

shorttakes

Four Karnataka men remanded in Ponda kidnapping case

PONDA: A recent development in the kidnapping case of Sandeep Choudhary, a businessman from Ponda, the co-accused, arrested by the Ponda Police, were remanded to seven days of police custody by the JMFC Court. Shakir Abdilsiddiq, Mohammad Tamim, Izaz Ahmad, and Lathif Mohamad, all residents of Karnataka have been remanded in connection with the abduction. It may be recalled that the prime accused, MunirShafik (22), had already been arrested and taken into police custody. Sandeep was kidnapped last week by the prime accused and his four accomplices.

Bengaluru murder accused remanded to police custody

PONDA: Sanjay Kevin (22) from Bengaluru, arrested by the Ponda Police in connection with the suspected murder of his girlfriend, has been remanded him to seven days of police custody by the Judicial Magistrate First Class, Ponda. Kevin has been accused of killing his girlfriend, Roshani Moses (22), also from Bengaluru. According to police, the couple had been in a relationship for five years. It is believed that the accused brought Roshani to Goa by bus for a picnic and then allegedly killed her at the Pratapanagar cashew plantation. The victim was discovered with a slit wound on her neck, inflicted by a sharp weapon. The arrest was made possible through technical analysis of a UPI payment for the bus fare and corroborating information provided by a taxi driver hired by the accused.

Sanguem police to send seized ambergris for lab testing in Kerala

MARGAO: The Sanguem police have confirmed that the suspected ambergris (commonly known as whale vomit) seized earlier this week will be sent to a forensic laboratory in Kerala to determine its authenticity. The substance, a rare and highly valuable secretion from the intestines of sperm whales, was confiscated during a police operation, and the material's verification will involve DNA analysis, typically conducted by the Forest and Wildlife Department and the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI). The Sanguem police had arrested Sachin Mhatre, resident of Pen, Raigad, Raut Sainath Shet (50), resident of Ponda, Ratnakant Karapurkar (55), resident of Zuarinagar and Vegesh Redkar (40), resident of Sawantwadi. The accused were allegedly in possession of 5.75 kg of suspected ambergris, an unsecured animal trophy, estimated to be worth over Rs 10.06 crore.

1.69L sq mts land converted to settlement zone

PANJIM: The Town and Country Planning (TCP) Department has notified the conversion of 1,69,248 square metres of land into the settlement zone under Section 39A of the TCP Act. The approved land parcels are located in: Aldona, 777 sq. mts, Assonora, 350 sq. m and Ella, Tiswadi - 1,68,121 sq. mts. These conversions involve modifications to the Regional Plan for Goa 2021, made following a 30-day period during which the public was invited to submit objections and suggestions.

UNFINISHED SMART CITY WORK SPARKS SAFETY CONCERNS

PWD's no-dig directive violated; poor site management poses risks to pedestrians

PANJIM: On June 15, O Herald reported on an ongoing Smart City project opposite Caculo Mall, where paver blocks on the footpath were being removed to facilitate underground cabling. The work, however, raised concern as it was being carried out despite a clear Public Works Department (PWD) directive prohibiting digging during the monsoon.



Incomplete work opposite Caculo Mall poses danger

At the time, site engineer Rahul from Bagkiya Construction Pvt Ltd, the firm executing the project, confirmed the activity and said the work would be completed by Monday. He also mentioned that the company had been involved in various Smart City projects in Panjim for the past two years.

However, a visit to the site on Thursday evening revealed that the deadline had not been met. The footpath remained dug up and the area was abandoned, with no workers in sight. Despite several attempts, O Herald was

unable to reach anyone from Bagkiya Construction, as calls went unanswered.

The only precaution at the site was a thin yellow caution tape, offering minimal protection against potential accidents. In the current monsoon conditions, the open trench poses a serious risk to pedestrians, especially at night when visibility is poor.

This incident raises pressing questions—not just about violating the PWD's monsoon ban, but also about the lack of urgency, accountability,

and safety measures on the part of the contractor. If such neglect is visible at a high-profile location like Caculo Mall, it raises serious concerns about work standards in less visible parts of the city.

As the Smart City initiative progresses, such lapses point to the urgent need for stricter monitoring, clear deadlines, and transparent communication. Urban development must prioritise both efficiency and public safety, or the mission of building a truly "smart" city will ring hollow.

