

SCHOOL EDUCATION INDEX: GOA'S SCORES UNDERWHELM, SOUTH BEATS NORTH

S Goa scores 311 in Pracheshtha 1 band; North at 300 in Pracheshtha 2 — both districts underperform in school safety and outcomes

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Union Ministry of Education has released the Performance Grading Index for Districts (PGI-D) 2023-24, evaluating school education quality across India. In Goa, South Goa District marginally outperformed North Goa, though both districts recorded mediocre scores overall.

South Goa was placed in the Pracheshtha 1 category with an overall score of 311 (51%-60%), while North Goa was ranked in the

ACROSS SIX KEY PARAMETERS

❖ **Outcomes:** South scored 132, North 117 (out of 290)
❖ **Effective classroom transactions:** South 59, North 62 (out of 90)
❖ **Infrastructure & student entitlements:** South 37, North 35 (out of 51)

❖ **School safety & child protection:** Both scored poorly at 14 (out of 35)
❖ **Digital learning:** South 26, North 28 (out of 50)
❖ **Governance process:** South 43, North 44 (out of 84)

Pracheshtha 2 band, scoring 300 (41%-50%).

At the national level, Chandigarh, Punjab, Delhi, Gujarat, and Odisha emerged as the top-per-

forming regions.

The PGI-D, based on 74 indicators, serves as a key tool for identifying gaps and improving school education. Encouragingly,

the performance disparity between India's top and bottom states has narrowed from 51% in 2017-18 to 41% in 2023-24, indicating gradual progress driven by the grading system.

While Goa's scores place it in the middle of the performance spectrum, the index underscores the urgent need for focused improvements in learning outcomes, safety, digital literacy, and infrastructure, especially as the State continues to aim for higher educational standards.

Man dies after being hit while fixing tyre in Verna

Team Herald

MARGAO: A fatal road accident reported at Verna Industrial Estate has led to the registration of an offence against a bus driver for rash and negligent driving.

According to a complaint filed by Head Constable Sudeshkumar Desai of Verna Police Station, the incident occurred on June 17 near a company at IDC Verna.

The accused, Francisco Pedro Fernandes, was allegedly driving a bus in a rash and negligent manner while proceeding from Titan Junction towards Loulitolim when his vehicle collided with a Honda Amaze, which was stationary at the time.

The driver of the vehicle Babush Gaonkar (45), a resident of Panchwadi, Ponda, was reportedly fixing a punctured tyre when the accident occurred. He sustained serious injuries and was rushed to GMC Bambolim for treatment.

Man flees Goa with rent-a-car

Team Herald

VASCO: The Vasco police have registered a case against Prashant Singh from Madhya Pradesh on the charge of fleeing with rent-a-car from Dabolim.

Shivanand Talwar, a resident of Mangor Hill, Vasco, in his complaint has stated that on June 16, the accused Prashant Singh hired the rented car and fled with the vehicle outside the State, allegedly with dishonest intentions.

Following the complaint, the Vasco police have registered a case against Singh under Section 316 (2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023.

Flat owners push for Rs 7.5 cr recovery from defaulter developer

Team Herald

PANJIM: The decree holders—unit owners of the long-delayed Prabhu Chambers housing project at Angod, Mapusa—met the North Goa Collector on Wednesday to demand immediate recovery of Rs 7.5 crore in interest and compensation awarded to them by the Goa Real Estate Regulatory Authority (GRERA).

The amount is recoverable as arrears of land revenue from the project's defaulter developer, Prabhu Moni.

The construction of Prabhu Chambers began in 2012 but remained incomplete until June 2025.

After enduring prolonged delays, the decree holders took matters into their own hands, securing occupancy in coordination with the Mapusa Municipal Council, under directions from the Principal District Court, North Goa.

During former Collector Sneha Gite's tenure, an arrest warrant had been issued against Prabhu Moni for failing to address the grievances of the unit holders, leading to his arrest. He was later released conditionally by court order dated April 11, 2025.

Subsequently, the Mamlatdar of Tiswadi was instructed by the court to

conduct a detailed inquiry into the recovery amount. On May 20, 2025, after hearing both parties, the Mamlatdar accepted the calculations submitted by the decree holders and rejected those presented by the developer.

A comprehensive report was submitted to the North Goa Collector on May 22. Based on this, a show cause notice dated May 26, was issued to Prabhu Moni under Section 129 of the Goa Land Revenue Code, asking him to explain why coercive recovery actions, including arrest, should not be taken. He was summoned for a personal hearing on June 4.

Goa records 688 flu cases in June; no sudden spike or cause for concern, says State Epidemiologist

Team Herald

PANJIM: Dr Utkarsh Betodkar, State Epidemiologist for Goa, has emphasised the importance of continued vigilance as the State sees a gradual rise in influenza-like illnesses (ILI), a common occurrence during the monsoon season.

"Flu-like illnesses, including seasonal influenza, COVID-19, and swine flu, are being tracked daily under the State's health surveillance program," said Dr Betodkar. "These illnesses don't

typically surge overnight — increases are gradual and usually aligned with seasonal or environmental changes."

As of June 1, Goa has reported 688 cases of ILI and 101 cases of Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI). While these figures reflect

active monitoring, Dr Betodkar reassured the public that there is no abrupt spike or major cause for concern at this point.

Govt seeks time to verify petitioner's citizenship in PIL

Team Herald

PANJIM: The State government has sought additional time to submit documents clarifying whether a person who has been declared a Portuguese national can legally litigate against the Goa government.

The request was made by Advocate General Devidas Pangam during the hearing of a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by Adv Aires Rodrigues, challenging a Goa government notification dated January 7, 2022, which conferred the life-

time rank and benefits of a Cabinet Minister on former Chief Minister Pratapsingh Rane for his contributions to the State.

While the petition was under consideration, Adv Rodrigues submitted a letter dated June 20, 2024, to the Registrar (Judicial) of the High Court, stating that he would be out of the country and requested the Court to allow his appearance via video conferencing.

Adv Rodrigues also informed the Court that since May 2023, he had been declared a Portuguese national, and in his view, it would be inappropriate for

him to continue litigating against the government, having ceased to be an Indian citizen.

In response, AG Pangam argued that the proceedings need not be entertained in light of the petitioner's change in nationality and sought time to place relevant documents on record to support the claim.

The Court has granted time to submit the necessary documentation to determine whether a Portuguese national can maintain litigation against the State government.

The matter is now listed for further hearing on July 10.

Amboli road rage ends in scuffle

SAWANTWADI: A road rage incident at Amboli Ghat escalated into a physical altercation at the Sawantwadi police station, involving a group of 10 to 15 youths from Goa and Banda, Maharashtra.

While reports indicated that a police constable sustained minor injuries during the scuffle, the Sawantwadi police have denied that any staff member was injured.

According to police, the incident occurred two days ago following a heated argument between the two groups while travelling through Amboli Ghat. The confrontation continued even after both parties were brought to the police station.

The situation turned unruly, resulting in a scuffle inside the station premises. The youths were detained, questioned, and later released after a warning, informed Sawantwadi Police Station PI Amol Chavan.

He added that both groups were booked under preventive provisions, and the police would initiate further action if necessary.

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