

shorttakes

Talaulim youth booked for rape under pretext of marriage

PONDA: Ponda Police have registered an offence against a 22-year-old man from Talaulim for allegedly raping a 21-year-old woman from Borim under the false promise of marriage. The accused, identified as Rameshwar is alleged to have engaged in sexual relations with the complainant on multiple occasions between 2023 and May 2025 in Borim, Ponda. The case has been registered under Sections 376 and 420 of the Indian Penal Code. Police are in the process of submitting the FIR to the Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC), Ponda, and forwarding copies to concerned senior officials. Further investigation is underway.

Nigerian woman booked for illegal stay in Goa

ANJUNA: Anjuna Police have registered a case against Uche Joy Okafor, a 40-year-old Nigerian national residing in Morjim, for allegedly staying in Goa without valid travel documents. Police said Okafor has been served a notice under Section 35(3) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, and directed to produce valid documentation supporting her stay in India. Further investigation is ongoing.

Scooter rider injured in collision with car at Khareband junction

MARGAO: Minguelinha Oliveira, a resident of Sernabhati, Colva, sustained injuries after his scooter was struck by a car at the Three Road Junction in Khareband. According to Margao Town Police, the incident occurred when 39-year-old Merlyn Fernandes of Benaulim, driving a car, allegedly operated the vehicle in a rash and negligent manner, endangering human life. Upon reaching the junction, she collided with Oliveira's oncoming scooter, causing him to fall onto the tar road. Following a complaint filed by ASI Santosh Gaonkar, an offence has been registered under Sections 281 and 125 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023.

Pedestrian seriously injured in scooter accident near Shah Darbar Hotel

MARGAO: A pedestrian sustained grievous injuries after being struck by a speeding scooter near Shah Darbar Hotel on June 19. ASI Rosario Dias of Margao Town Police Station filed a complaint stating that the rider of a scooter, while travelling from Margao towards Brandel Hall, rode in a rash and negligent manner, hitting 57-year-old pedestrian Ramesh Naik, a native of Karwar residing in Margao. An offence has been registered under Sections 281 and 125(b) of BNS 2023.

Illegal land filling detected during site inspection in Sanguem

SANGUEM: Vrinda Phal Dessai, a Planning Department official from Quepem, has lodged a complaint with Sanguem police regarding illegal land filling at Cortali village. The offence was reportedly committed prior to April 4 by Joaquim Dias and Santo Antonio Cruz, both residents of Dando, Sanguem. During a site inspection, it was found that the duo carried out land filling activities without obtaining permission from the concerned authority. An offence under Section 17-A of the Town and Country Planning Act has been registered.

Pedestrian dies after being hit by scooter at Navelim

MARGAO: Vijay Pal Yadav of Moddi, Navelim, died after being knocked down by a scooter while walking on the roadside. The incident occurred on June 17. ASI Umesh Gaude of Margao Town Police Station filed a complaint stating that Yolan Aaron Fernandes of Chinchinim, riding as scooter from Navelim towards Chinchinim, rode in a rash and negligent manner. Near MD Furniture, Navelim, the scooter struck Yadav, who was walking on the left side of the road. Yadav suffered severe injuries and was rushed to the South District Hospital in Margao and later referred to Goa Medical College (GMC), Bambolim, where he succumbed to his injuries while undergoing treatment.

Decomposed body of mason found in locked room at Sanguem

MARGAO: Suresh Hirappa Khadakkar, a mason and caretaker residing at Saudimol, Sanguem, was found dead in a highly decomposed state inside his locked rented room. Police said there were no visible injuries on the body, which has been sent for post-mortem to determine the exact cause of death. Upon receiving information, Sanguem Police visited the scene and found the door latched from inside. On peering through the window, a body was seen lying prone on the floor. Fire and Emergency Services assisted in breaking open the door. The deceased, originally from Siddhapur, Karnataka, had been staying at Saudimol alone for the past year. Room owner Melba Fernandes confirmed his identity. A scene of Unnatural Death Panchanama was conducted, and the body has been preserved at the District Hospital, Margao, for medico-legal formalities

