

Ferry partially submerges near Chorao ramp; no casualties reported

Three motorbikes also sank with the vessel but were later recovered; RND attributes incident to operational lapse; probe underway

Team Herald

PANJIM: A ferry boat named Betim, stationed at the Chorao Island ramp, partially submerged early Monday morning after water flooded one of its tanks. Three motorbikes parked on the ferry also sank but were successfully recovered by evening. No casualties were reported.

Vikramsinh Raje Bhosale, Director of the River Navigation Department (RND), attributed the incident to an operational oversight. He stated that water had been accumulating in one of the ferry's tanks over two days and had not been drained. The situation deteriorated further due to heavy rainfall on Sunday, causing the vessel to tilt and partially submerge.

"There's no problem with the ferry but rather it is an operational fault," Bhosale told O Herald. "As per the standard operating procedure (SOP), the tank is to be checked regularly. Prima facie, it appears that already there was water in the boat and it was not cleared. It was not cleared for at least two days. With heavy rains, more water entered the boat and it sank."

He clarified that the ferry holds a valid fitness certificate and had



One of the three motorbikes that was partially submerged along with the ferry (left) at the Chorao ramp being successfully recovered



PICS: VISHNU NARVEKAR

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undergone routine inspection. "All the boats are registered and they are checked every year and certificates are issued after that saying that they are safe for operations. The ferry boat which has sank has [a] fitness certificate. I do not think that the ferry boat has any fault. It is an operational problem," he added.

RND Minister Subhash Phal Dessai, while expressing concern over the incident, stressed that public safety must not be compromised. He suggested the submergence may have been caused by a leak in the air tanks, which help keep the vessel afloat.

"Efforts are currently underway to refloat the ferry and

tow it to the workshop. With the introduction of Ro-Ro ferries, some of the older ferries will be decommissioned," Phal Dessai said.

He further confirmed that a formal investigation will be launched after the salvage operation to determine whether the cause was mechanical or due to human er-

ror. "It will be found out whether there was a mechanical fault or human error," he stated.

This incident is the second marine mishap reported in Goa this month. Earlier in June, passenger boat MV K-Cat caught fire while docked at the Britona Jetty on the Mandovi River.

The fire, which broke out around 5.15 am, was quickly brought under control by the Fire Department and officials from the Captain of Ports. Fortunately, no passengers or crew were on board at the time. The boat was reportedly equipped with air conditioning and other amenities.

CCP finally decides to fix leaking market roof by July 15; tender opens July 2

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP) has announced that it will open tenders on July 2 for the repair work to fix the leaking roof of the Panjim municipal market — a long-standing issue that has led to significant inconvenience and losses for vendors.

An official from the CCP confirmed that the advertisement for the tender will be floated this week and that the repair work, which involves the installation of 40 new roof sheets, is scheduled to be completed by July 15.

Rajan Damaskar, President of the Market Shop Owners Association, welcomed the development but remained cautiously optimistic. "It is good news," he said, "but I will assess the quality of the work before giving a proper reaction." He acknowledged the urgency of the repairs, stating that many shopkeepers and shoppers have had to contend with persistent roof leakage.

The dilapidated condition of the market roof has had severe repercussions, particularly for vendors selling perishable goods like fruits and vegetables. Large sections of the metal roof have been missing,

and previous makeshift patchwork has proven inadequate. Vendors have had to resort to using tarpaulins to shield their goods from the rain, even while operating inside the market premises.

At the onset of the monsoon, the situation worsened dramatically when nearly 40 metal sheets were blown away by heavy rain and strong winds, resulting in water entering several shops. The damage caused wet produce to become unsellable, directly impacting the livelihoods of many vendors.

In response to a surge of complaints, the CCP has initiated temporary repair work and now plans to proceed with the full replacement of the damaged sheets. However, the broader condition of the municipal market continues to draw criticism.

Citizens and vendors alike have pointed to the irony between Panjim's Smart City ambitions and the market's ongoing issues, which include leaking roofs, unhygienic restrooms, and flooded walkways. The upcoming repair work is seen as a step forward, but concerns remain over the pace and quality of civic infrastructure management.

FIERY TRADITION LIVES ON

VINCENT BRAGANZA



Villagers participate in a traditional ritual called 'Zudeo' or 'Judeo', where they set hay on fire and beat it out with coconut piddes (the kneel of coconut leaves), symbolic of beating the fire demon ('Zua' is fire and 'deo' is God) on the eve of Sao Joao at Vanxim island near Divar on Monday

Mandrem residents demand action on crumbling roads

Say potholes disrupt daily life, affect tourism; Citizens urge Chief Minister's intervention

Team Herald

MANDREM: The deteriorating condition of roads in Mandrem has triggered mounting frustration among residents, who are now calling for immediate government action to address the issue. Several key district roads in the area are riddled with potholes and have suffered from prolonged neglect, making daily commutes both dangerous and inconvenient.

Locals say the poor state of the roads is affecting not

only regular commuters but also local businesses and tourism—both vital components of the area's economy. With the monsoon season underway, there is growing concern that continued rainfall will further damage the already fragile road network.

