

CRIME BRANCH DIRECTED TO FILE FIR IN RS 300 CRORE PATTO LAND SCAM

Sessions Court serves 24-hr deadline to investigating agency to commence probe

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Sessions Court in Panjim has directed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to register a First Information Report (FIR) within 24 hours of the order and commence an investigation into the alleged illegal sale of government land at Patto, Panjim.

The directive was issued while hearing an application filed by Kashinath Shetye and seven others, who alleged that land allocated to the Economic

In his ruling, Sessions Judge Irshad Agha relied on various court precedents and held that in the present case, the investigating agency ought to have registered an FIR. He added that, at the very least, a preliminary inquiry should have been conducted. "There is enough material to directly register the FIR," the judge concluded

Development Corporation (EDC) for housing certain offices was sold to various parties without obtaining the requisite government permissions. They claimed this caused a loss of approximately Rs 300 crore to the State exchequer. The petitioners further alleged

that even if permission had been granted, 50 per cent of the amount due was not deposited with either the government or the EDC.

The complainants also levelled serious allegations of corruption, nepotism, fraud, and cheating by builders, allegedly in col-

lusion with banks, the Income Tax Department, and the EDC.

Although a complaint was initially filed with the police, no action was taken. The petitioners stated that they subsequently approached higher authorities as per the legal procedure. When no action followed, they filed the current application under Section 156(3) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).

The High Court of Bombay at Goa had earlier, on

15 October 2024, quashed and set aside a Sessions Court order dated 3 October 2020 and directed the lower court to reconsider the application after hearing all parties involved.

The petitioners further submitted that several buildings have been constructed on the land in question and leased to various government and semi-government bodies such as BSNL, GST, Income Tax, Shram Shakti Bhavan, State Bank of India, and Bank of Baroda. They al-

leged that these buildings were not leased or sold in accordance with the terms of the original lease agreement with the EDC.

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shorttakes

16-year-old student dies by suicide in Colva

MARGAO: A 16-year-old girl from Colva, originally from Karnataka and studying in Class 10, allegedly died by suicide at her residence by hanging herself with a scarf, Colva Police said. Police stated the incident occurred when the girl was home with her younger sister, while their parents were away. According to initial enquiries, the younger sibling had fallen asleep, during which time the deceased took the drastic step. Colva Police visited the site, conducted an inquest panchanama, and preserved the body at South Goa District Hospital, Margao, for medico-legal formalities. The post-mortem report is awaited. No suicide note was recovered, and the motive remains unclear. Police have currently ruled out foul play. Statements of family members have been recorded, and PSI Nikhil Khajnekar of Colva Police Station is leading the investigation.

Sanguem court grants bail in Rs 10 crore ambergris case

MARGAO: The Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC), Sanguem, has granted conditional bail to Sachin Mhatre, a resident of Pen, Raigad, who was arrested in connection with the seizure of 5.75 kg of suspected whale vomit (Ambergris) valued at Rs 10.06 crore. The accused was released on a bail bond of Rs 20,000 with one surety of the same amount. He has been directed to report to the Sanguem Police Station for 15 days. The seizure was made during a raid by PSI Kavita Raut, which led to the arrest of Mhatre and two others, who were allegedly in possession of the unsecured animal trophy for illegal trade without a valid licence. The offence was registered under Sections 39, 44, 49B, and 51 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Contractor booked for damaging public property, endangering lives

MARGAO: Jervis Fernandes of Bamonsai, Sanguem, has filed a complaint with Quepem Police against contractor M/s Shaswat Electricals JV with M/s Creative Entrepreneur LLP. The complaint alleges that, prior to 12 June, while executing underground cabling work from Tilamot to Kevona—entrusted by the Executive Engineer, Electricity Department Division-VII, Curchorem—the contractor recklessly damaged public property, including roads and electric poles. The accused allegedly created hazardous conditions such as open trenches and exposed live wires without proper barricading or safety measures, thereby endangering public life and violating safety norms. Quepem Police have registered an offence under Section 125 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). ASI Nagesh Gaonkar is investigating the matter.

Curtorim man caught with ganja in Margao raid

MARGAO: Margao Police have arrested Melroy Ricardo of Curtorim, Salcete, for possession of 504 grams of suspected ganja, valued at approximately Rs 50,400. The seizure was made during a raid conducted at Malbhat, Margao, between 11.30 pm on June 14 and 2 am on June 15. The accused was caught red-handed and will be produced before the court for remand. PSI Subhash Gaonkar of Margao Town Police Station lodged the complaint. An offence has been registered under Section 20(b)(ii)(A) of the NDPS Act, 1985.

Sexual assault case against four, including two suspected advocates

MARGAO: Colva Police have registered a case of rape against four individuals, including two suspected to be advocates, following a complaint by a woman currently in judicial custody. The investigation has now been handed over to the Margao Women's Cell. Sources said the complaint was received from the Crime Branch, Panjim, as the woman is an accused in a separate NDPS case and is lodged at Colvale jail.