Three held in separate ganja seizures in Bicholim and Calangute

BICHOLIM/CALANGUTE: In two separate operations, police arrested three individuals for possessing ganja in Bicholim and Calangute, seizing contraband worth a total of Rs 60,000. In Bicholim, two youths were arrested during a narcotic raid conducted near Moments Hall, under the bypass. The duo — identified as Rohit Parwar and Sandeep Kandolkar, both aged 24 and residents of Bicholim — were allegedly preparing to deliver the substance to potential customers when they were caught red-handed. Police seized suspected ganja worth Rs 5,000 from them. The accused were produced before the Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC), Bicholim, and remanded to 14 days' judicial custody. Meanwhile, in Calangute, police arrested Vinay K, 33, a resident of New Arradi Waddo, Candolim, after seizing 555 grams of suspected ganja worth Rs 55,000 from his possession. Acting on a tip-off, Calangute police conducted a raid near Hotel Palmarinha between 1.40 pm and 4.45 pm on Friday. The ganja, concealed in a black polythene bag, was recovered from the accused, who was later booked under the NDPS Act, Section 20(b)(ii)(A).

power shutdown

SOCORRO: On June 24, from 9 am to 1 pm. Affected areas are Lima wado, Arradi, Primary School, Medows, Vincent Green, and surrounding area.
PORVORIM: On June 24, from 3 pm to 5 pm. Affected areas are Damain De Goa, Lima Wado, and surrounding area.

Illegal sand dune breach in Varca sparks restoration drive

Residents demand accountability as seawater enters paddy fields following suspected CRZ violation; panchayat assures action in line with coastal regulations

Team Herald

MARGAO: Restoration efforts have begun at the site of a sand dune breach in Pedda, Varca, with officials from the Village Panchayat, the Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA), Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) unit, and the Water Resources Department (WRD) conducting a follow-up inspection on Monday.

The action comes two days after an initial site visit by government officials and panchayat members, following complaints that a portion of the dune was illegally breached, allegedly to drain water from the nearby Handi into the sea. The panchayat had lodged a written complaint with the Tourism Department, police, and GCZ-

MA, flagging the matter as a violation of coastal regulations.

Deputy Collector Mohd Shabir, Mamlatdar Vimod Dalal, Talathi officials, tourism department's Frank Rodrigues, and Varca Sarpanch Flavia Barretto were among those who inspected the area over the weekend. Residents had raised concerns that the damage had allowed sea water to enter nearby low-lying paddy fields.

At Monday's inspection, Deputy Sarpanch Solon Furtado called for urgent restoration and suggested that geo-bags be placed on the seaward side of the dune to reduce further erosion. "Filling the breach and reinforcing the dune is necessary to stop sea water ingress," he said.



Local ward members and resi-

dents participated in the inspection. Ward Panch Batist Fernandes was acknowledged by fellow members for raising the alarm. Former Sarpanch Luiza Rodrigues described the damage as serious and said the community would continue to monitor the situation to prevent future incidents.

Sarpanch Barretto thanked residents and department officials for their cooperation and said the panchayat would ensure that restoration work complies with CRZ rules and procedures. The WRD continued discussions with panchayat members through the evening to outline the next steps.

Former Sarpanch Salesiana Fernandes, who was also present, said no heavy machinery should

be used on sand dunes without proper permission. She alleged that the work may have involved individuals acting without official sanction and said the matter warranted further investigation.

In a separate media briefing, Benaulim MLA Venzy Viegas, responding to the incident, said those responsible should be identified and held accountable, and that the sand dune should be environmentally restored. He also said the state lacks an effective mechanism to monitor and protect sand dunes, and called for a stronger institutional framework.

The Varca panchayat has said it will follow up the matter with the concerned departments and take appropriate action.

FIREMEN IN ACTION



Fire fighter SR Naik seen clearing a massive banyan tree that had fallen across the road at Gallim-Chandor, causing a major traffic obstruction. The prompt response by the fire services helped restore vehicular movement in the area

Old Goa-Gandaulim road to remain open during peak hours amid overbridge works

Team Herald

PANJIM: In view of the heavy traffic congestion and inconvenience caused to local residents and motorists due to the closure of the Old Goa-Gandaulim road for ongoing overbridge construction work, it has been decided to allow vehicular movement during specific peak hours.

