route likely within 15 days

Team Herald

PANJIM: River Navigation Minister Subhash Phal Dessai on Friday announced that Roll-on/Roll-off (Ro-Ro) ferry services on the Chorao-Ribandar route are expected to commence within next 15 days.

Although he did not commit to an exact date, the minister confirmed that the project is nearly complete. "I cannot give the exact date but definitely within 15 days the service will start. Now almost everything is ready. Trials have been completed. Training has been given to the crew members. There will be no charges for passengers. Minor charges will be levied for two-wheelers," he said, speaking to reporters at Mantralaya, Porvorim.

Phal Dessai further stated that while the service will be free for villagers, nominal fares will be applicable for commuters from outside the village. The charges are essential to address the department's financial shortfall, he explained. "The department is currently facing a financial deficit, with an expenditure of Rs 76 crore and earnings of only Rs 52 lakh, which is unsustainable," he said.

He also noted that the panchayats of Diwar island have expressed interest in similar Ro-Ro services and are open to introducing vehicle charges if necessary.

The minister assured commuters that no passenger would have to wait more than seven minutes to complete the route.

Authorities act after Herald report on waterlogging at Bondbaag-Bethora Drainage work carried out following road flooding near school; locals thank Herald for intervention

Team Herald

PONDA: Prompt action was taken by the authorities following a report published by O Herald on June 11 highlighting waterlogging on the internal road at Bondbaag, Bethora. The accumulated water, which had been causing considerable hardship to students of Bondbaag Primary School and local residents, has now been cleared through the arrangement of a temporary drainage system.

Local residents Sadanand Gaude and Nyaneshwar Gaude expressed their gratitude to O Herald for bringing attention to the issue. They reported that PWD Division XVIII had responded swiftly by removing the water from the



internal roads. Sadanand Gaude added that while the PWD had addressed the immediate issue, the root cause remains unaddressed. "The four-lane highway has been wid-

ened, but the gutter outlet has been left incomplete. This is what is causing water to flow onto the internal road," he said.

He further urged the National Highway (NH)

Authorities to extend the existing gutter up to the nullah, which falls under their jurisdiction, in order to prevent future inconvenience to students and locals.

60 forest rights claims cleared at special camp in Ponda

Team Herald

PONDA: A special one-day camp was held at the Office of the Deputy Collector and Sub-Divisional Officer, Ponda, to expedite the resolution of pending claims under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.

Organised under the supervision of senior government officials, the camp aimed to fast-track forest rights claims for residents of seven villages in Ponda—Shiroda, Ganjem, Bethora, Konshem, Nirankal, and Usgao. Officials interacted directly with applicants to

verify documents and guide them in completing any pending requirements to avoid further delays.

Deputy Collector Shubam Naik stated, "Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has recently assured that forest rights claims will be cleared before 19 December. Accordingly, efforts are underway. There are a total of 259 claims in the Ponda jurisdiction. Of these, 129 have already been scrutinised and forwarded to the District-Level Committee (DLC)."

Naik further added that the special camp was organised to address 130 remaining applications. "To-



day, 62 of these were made ready for approval, and 60 claims were fully decided by the Sub-Divisional Level Committee (SDLC). Applicants have been guided to submit the necessary documents within 15 days."

Ashwin Dessai also monitored verification desks, ensuring inter-departmental coordination.

Throughout the day, officials reviewed land sketches, genealogy records and affidavits. Forest officers assisted with demarcation queries, while Revenue staff clarified survey references. Several applicants expressed relief that their long-pending claims were finally progressing.

The administration aims to forward all remaining cases from Ponda to the DLC well before the State government's Project Adhikar deadline of December 2025.

Aakash student Rishabh tops Goa in NEET UG 2025 with AIR 570

Credits coaching, discipline and mentoring at Aakash Educational Services Limited for remarkable success in national medical entrance exam

Team Herald

PANJIM: Rishabh Talwadekar, a student of Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), has emerged as the Goa State Topper in the prestigious NEET UG 2025 examination, securing an impressive All India Rank (AIR) of 570. The results were declared by the National Testing Agency (NTA) earlier today.

Rishabh was enrolled in the AESL institute's classroom programme, specifically designed to help aspirants prepare for NEET—one of the toughest medical entrance examinations in the world.



Rishabh attributed his success to AESL's robust academic framework and per-

sonalised support. "I am extremely thankful to Aakash for guiding me throughout

this journey. The structured content, expert teaching, and personal mentoring helped me master complex topics in a short time. Without AESL, this success would not have been possible," he said.

Congratulating Rishabh and other achievers, Dr H R Rao, chief academic and business head at AESL, said, "We are immensely proud of our students' stellar performance in NEET UG 2025. Scoring such good marks is no small feat, especially in an exam that sees participation of students from nationwide. These results showcase not only the

students' hard work and perseverance but also the support from their parents and the committed efforts of our academic team. We wish them continued success in their medical careers."

NEET (National Eligibility cum Entrance Test) is conducted annually by the NTA and serves as the qualifying examination for undergraduate courses in medicine (MBBS), dentistry (BDS), and AYUSH (BAMS, BHMS, etc.) in both government and private institutions in India. It also applies to students seeking primary medical qualifications abroad.

Goa Police transfers 565 personnel; 859 recruits deployed

Team Herald

PANJIM: In a significant administrative reshuffle, the Goa Police Department has transferred a total of 565 personnel, including two Police Inspectors (PIs) and 34 Police Sub-Inspectors (PSIs). The transfers have been effected following recommendations from the Police Establishment Board.

PI Filomena L Costa, previously posted with the Goa Reserve Police (GRP), has been appointed as the Police Inspector of the newly created Fatorada Traffic Police Cell. PI John A Fernandes has been transferred from the Police Training School (PTS), Valpoi, and posted to the Security Unit in Panjim.

In a parallel development, 859 newly recruited police constables have been deployed to various police stations across the State. Additionally, 82 new posts in the police force, including 27 ASI positions and 55 Head Constable (driver) posts have been approved.