"The situation has gone from bad to worse. If something is not done soon, the roads will become completely unusable," said a resident, echoing the sentiments of many in the village.

In a direct appeal, citizens have urged Chief Minister Pramod Sawant to personally visit Mandrem and assess the conditions firsthand. They are calling for a comprehensive repair initiative that includes immediate patchwork as well as a long-term road maintenance strategy.

Residents say they are hopeful their concerns will now be taken seriously and that road repairs will be prioritised before conditions deteriorate further.

Massive tamarind tree crushes garage in Curti-Ponda

Team Herald

CURTI-PONDA: A dramatic incident unfolded near Goa Dairy in Curti-Ponda when a massive, decades-old tamarind tree suddenly collapsed, crushing a garage and severely damaging three parked vehicles — but miraculously leaving everyone unharmed.

The tree is believed to have been uprooted due to waterlogged soil following recent heavy rains. It came crashing down on the structure with such force that large portions of the garage were flattened.

Eyewitnesses recalled hearing a loud cracking sound just seconds before the fall. The noise served as a critical warning, allowing the vehicle owners to escape just in time.

Five members of extortion gang held; kingpin nabbed after high-speed chase

Police track gang across Goa and Karnataka; accused had fled to Nepal and evaded arrest for over a year

Team Herald

PANJIM: In a major breakthrough, Goa Police have arrested five members of an extortion gang, including its notorious leader Tarzen Parsekar, following a series of coordinated operations across Goa and Karnataka. Parsekar, who had been on the run for over a year, was finally nabbed in Pernem after a dramatic chase at Torsem, police confirmed. Sources claimed that they had taken shelter in a house at Torsem with the owners unaware of their criminal antecedents.

Among the arrested are Sagar Patil of Nagoa and Sanish Ghatwal of Siolim, both of whom were wanted in connection with the extortion of a builder from Reis Magos. Two others, Salman Khan and Maksud Khan, were arrested on June 21, 2025, at Bicholim in a separate attempted extortion case

registered in Sankhalim.

According to police sources, Parsekar and Patil had fled to Nepal during the past year to evade arrest. Parsekar has a lengthy criminal record, with nine cases registered against him — five at Anjuna Police Station, two at Calangute, and one each at Mapusa and Saligao. Patil is implicated in three criminal cases.

The arrests follow a complaint filed by Avinash Sinde, a resident of Reis Magos, on June 9, 2025. Sinde reported that on June 8, while returning home, he was intercepted near Savlem Lake in Pilerne by Parsekar, Patil, and an unidentified accomplice. The trio allegedly abused, threatened him and demanded a monthly extortion payment of ₹1 lakh, which Sinde claimed they had previously extorted from him on multiple occasions under threats of violence.

An FIR was subsequently registered at Porvorim Police Station under Sections 126(2), 308(5), 351, and 352 read with 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023.

It may be recalled that the High Court of Bombay at Goa had cancelled the bail of Parsekar and Patil in March 2024. Since then, the duo had been constantly shifting locations to avoid arrest.

Porvorim Police had received credible intelligence on the gang's movements five days ago and launched a sustained operation to track and apprehend the suspects. Police said investigations are ongoing and more arrests may follow.

The whole operation was conducted by Porvorim PI Rahul Parab, Mopa PI Narayan Chimulkar, Pernem PI Sachin Lokre, DySP Vishwesh Karpe under the supervision of SP Rahul Gupta.

La Marina 1 residents left in limbo as redevelopment stalls

Four years after building was declared unsafe, partial demolition delays project

Team Herald

PANJIM: Residents of Lamarina Cooperative Housing Society, particularly those from La Marina 1, continue to suffer due to prolonged administrative inaction following an official order to demolish their unsafe building in 2021. Despite fully complying with the directive and vacating their homes, these families remain displaced, with no relief in sight.

In 2021, the then Commissioner of the Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP), Sanjit Rodrigues, issued a structural safety order mandating the demolition of both La Marina 1 and La Marina 2 due to their unsafe condition. Following this, all ten flat owners of La Marina 1 vacated their homes, and the building was demolished on July 20, 2022.

However, the redevelopment project has since stalled, primarily due to

the incomplete demolition of La Marina 2. Of the eight flats in La Marina 2, only three have been vacated, leaving the rest of the structure intact and halting any further progress.

The displaced families of La Marina 1 — many of whom include senior citizens, widows, and those on limited incomes — are now enduring significant financial and emotional hardship, forced to pay high rents without compensation or

clarity on when they can return to a permanent home.

In a joint appeal to the CCP and relevant authorities, the residents questioned the lack of accountability and delays. "If the building was declared unsafe and one part has already been demolished, why is action still pending on the remaining structure?" they asked. "Who is responsible for this delay? And why is there no accountability?"

They urged the CCP to

complete the demolition of La Marina 2, remove encroachments, and begin redevelopment without further delay.

When contacted, a senior CCP official stated that the Corporation is currently awaiting a technical report from Goa Engineering College, and that further action will be based on its findings. However, the official admitted he was unaware of when the report would be presented.

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