Govt freezes assets of Myron, wife in fraud probe

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Government of Goa has issued an ad-interim order directing the attachment of properties and freezing of bank accounts linked to Myron Rodrigues and his wife Deepali Parab, also known as Rukmini Naik, in connection with an ongoing financial fraud investigation by the Economic Offences Cell (EOC).

The enforcement action includes the attachment of

eight immovable properties located in Goa, Mumbai, Kalyan, Pune, and Lavasa. In addition, multiple bank accounts and fixed deposits held in the names of both accused have been frozen.

All attached assets have been placed under the authority of the Additional Collector, South Goa, who has been instructed to proceed under the provisions of the Goa Depositors' Interests Protection Act.

Officials from the De-

partment of Finance stated that the action was taken to safeguard the interests of defrauded investors in the multi-crore scam.

Earlier, on May 19, 2025, Interpol issued a Red Corner Notice (RCN) against Myron Rodrigues, the main accused, following a formal request from the Goa Police. Rodrigues is alleged to be at the center of a major investment fraud case that left multiple victims across the State and beyond.

BJP names new state executive committee

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday announced its new 21-member State executive committee under the leadership of State President Damodar 'Damu' Naik. Among the key appointments is former Speaker Vishwas Satarkar as one of the vice presidents—a move seen as politically significant following the recent removal of Govind Gaude from the Cabinet.

Satarkar, who lost the Priol constituency in 2007 and later served as the State Chief Information Commissioner, returns to a prominent party role after years out of electoral politics.

Other vice presidents include Dattaprasad Kholkar, former MP Adv Narendra Sawaikar, Kunda Chodankar, and former MLAs Glen Souza Ticlo and Chandrakant 'Babu' Kavlekar.

Sidharth Kunkolienkar and Sarvanand Bhagat have been named general secretaries, while Dayanand Sopte, Deepak Naik, Arti Bandodkar, Dhaku Madkaikar, Sanjana Velip, and Rania Cardoso will serve as secretaries.

Sanjiv Desai retains his role as treasurer, with Pundalik Desai as joint treasurer.

Siddhesh Naik is the media convenor, MLA Krishna 'Daji' Salkar the chief spokesman, Giriraj Pai Vernekar will handle the IT Cell, Shubham Parsekar is the social media in-charge, and Sudhir Parsekar is the office secretary.

The new list of office-bearers has been approved by BJP National President J P Nadda and will serve for the term 2025-2028.

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Mhadei diversion will spell doom: Capt Dhond

PONDA: Environmentalist and marine professional Captain Nitin Dhond has warned that the diversion of the Mhadei River will have catastrophic consequences for both Goa and Karnataka, affecting biodiversity, water security, and livelihoods. Speaking at a seminar on 'Save Mhadei, Save Goa' in the presence of environmentalists and concerned citizens from Ponda, he emphasised that the issue goes beyond political boundaries and must be treated as a non-political, environmental crisis.

Dhond alleged that the diversion is not for drinking water purposes, as claimed, but rather a commercial project to benefit nine proposed sugar factories along the Malaprabha River basin in Karnataka. "There are already nine sugar factories operating in the region, and the existing Malaprabha River cannot meet the massive water demands of these units," he said.

CITU Goa submits objections to cab aggregator guidelines

Team Herald

PONDA: The Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU), Goa on Wednesday submitted a memorandum of objections and suggestions to the Director of Transport, Panjim, regarding the draft guidelines for cab aggregators issued by the Goa Government.

The memorandum, signed by CITU State President Naresh Shigaonkar and General Secretary Nilkant Fadte, warns that the introduction of corporate ride-hailing services like Ola and Uber would eventually destroy livelihoods, leading to monopoly control of Goa's taxi sector by multinational companies.

CITU expressed concern that the entry of such aggregators, under the guise of reform, would displace thousands of Goan taxi drivers and owners, whose incomes would suffer due to predatory

pricing and opaque algorithms used by these platforms to allocate rides and set fares.

They highlighted that, based on the experience in cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad, aggregator models have led to declining driver incomes, increased exploitation, and even instances of mental distress and suicides among drivers.