Her statement was recorded by the Crime Branch and forwarded to Colva Police, who registered the offence under Sections 140(3), 64(1), 64(2)(m), and 70(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Police confirmed that the probe is in its initial stages and the woman's detailed statement is yet to be recorded. The complaint alleges that the victim was sexually assaulted by the accused.

APPOINTMENTS

CARMEL COLLEGE OF ARTS, SCIENCE AND COMMERCE FOR WOMEN
 NUVEM, SALCETE, GOA, 403713
 Minority Institution under Article 30(1) of the Indian Constitution Re-Accredited by NAAC 4th Cycle with 'A' Grade Score 3.25
 Applications from Indian Nationals are invited for Teaching and Non-Teaching Posts on Contract basis for the academic year 2025-26.
 For detailed information for the above posts visit the College Website
<https://carmelcollegegoa.org/recruitments/>
 Date: 17/06/2025 Dr. Alina Braganza & Gomes (Officiating Principal)

ST. JOSEPH VAZ EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY St. Joseph Vaz College Cortalim, Goa - 403710

Applications are invited in online mode from Indian Nationals for the following Teaching and Non-Teaching Posts for the academic year 2025-26.

A) TEACHING POSTS:

I. Contract basis posts:	
1. Assistant Professor in Microbiology	- 02 Post
II. Lecture basis posts:	
1. Assistant Professor in Chemistry	- 01 Post
2. Assistant Professor in Microbiology	- 01 Post
3. Assistant Professor in Botany	- 01 Post
4. Assistant Professor in Konkani	- 01 Post
5. Assistant Professor in English	- 01 Post
6. Assistant Professor in Political Science (Odd semester)	- 01 Post

Essential Qualification: As per UGC, Goa University and DHE

B) NON-TEACHING POST: 1. College Counsellor - 01 Post (Contract)

Essential Qualification: Master in Psychology/Human Development/Masters in Arts (Wellness Counselling) from a recognised University/Institution with minimum 55% marks in aggregate.

Other Requirements: Knowledge of Konkani and valid 15 years of Residence Certificate in Goa is essential. Knowledge of Marathi is desirable

The link to apply for the above posts: <https://stjosephvazcollege.in/vacancies/>
 Candidates already employed shall upload their applications through proper channel. The right to fill up the above mentioned post is reserved. Detailed information can be viewed on the college website: www.stjosephvazcollege.in. Applications for all the above posts are to be submitted within 10 days from the date of publication of this advertisement. It is to be noted that the applications are to be submitted in online mode only. Late submission or incomplete applications in any manner will not be accepted.

Date: 17.06.2025

ADMINISTRATOR

Buffalos emerge as new hazard on Ponda roads after spate of fatal accidents

Locals say animals not visible at night due to their black colour; claim human lives at risk

Team Herald

PONDA: After a series of fatal road accidents involving stray cattle, buffalos are now emerging as a major road hazard across the Ponda, Dharbandora, and Dhavli-Farmagudi highway belt. Their dark colour makes them nearly invisible at night, particularly when streetlights are not functioning, leading to deadly crashes that have claimed both human and animal lives in recent weeks.

Two serious incidents were reported this month alone. On 13 June (Friday) night, Dikshay Gurudas Gaude (30), a resident of Rajinwada, Bandora, tragically lost his life after his scooter collided with buffalos sitting on the road near Gaunem. He was returning home from Konar Gaunem when his bike struck the



animals. Gaude suffered severe head injuries and was initially taken to Sub District Hospital, Ponda. As his condition worsened, he was shifted to Goa Medical College, Bambolim, but succumbed to his injuries en route. The deceased was employed with the PWD, and his sudden death has shocked the local community.

In another incident on

5 June night, a Toyota car rammmed into a herd of buffalos resting on the Dhavli-Farmagudi highway, resulting in the instant death of two buffalos and significant damage to the car. Locals said the animals were not visible until the last moment due to their black colour, which blended with the tarred road surface and absorbed headlight beams.

Naresh Naik, a con-

cerned local, said, "Earlier we used to see cows and calves on roads, but now buffalos have become more common. Cows are at least somewhat visible at night, but black-coloured buffalos are not. They blend into the road and cannot be spotted, especially when headlights are low or streetlights are not working, as often happens in the monsoon."

Naik added that animal owners must take responsibility and keep their buffalos tied in cowsheds. "These accidents are preventable. People must ensure their animals do not roam freely on highways," he said.

Residents are now calling for immediate action from authorities and animal owners to prevent further tragedies, especially with the monsoon season expected to worsen visibility conditions.

Ponda taxi operators oppose 2025 Cab Guidelines

Team Herald

PONDA: The Ponda Tourist Taxi Owners' Association, led by executive member Krishna Naik, on Thursday submitted a memorandum to local MLA and Agriculture Minister Ravi Naik, strongly opposing the draft Cab Aggregator Guidelines 2025.

The association expressed serious concerns over the proposed guidelines, stating that the new rules and regulations would severely disrupt their traditional taxi operations and livelihoods.

"The government is trying to impose a bill that makes it impossible for us to run our business smoothly," the memorandum stated.

