

Govt reshuffles IAS officers as Gadkar, Maralkar return to State

New postings follow Home Ministry's transfer orders; Sanjit Rodrigues relieved, State seeks to retain Loyalaykar

Team Herald

PANJIM: The State government has implemented a minor reshuffle in the allocation of departments among Secretaries, following the return of IAS officers Sanjiv Gadkar and Yatindra Maralkar to Goa, as per an order issued last month by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). Sanjiv Gadkar has been assigned Protocol, Civil Supplies, Factories

and Boilers, and appointed Secretary to the Goa State Commission for Protection of Child Rights. He will also serve as Nodal Officer for the India Energy Week 2026. Yatindra Maralkar has been allocated the Co-operation and Printing & Stationery departments. In the updated allocation, Commissioner-cum-Secretary Sandip Jacques will oversee Revenue, Law and Judiciary, Legislative Affairs, Labour and Employment,

in addition to continuing as CEO and Managing Director of Imagine Panaji Smart City Development Limited. As part of a broader reshuffle, IAS officers Shakeel Ul Rehman Rather, Santosh Sukhdeve, and Arjun Mohan have also been transferred and posted to Goa. Meanwhile, the State government has relieved IAS officer Sanjit Rodrigues from his current assignment following MHA directions

asking him to report to Ladakh without delay. In a related development, the Goa government is learnt to have appealed to the MHA to cancel the transfer of Secretary (Education) Prasad Loyalaykar, citing the need for his continued service in Goa to implement the National Education Policy (NEP). The MHA had earlier directed Loyalaykar to report to the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

shorttakes

Man arrested in Bicholim for transporting calf on motorcycle

BICHOLIM: Bicholim Police arrested Mushtaq Bepari for alleged animal cruelty after he was found illegally transporting a calf on his motorcycle from Chodna, Tiswadi. According to officials, the calf was tied to the two-wheeler in a manner that endangered its safety, violating the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. The incident sparked outrage among locals, some of whom filmed the act and shared it online, prompting swift police action. A case has been registered and investigations are ongoing. Animal rights activists have welcomed the prompt action and called for stricter enforcement and increased awareness to prevent similar cases.

Teen rider succumbs to injuries following collision with school bus at Aldona

ALDONA: Mohan Yadav, 16, from Aldona, died at Goa Medical College (GMC), Bambolim, on June 20, after sustaining serious injuries in a collision with a school bus the previous day. He was rushed to GMC for emergency care on 19 June, but despite medical efforts, succumbed to his injuries the next morning. His death has deeply shocked the Aldona community, with family and locals mourning the loss of a promising young life. Police have registered a case and are investigating. Preliminary findings suggest loss of control may have been a factor, though road conditions and compliance with traffic rules are also being examined. Authorities are using the incident to stress the importance of road safety, especially among young riders, and have urged all motorists to wear helmets and ride responsibly.

Morjim hotel staffer arrested for stealing guest's car under valet parking

PERNEM: Mandrem Police have arrested a hotel staffer in Morjim for allegedly stealing a guest's car under the guise of valet parking, while a second accused remains absconding. The incident occurred on June 17, at around 6.40 am, when Siddharth Jain, 36, from New Delhi, handed over his car to hotel staff. According to his complaint, employees Likhith Dutt of Hyderabad and Ojib Uddin, alias Shabu, took the vehicle and fled. Police arrested Ojib Uddin after launching an investigation and are still tracing Dutt. The incident has raised concerns over valet security, highlighting the legal principle of bailment, under which hotels are responsible for returning guests' property. Misuse of this responsibility can result in both criminal charges and civil liability. Further legal action is underway.

Mopa police register two cases for illegal rent-a-cab operations

MOPA: Mopa Airport Police have registered two cases involving illegal conversion of private vehicles into rent-a-cabs without proper authorisation. Both vehicles have been seized. In the first case, a Dhargal resident allegedly modified a car originally registered as a tourist taxi with the Pernem RTO and operated it without valid papers. The case was filed by PSI Viraj Sawant on Thursday. In the second case, a Calangute resident was booked for changing the registration plate of her private vehicle and running it as a rent-a-cab. Police seized the vehicle after the offence came to light on Friday afternoon.