APPOINTMENTS

Wanted Contract Basis Vocational Teacher to teach in Computer Technique

Course (Voc. Stream) till last day of academic year 2025-26.  
Qualification: B.Tech/B.E. or equivalent in Computer Science/Engineers OR Diploma/Post Diploma with 2 years experience OR Master Degree in Computer Application or B.Sc. in Computer Science with 3 years programming experience OR M.Sc (Physics or Maths or Statistics or Chemistry) OR M.A. (Economics) OR M.Com with 3 years programming experience.  
Walk in interview on 27th June 2025 at 12.00 pm at Guardian Angel Higher Secondary School, Curchorem.

**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL ASSAM RIFLES SHILLONG - 793 010**

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR RECRUITMENT THROUGH COMPASSIONATE GROUND APPOINTMENT SCHEME IN ASSAM RIFLES 2025**

**LAST DATE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY**

- Last date of receipt of applications from eligible candidates is 21 Jul 2025. Applications received thereafter will not be entertained.
- This recruitment is applicable for eligible dependent family members of ASSAM RIFLES PERSONNEL KILLED IN ACTION, DIED WHILE IN SERVICE, DISCHARGED FROM SERVICE ON MEDICAL GROUNDS AND MISSING WHILE IN SERVICE.
- Offline/ through email applications are invited from eligible candidates from across the country for enrolment into the Assam Rifles under the Compassionate Ground Appointment Scheme. The recruitment rally will tentatively be held between Sep - Dec 2025 at Assam Rifles Training Centre and School, Sukhovi (Nagaland) NRS - Dimapur (Nagaland). Firm Date of reporting to attend the recruitment rally will be intimated to the eligible candidates by registered post/through mail followed by uploading of necessary details in our official website [www.assamrifles.gov.in](http://www.assamrifles.gov.in) from time to time.
- Trade/ post wise details of the vacancies for Assam Rifles Compassionate Ground Appointment Recruitment Rally 2025 are as under:-

Ser No	Name of Post	No of vacancies
(a)	Rifleman/Riflewoman General Duty (for Male and Female both)	69
(b)	Warrant Officer Radio Mechanic (for Male candidate only)	01
(c)	Warrant Officer Draftsmans (for Male candidate only)	01
(d)	Havildar X - Ray Assistant (for Male candidate only)	01
(e)	Rifleman Electrician Mechanic Vehicle (for Male candidate only)	01
(f)	Rifleman Vehicle Mechanic Fitter (for Male candidate only)	01
(g)	Rifleman Plumber (for Male candidate only)	01
(h)	Rifleman Safai (for Male candidates only)	04
Total		79

- Vacancies are tentative and may increase or decrease. The vacancies so notified are subject to variation and the Assam Rifles reserves the right to make any changes in the advertisement or cancel it without assigning any reasons.
- Eligibility**- Only one dependent family member of ASSAM RIFLES personnel who were KILLED IN ACTION, DIED WHILE IN SERVICE, DISCHARGED FROM SERVICE ON MEDICAL GROUNDS AND MISSING WHILE IN SERVICE ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR COMPASSIONATE GROUND APPOINTMENT.
- Cut Off Date for Reckoning of Age Limit**: Cut off date for calculation of upper age limit will be 01 Aug 2025
- 'APPLICATION FOR COMPASSIONATE GROUND APPOINTMENT'** be endorsed on top of the postal envelope in which the application is being submitted.
- Pay Scale**: Pay scale and other allowance will be as admissible to Assam Rifles Personnel.
- How to Apply**. Candidates shall submit their offline applications as per format attached alongwith self attested copies of educational certificate, domicile certificate, caste certificate, diploma/technical/ITI certificate (as applicable) of the trade in accordance with Qualitative Requirements, incl one Xerox copy of photo ID i.e. AADHAAR, PAN/ Voter ID / Driving license etc to the address mentioned below:-  
**DIRECTORATE GENERAL ASSAM RIFLES (RECRUITMENT BRANCH) LAITKOR, SHILLONG MEGHALAYA - 793010 (Email- [rectbrdgr@gmail.com](mailto:rectbrdgr@gmail.com))**
- In case of any query, the following help line numbers may be contacted from 0900 hours to 1730 hours on any working day:-  
(a) 0364-2585118 (b) 0364-2585119 (c) 8794101693

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**DATE: 21ST JUNE, 2025, FROM 5:30 AM ONWARDS**

**VENUE: DR. SHYAMA PRASAD MUKHERJEE STADIUM, BAMBOLIM, GOA**

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PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA

**DR. PRAMOD SAWANT**  
HON. CHIEF MINISTER, GOVT. OF GOA