The road will remain open for traffic from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. in the morning and from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the evening. It will remain closed to traffic between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. daily.

This decision was taken to reduce the burden on the narrow internal village roads and to ensure that local commuters face

minimum disruption during peak hours, informed Cumbharjua MLA Rajesh Faldessai.

This road is extensively used by vehicles travelling to Marcel, Bicholim, Sanguelim, and even Belagavi. Once completed, the overbridge is expected to significantly reduce the long queues that commuters currently face during train crossings.

Earlier, it had been decided to close the Old Goa-Gandaulim road entirely from June 23. The Goa State Infrastructure Development Corporation (GSIDC) is constructing the overbridge to ease the daily traffic congestion at the Old Goa railway crossing.

Sanguem resident duped of Rs 3.32 lakh in job scam

MARGAO: A 51-year-old resident of Bamonsai, Bakar Shaikh, was cheated of Rs 3.32 lakh by fraudsters who promised him a job in Canada through a fake social media advertisement. According to the complaint lodged with Sanguem police, the incident occurred on November 12, 2024.

The accused contacted the complainant via Facebook, sent a fraudulent link, and later asked him to share his CV via WhatsApp. Believing the offer to be genuine, the complainant paid the amount in multiple instalments before realising it was a scam.

Vedanta Sesa Goa announces VRS for 3,500 workers, business partners

Team Herald

PANJIM: Vedanta Sesa Goa has announced a Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) for nearly 3,500 of its workers and business partners.

According to a company spokesperson, the scheme has been designed in the long-term interest of its valued workforce and is open to eligible employees who have completed 10 years of service or are above the age of 40.

"Our workforce is our priority, and the decision

to offer the VRS is driven by our unwavering commitment to their well-being and long-term interests," the spokesperson said.

Over the years—particularly during the extremely challenging period of prolonged mining bans in Goa—Vedanta Sesa Goa stood firmly by its employees, the company noted.

As the mining landscape evolves, several of the company's former major mining blocks have now been allocated to new entities under the auction regime.

With these mining operations expected to commence shortly in the State, new prospects are likely to emerge across the region.

Vedanta Sesa Goa has itself secured two iron ore blocks located at Bicholim and Kudnem.

"Our VRS initiative is a transition opportunity for our workers to explore the upcoming prospects. By providing financial security and flexibility, the scheme empowers our people to take charge of their futures," the spokesperson added.

Sahakar Urban Co-op Society to take legal action against former govt-appointed panel

Team Herald

VASCO: The general body of the Sahakar Urban Co-operative Credit Society has unanimously resolved to initiate legal action against the former government-appointed administrative committee, which is accused of disbursing loans worth Rs 2.97 crore in violation of co-operative norms.

The resolution was passed during the 34th annual general body meeting of the Society held at Ravindra Bhavan auditorium, Baina.

Addressing shareholder concerns, newly-elected chairman Uday Prabhu informed the gathering that the State government had dissolved the earlier board of directors, headed by Ulhas Falde-

sai, three years ago and appointed a three-member administrative committee to oversee the Society's affairs.

During its tenure, this committee allegedly sanctioned loans totalling Rs 2.97 crore to 37 retired employees of a particular establishment, from January to March last year, without collecting mandatory documentation or security, violating co-operative banking regulations.

Shareholders expressed serious concern over the issue and alleged that the loan disbursements constituted a breach of law. A unanimous resolution was adopted to pursue legal action against the former committee members responsible, Prabhu confirmed.

Further, sharehold-

er Umesh Sonurlekar and others pointed out that following the 2019 election dispute—which was challenged in the High Court—the then board, under Faldesai, had appointed a lawyer at the Society's expense. As per Section 57 of the Cooperative Registrar's Act, this appointment was deemed illegal, and under Section 83, the general body resolved to recover Rs 2.27 lakh spent on legal fees from Faldesai and the concerned directors.