Board directs printers to publish additional copies of the textbooks

Goa Board acts amid outcry over textbook shortage; reprints ordered to ease student woes

Team Herald

MARGAO: Taking serious note of the ongoing shortage of textbooks, the Goa Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education has directed printers to publish additional copies of the Class 11 Psychology and Class 9 English textbooks.

This decision comes in response to increasing complaints and ground reports of textbook unavailability in various parts of the state.

Reliable sources have confirmed that nearly 1,000 more copies of the Class 11 Psychology textbooks are being printed to meet the growing demand. The Goa Board has also initiated the reprinting of Class 9 English textbooks. These newly printed books are expected to reach bookstores within

the next 15 days, offering some relief to affected students and parents. The move follows a report by O Heraldo highlighting the shortage of key textbooks, particularly in Margao and surrounding areas. Despite earlier assurances from the Goa Board that



work, saying it offers a bird's eye view alongside in-depth facts of political developments from Goa's liberation up to 1994. "I would recommend this book to today's politicians and students. It is worthwhile knowing how things evolved post-liberation over two phases," he said.

Delivering the keynote address, former O Heraldo Editor Alexandre Moniz Barbosa described the book as a balanced analysis of Goan politics over three decades. "It will serve as a valuable reference for political science students, researchers, journalists, and policy makers. What makes it easy to read is its chronological structure," he noted.

Faleiro, Ferreira decry decline in political and legislative standards

Team Herald

PANJIM: Former Minister Luizinho Faleiro and MLA Adv Carlos Alvares Ferreira on Monday voiced concern over the declining standards of politics and legislative functioning in Goa. They were speaking at the launch of Post Colonial Politics - Cabinet Govt in Goa, authored by Freddy Fernandes, in Panjim.

In his address, Faleiro said, "The quality of politics has gone so low that sometimes people are ashamed to say they are politicians. We have to save this situation and work hard to restore people's confidence in electoral politics. Though the standard of politics has



declined, Goa is still progressing, and we should not lose hope."

He also expressed concern over Goans migrating in search of better prospects and emphasised the need to bring them back. "Goa is always a brand, and it has to be a centre of excellence," Faleiro said.

MLA Adv Carlos Ferreira

remarked, "With all respect to my colleagues today, the quality of legislators has declined. The type of debates we used to hear and the issues that were raised have deteriorated. Some legislators once had the art of humour and wit with which they conveyed their thoughts."

He praised Freddy's

Dr. Merlyn D'Costa
 FOUNDER / EX-PRINCIPAL
 St. Anthony's High School, Margao
 Your unwavering dedication and visionary leadership have transformed the school into a beacon of excellence. Under your guidance, the institution has flourished, nurturing countless students and fostering a community rooted in values and academic brilliance. Your commitment continues to inspire us all. May this year bring you abundant joy, good health, and continued success.
 Best Wishes from Students and Parents Teachers Association of St. Anthony's High School Margao.

Birthday Greetings
Dr. Merlyn D'Costa
 FOUNDER / EX-PRINCIPAL
 St. Anthony's High School, Margao
 "You have been our mentor and inspiration. Your work ethics and determination inspire us every day. Wishing you a very special birthday and a wonderful year ahead!"
 We extend our Warm Birthday wishes to our beloved Ma'am.
 Best wishes from Staff: Anjali, Shradha, Samita, Sabina, Niketha, Sefica, Vilda, Reena, Sonali, Valencia, Merlina, Reshma, Shagufta, Jayashree, Camilo, Jenifa, Reema, Deepika, Tanvi, Samiksha Barbara, Falita, Hasina and Gulzar.

60th Happy Birthday
ANTONIO FERNANDES (TONY)
 (Ex MLA of Santa Cruz Constituency)
 Best wishes from:
AVELINO FERNANDES (Premiere Bairro, St. Cruz)
ALFREDO AZAVEDO (Cabesa, St. Cruz)
BRUNO MONTEIRO (Bambolim)
CYRIL VERGHESE (Segundo - Bairro)
 Art Tricks - 9623370397

60th Happy Birthday
ANTONIO FERNANDES (TONY)
 (Ex MLA of Santa Cruz Constituency)
 Best wishes from:
Salvador Braganza & Maria Dias Juliao
Jason Braganza & Anni Vaz
Christal & Lizjan braganza
 Art Tricks - 9623370397

60th Happy Birthday
ANTONIO FERNANDES (TONY)
 (Ex MLA of Santa Cruz Constituency)
 Best wishes from:
JACKSON BOYS
 Segundo - Bairro
 Art Tricks - 9623370397

60th Happy Birthday
ANTONIO FERNANDES (TONY)
 (Ex MLA of Santa Cruz Constituency)
 Best wishes from:
SAMIR PAI (Newspaper Agent St. Cruz)
HEMANT NAIK
DEEPAK VERNEKAR
DATTA CHOPDEKAR
VINESH (RATESH) ADPAIKAR
 (Ex Dy. Sarpanch & Panch of Curca Village)
WILLIAM & AGNES DIAS & FLY.
BRUNO MONTEIRO
JOSE ASSIS ARAUJO
FELIX FERNANDES
 Art Tricks - 9623370397