

# Hoarding crash causes traffic block on Calangute-Mapusa road for 6 hrs

## Vehicles diverted via Arpora market & Nagoa-Saligao routes

Team Herald

**CALANGUTE:** Commuters on the Calangute-Mapusa road had a lucky escape after a metal rig with an advertising hoarding collapsed during strong winds at around 5am on the road, blocking traffic for around six hours on Tuesday morning.

The incident occurred at the Arpora-Calangute border, and while the loud thud woke up nearby residents, fortunately, no injuries were reported.

The Calangute Village Panchayat rushed some workers to the spot to clear the debris, but they were unable to lift the heavy metal structure.

Fire-fighters from the Mapusa fire station staff then brought in metal cut-



ting equipment and managed to clear the road by around noon.

Eyewitnesses stated that strong winds pushing against the hoarding, which

was supported by poles, caused the entire structure to topple. Officials from the Mapusa fire station said that they are currently investigating the cause of the

mishap.

Traffic on the busy Calangute-Mapusa road was diverted through the Arpora market and the Nagoa-Saligao routes. This incident

has raised concerns among locals, as thousands of commuters use this road daily. Residents expressed relief, stating, "Luckily no one was under it when it toppled."

## Se Old Goa VP halts construction near St Augustine Tower

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** The Se Old Goa Village Panchayat has issued a stop-work order to a project proponent who allegedly began construction activity near the historic St Augustine Tower without proper authorisation.

In a letter addressed to the proponent, Medha Parvatkar, Sarpanch of the Se Old Goa Village Panchayat, said, "It has been brought to our notice by ward member Ambar Amonkar that illegal construction work is underway, including the fencing of a site near St. Augustine Tower."

The letter further states that the construction site appears to fall within the vicinity of a protected area under the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). In light of this, the panchayat has directed the individual concerned to immedi-

ately halt all ongoing work and report to the panchayat within three days of receiving the notice. The individual is required to submit all relevant documents to establish the legality of the construction.

"Failure to provide documentary evidence will be presumed as an admission that the construction is unauthorised," the Sarpanch warned.

Members of the Save Old Goa Action Committee and concerned local residents have voiced strong opposition to the ongoing construction, which they claim falls within the buffer zone of the iconic St Augustine Tower. Activists allege that the work is being carried out without proper permissions, and have also raised concerns that several trees have already been felled to facilitate the project.

## Another ganja plant found in Panjim

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** Another cannabis (ganja) plant was discovered growing among ornamental plants along the roadside wedges in Panjim. The banned plant was promptly confiscated by the police, and an investigation is currently underway.

This marks the second such incident in recent months.

In January, a similar cannabis plant was found sprouting amidst decorative vegetation along specially designed wedges of the Smart City's footpaths. An earlier case had also been reported near the parking lot outside Caculo Mall, where a cannabis plant was discovered growing in similar circumstances.

Upon receiving information, officials from the Anti-Narcotics Cell (ANC) rushed to the site, uprooted the plant, and seized it under a formal panchanama for further analysis. The ANC has registered a FIR against unknown persons for illegal cultivation—an offence punishable under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

## HC reserves order on delimitation of CCP wards

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** The High Court of Bombay at Goa on Tuesday reserved its order on a writ petition filed by former Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP) councillor Menino Da Cruz challenging the delimitation of wards of the corporation.

Da Cruz has challenged the constitutional validity of Section 9 (2) introduced by amendment in the Panaji Corporation Act dated 16/02/2005 whereby in place of words "State Election Commissioner" the words "the Director of Municipal Administration" is substituted, which gives power to the Directorate of Municipal Administration (DMA) to prepare the electoral rolls and delimitation and reservation of CCP wards.

The petitioner has prayed that only the Goa State Election Commission (SEC) be empowered to redraw the wards so as to safeguard the free and fair elections. He has urged the Court to

quash and set aside the amendment to Section 9 (2) of the CCP Act, 2002. Representing the petitioner, Adv Rohit Bras De Sa stated that the assignment of delimitation of wards to a government-controlled body like the Directorate of Municipal Administration, has undermined the independence of the election process.

The High Court later issued notices to the State government, State Election Commission, DMA and the CCP.

The CCP elections are scheduled in March 2026.

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## Coastal Police rescue minor from Mandovi river

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** A minor girl was rescued by the Coastal Police on Tuesday morning from the Mandovi River.

Coastal Police personnel rushed to save the girl who had fallen into the river and managed to rescue her.

According to police, information was received that someone had jumped in the river at around 9.45 am. Immediately the staff from Panjim Coastal Police Outpost entered the water with a boat.

The girl was traced and rescued immediately. It took around seven minutes to rescue her. An ambulance was called and the girl shifted to Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMC), Bambolim, where her condition was stated to be stable.

Further investigation is in progress.

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## Rains damage properties across Goa, yellow alert till June 30

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** Heavy rains and strong winds over the past 24 hours have caused several trees to fall across the State, resulting in property damage as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Tuesday extended its yellow alert for Goa until June 30, forecasting heavy rainfall at isolated locations across the State.

In Honda-Sattari, a mango tree fell, partially damaging a house and a car. In Agassaim, two houses were significantly damaged after a large tree collapsed on them, with an estimated loss of around Rs 4 lakh. Fortunately, no injuries were reported in either incident.

Another tree fell on the residence of former MLA Dayanand Mandrekar in Oxel-Siolim, also causing property damage.

According to a Fire and Emergency Services (FES) official, teams quickly responded to the incidents and cleared the debris within an hour, despite brief traffic disruptions.

Additionally, the heavy rains caused a protective wall, built at a cost of Rs 10 lakh, to collapse on the Anmod-Hemmadga stretch. This stretch is a crucial link between Goa and Belagavi. The collapse has left the roadside exposed, creating a serious risk for motorists on this busy inter-state route.

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