Meanwhile, Chairman Prabhu declared a 12% dividend for shareholders, stating that the Society had recorded a profit of Rs 1.09 crore this financial year. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by Vice-Chairman Santosh Khorjuvekar.

Pedestrian crushed to death by speeding truck

Team Herald

VASCO: A pedestrian was killed after being hit by a speeding truck near the Dabolim Airport junction on Monday evening.

The deceased has been identified as Hare Krishna Roy, a native of Bihar who was residing in Panjim and employed as a security guard, according to police.

Roy had reportedly travelled to Vasco to meet a group of acquaintances who were expected to accompany him on a train journey back to Bihar.

The fatal accident occurred while the victim was crossing the road near the airport. The truck involved was reportedly heading from Mormugao Port to Verna.

Following the incident, the truck driver attempted to flee the scene but was intercepted by locals at Dabolim and subsequently handed over to the police.

The Vasco police conducted a panchanama and sent the body for a post-mortem examination. Further investigation is currently underway, officials said.

PWD put on notice over removal of speed breakers

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Goa Human Rights Commission (GHRC) has issued a notice to the PWD principal chief engineer asking him to file a reply and to remain represent for the hearing on Tuesday, June 24, regarding a complaint over removal of speed breakers on highway.

Last month, the Dharbandora village panchayat had written a letter to the GHRC strongly objecting to its decision recommending removal of speed-breakers from the road in its jurisdiction.

Approximately 15 years ago, following a series of serious accidents and repeated appeals from the villagers, the concerned authorities had installed these speed breakers. The presence of these speed-breakers ensured

the safety a critical role in pedestrians, residents and commuters, Dharbandora sarpanch Vinayak 'Balaji' Gawas had stated in the letter.

The decision to remove them now, without any consultation with the local residents is deeply concerning and poses a serious threat to public safety. The traffic on this road has only increased over the years and speeding vehicles remain a constant hazard. Removing the speed breakers will undoubtedly increase the risk of accidents and put lives at risk, he stated in the letter addressed to the Commission.

The panchayat has now requested the Commission to reconsider the decision and to instruct the concerned department to remain the existing speed breakers. Public safety must remain a top priority, it said.

Areal resident decries delay in hearing petition, issuing order

Team Herald

PANJIM: Expressing his resentment over the delay in hearing disqualification petition filed against the panchayat member and subsequent delay in giving certified copy of the order, Menino Santana Fernandes of Sao Jose de Areal has demanded action against the Director of Panchayats.

DISQUALIFICATION CASE

"Director of Panchayat Sidhi Halarnakar has no moral ground to continue in the office and conduct court proceedings but must resign immediately," Fernandes said.

According to Fernandes, he had filed disqualification petition in December 2022 against the then Sao Jose De Areal Sarpanch and current panchayat member Joyce Veyona Dias un-

der Section 50, sub-section 4 & 5 of the Goa Panchayat Raj Act, for persistent remiss and misuse of powers.

The Director of Panchayats dismissed his disqualification petition on April 1, 2025. Fernandes said that the Director took almost two and half years, when the matter could have been decided within three to four months as there were several High Court orders in such matters to dispose them with utmost dispatch.

During the hearing of the petition, Dias was ousted as the sarpanch on January 20, 2023 by a no-confidence motion. As a result Fernandes amended his petition adding one more section 210-A of Goa Panchayat Raj Act.

After the Director pronounced the order, Fernandes applied for certified copy of the judgement and order and the Roznama entries on April 1, 2025 itself. As he was

not furnished the copy of the judgement, Fernandes sent five reminders to the Director of Panchayats.

"I sent five written reminders besides follow-ups in person and over the telephone. The answer I got from the office was that the order was not ready and the file is with Director of Panchayats and not in the office," he said.

When contacted, Director of Panchayats Sidhi Halarnakar said that the certified copy could not be issued to him as she was pre-occupied. "I was holding additional charge of other departments. I will inform my office to give him the certified copy immediately."

Halarnakar said that the aggrieved person has time to appeal against the order within 30 days from the date of the receipt of the copy of the order.

The copy of the order was finally issued to Fernandes on June 17.