Minor in Sankhali hit-and-run was drunk: Bicholim police

PANJIM: Bicholim Police have confirmed that the 17-year-old minor involved in a hit-and-run accident in Sankhali was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident. The accident occurred when the minor, attempting to overtake another vehicle, rammed into a motorcycle. The rider, Pranesh Malik (30) of Kudnem, sustained injuries. Three persons, including the car owner Jayesh Gawas of Sattari, were arrested for allowing the minor to drive despite knowing he was unlicensed and intoxicated. The group fled the scene without offering assistance or informing the authorities. All three were later released on bail.

Former temple committee members booked for misappropriation at Morjai Devasthan

PERNEM: Mandrem Police have filed a case against the former president and several ex-members of the Shree Devi Morjai Devasthan committee in Morjim for alleged misappropriation and criminal breach of trust. The complaint, filed by the current temple president, alleges that from 31 March to the present, the accused dishonestly retained key items, including the temple seal, documents, jewellery, receipt books, passbooks, and other assets, even after their term ended on March 23.

Two booked for organising bull fight in Betalbatim

MARGAO: Colva Police have registered an offence against two individuals for allegedly organising a bull fight in an open field behind the cemetery at Betalbatim. PSI Nikhil Khajnekar of Colva Police Station filed the complaint, stating that on 19 June 2025, the accused - Liyakat Ali Shaikh of Margao and Conceico Rodrigues of Benaolim - had organised a bull fight between two bulls named Assam and Guzzur for public entertainment. According to the complaint, the accused incited the bulls to fight each other in full public view, thereby subjecting the animals to cruelty.

Khandepar family left homeless after house collapses in heavy rain

Team Herald

PONDA: Kamlakant Gaude and his family in Gautan Khandepar were rendered homeless after their entire house collapsed due to heavy rainfall on Thursday. Gaude, who has been unwell for several years, lives with his wife and two children. His wife, a daily wage worker, struggles to support the family on meagre earnings. He recounted that a portion of their mud house had collapsed two years ago, and the remaining structure finally gave way in the recent downpour, reducing their home entirely to rubble.



The family is currently living in a makeshift plastic shelter near the remains of their house. Appealing to the government for urgent assistance, Gaude said he hoped for help in rebuilding his home. Local panchayat member and the Talathi have visited and inspected the site following the incident.

Family rescued after being trapped in lift



Team Herald

MAPUSA: A family of three, including a 10-year-old boy, was trapped in a malfunctioning elevator at the Mapusa Sub-Registrar's office on Saturday night. The incident occurred around 7 pm as the family was descending from the second floor. The elevator abruptly stopped due to an electrical issue. Mapusa Police and Fire Department personnel responded to the emergency. However, it took nearly two and a half hours before technicians from the elevator company, who travelled from Verna, managed to rescue the family safely.

GHRC takes suo motu cognisance of poor conditions at Dabolim Airport Police Station

Notice issued to DGP; Commission seeks report and appearance on July 15

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Goa Human Rights Commission (GHRC) on Friday took suo motu cognisance of reports highlighting the appalling working conditions at the Dabolim Airport Police Station and issued a notice to the Director General of Police (DGP), directing him to submit a report and appear before the Commission for a hearing on July 15. The two-member Commission acted on local media reports revealing that over 30 personnel at the Dabolim Airport Police Station have been operating from a makeshift 40-square-foot

tin structure for the past eight years. Reacting to the development, Advocate Aires Rodrigues expressed dismay that such conditions still prevail. "It is sad to know that the pathetic state of affairs at the Dabolim Airport Police Station continues, with the Goa Human Rights Commission having had to now take suo motu cognisance of the issue," he said. Rodrigues recalled that a decade ago, he had filed a documented petition before the then three-member GHRC, led by Justice P K Misra and comprising retired District and Sessions Judge A D Salkar and the late J A Keny. The petition, filed on October 5, 2015, included photographs and comprehensive details regarding the station's inadequate facilities. Subsequently, the Commission had issued notices to the Chief Secretary and the DGP.

"The State government, in its reply at the time, solemnly assured the Commission that prompt steps would be taken to ensure proper working conditions and the provision of required amenities at the police station. It is disheartening that ten years later, the sad state of affairs persists, and staff continue to work in very inhumane conditions," Rodrigues added.

Undeterred by rain, varkaris begin foot pilgrimage to Pandharpur

Team Herald

PONDA: Undeterred by the rain, hundreds of varkaris (devotees), including men and women from Ponda taluka, have commenced their traditional foot pilgrimage to the renowned Vithoba Temple in Pandharpur to participate in the Ashadi Ekadashi festival on July 6. The annual journey is undertaken for a divine and spiritual experience, joining thousands of fellow devotees from across the country in celebration. The pilgrims from Marcel began their journey after

seeking the blessings of the deities at the Devki Krishna Temple. Local MLA and former Minister Govind Gaude, who was recently dropped from the cabinet, also joined the devotees in traditional pilgrimage attire, walking alongside them for a few kilometres in a show of solidarity. The varkaris are expected to reach Pandharpur after 16 days of walking. Once they offer prayers at the Vithoba Temple. There is a strong belief among the devotees that the spiritual nature of the pilgrimage strengthens their

faith, uplifts their spirits, and provides them with immense joy and inner strength. Despite walking over 300 km, they do not feel fatigued, as the divine spirit keeps them energised. Throughout the journey, the varkaris engage in devotional chanting and bhajans, creating a deeply moving and communal spiritual atmosphere. Each day, the pilgrims plan to walk approximately 25 km. Along the way, arrangements have been made at designated spots for shelter, as well as breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

50-yr-old man held for raping 80-yr-old woman

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Colvale Police have arrested a 50-year-old man, Pravin Kudalkar of Madel, Tivim, for allegedly raping an 80-year-old woman in Tivim. The incident came to light when the victim's daughter arrived to deliver food and discovered the crime. She immediately alerted the police, leading to Kudalkar's arrest. A case has been registered against the accused, and further investigation is underway, police confirmed.

Govt directed to appoint Thereza as Director of Accounts within four weeks

Team Herald

PANJIM: The High Court of Bombay at Goa on Friday directed the State government to appoint Thereza Fernandes as the Director of Accounts within four weeks. Advocate General Devidas Pangam informed the court that the government had accepted the recommendation made by the Goa Public Service Commission (GPSC) and assured that the appointment order would be issued at the earliest. He stated that the GPSC had recommended Fernandes' name for the post. Taking note of this submission, the division bench observed, "We expect the government to issue an appointment order in favour of the petitioner within a period of four weeks." In light of the developments, the petitioner's counsel, Adv Chaitanya Padgaonkar, sought permission to withdraw the writ petition, which the court accordingly disposed of.

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Governor, CM lead Goa's celebrations on International Yoga Day

State joins millions worldwide in embracing India's ancient gift of health and harmony

Team Herald

PANJIM: Governor P S Sreedharan Pillai and Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant joined millions across the globe in celebrating the 11th International Day of Yoga on Saturday, highlighting Yoga as India's timeless contribution to global wellness. Chief Minister Sawant led the state-level celebrations at the Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium in Bambolim. Ad-

ressing participants, he credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership for transforming Yoga into a global movement. "Yoga connects us with ourselves, with nature, and with the world," he said, urging all citizens to embrace the ancient practice for a healthier and brighter future. Governor Pillai led a yoga session at the Old Durbar Hall, Raj Bhavan, where officials and staff participated under the guidance of exper-

rienced instructor Dhananjay Patil from Tapobhumi, Kundaim. Social Welfare Minister Subhash Phal Dessai took part in a session organised by the Bharatiya Janata Party, Sanguem Mandal, in association with Sadguru Padmanabh Yog Gurukul and PHC Sanguem, held at Shrison Plaza Hall, Sanguem. The Directorate of Fire and Emergency Services also marked the occasion in collaboration with the Goa

Chapter of The Art of Living Foundation, founded by Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar. The event, held under the global theme "Yoga for One Earth, One Health," witnessed the enthusiastic participation of 110 fire and emergency personnel. Various police stations and other organisations across the State also organised Yoga programmes, reflecting Goa's collective commitment to physical, mental, and spiritual well-being.

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