

After 5 months, construction of market sheds for Panjim meat vendors begins

Team Herald

PANJIM: Panjim's displaced meat vendors are finally seeing signs of relief, with construction of six temporary market sheds now underway at the old fish market complex—nearly a year after their shops were sealed by the Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP).

The work, being executed by B S Construction—an agency contracted by the CCP—commenced last Friday and is expected to be completed by next week. The project was commissioned following a tender process in which the contractor quoted Rs 9.7 lakh.

The move follows a Supreme Court order earlier in January this year, directing the CCP to rehabilitate meat vendors by allocating fixed spaces within a temporary structure originally intended for fish sellers. The Court also mandated that these stalls be equipped with deep freezers, refrigerators, meat cutting facilities, security shutters, and access to water and electricity—basic infrastructure necessary for running their trade.

The delay in implementing the Court's order, however, has come at a steep cost to the vendors. Most have been operating from



far-flung villages or not at all, suffering heavy financial losses and a drastic drop in their customer base.

"We have been suffering losses for the last nine months. Over half of our business is down," said Mushtak Khatib, a vendor who now sells from a village outside the city. "When we were in Panjim, customers came from Santa Cruz, Taleigao, Porvorim, Betim and the city itself. Now, we're restricted to one village."

The turmoil began in September 2024, when the CCP sealed off shops inside the fish market complex. The move was preceded by demolition notices served in August that year, citing structural instability in the decades-old building. Vendors, most of whom had leased space for meat stalls, were asked to vacate. Soon after, the building was demolished, leaving dozens of traders, workers and labourers without a place of business.

JANUARY 30, 2025

Panjim's meat vendors fought hard, and now they can smile again

Meat traders hail SC directive to CCP giving them space for stalls in market

Team Herald

PANJIM: It's a battle for livelihood that was fought right up to the Supreme Court, and now that they have finally got a favourable ruling, the meat vendors of Panjim are cautiously optimistic about their future.

JANUARY 16, 2025

CCP decides to rehabilitate meat, fish vendors

Among them was Mannasab Bepari, president of the All Goa Beef Vendors Association, who welcomed the current construction work, despite the months-long delay. "I am very happy with the work being done. The fact that it is being done after five months is not my concern right now. I am not selling any meat at the moment and am waiting for the store to be ready," he said.

Bepari, who represents several generational vendors with roots tracing back to the Portuguese era, added, "There was no business for 1.5 years and I lived off my savings. We have been in this business for generations. I want the work to be finished fast so we

can start our business soon. We will be provided with a stall with shutters. We will get our fridges and whatever else is required for the business."

An official from the CCP, when asked about the delay in setting up the temporary stalls, said the tendering process took time. "The Supreme Court order came in February, and we had to follow procedure to finalise the contractor," the official said.

Meanwhile, the lack of a functioning beef market in the capital has impacted not just traders, but consumers too. Residents across Panjim and surrounding areas have found it increasingly difficult to source quality beef during major festivals, including Christmas, New Year, Easter and Eid.

Colvale jail warden suspended following inmates party expose

Team Herald

PANJIM: A day after O Herald exposed a shocking incident of inmates partying inside a cattle shed at Colvale Central Jail, the authorities have suspended warden Narayan Naik for dereliction of duty.

The suspension comes in the wake of a recommendation by a top-ranking officer who wrote to the Inspector General (IG) of Prisons, asserting that Naik had brought disrepute to the department. Naik, apparently who was in charge of the cow shed had

allowed inmates to party rather than making them work as part of prison reforms. It has also emerged that Naik is facing three other departmental inquiries for similar misconduct.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Keshav Ram Chaurasia, who also holds additional charge as IG Prisons, issued directions for Naik's suspension. An official, speaking on condition of anonymity, disclosed that four raids were carried out at the prison in the past year, resulting in the suspension of three jail staff members after mobile phones were found in the possession of inmates under their watch.

The official added grimly, "There is no trustworthy officer left in the jail, with unpleasant incidents occurring every month and tarnishing the name of the State." However, he pinned his hopes on the current IGP: "Nonetheless, we have a good IGP as of now who is hell-bent on weeding out corruption in the central jail, and we are optimistic of putting things in order soon."

The disciplinary action follows O Herald's report on the May 22, 2025 incident, where five inmates were discovered partying at a cattle shed inside the jail premises. IRB personnel on routine patrol noticed suspicious activity near the shed and found four inmates celebrating, prompting them to alert PSI Gaurish Rao.

The team seized a smart phone, a bluetooth speaker, two packets of an undisclosed substance and food items including packets of fish.

The inmates were reportedly under the supervision of a guard assigned to escort them to the cattle shed for routine cleaning and milking duties. However, the guard allegedly left them unattended and was unreachable for over 45 minutes, enabling the illicit gathering to take place.



77 overstaying foreigners deported from State

Team Herald

PANJIM: In a major crackdown on overstaying foreign nationals, Goa Police have deported 77 individuals as part of their ongoing initiative codenamed 'Operation Flushout'.

OPERATION FLUSHOUT

The intensified drive saw 56 enforcement actions in the first six months of 2025, with 35 of them carried out in May and June alone.

According to the police, between January 1 and

June 27, 2025, the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) facilitated the deportation of 77 foreign nationals, including 32 men and 45 women.

The deported individuals include 26 from Bangladesh, 25 from Russia, 18 from Uganda, 2 each from the United Kingdom and Ukraine, and one each from Poland, Morocco, Nigeria, Mauritius, Belarus, and Argentina.

The police emphasised that enforcement action against illegally overstaying foreign nationals will continue, citing national security concerns. Accom-

modation providers have been urged to comply with registration protocols by submitting C-Forms via the FRRO online portal within 24 hours of a foreign national's arrival and to update the portal upon their departure.

In a public advisory, the police stated, "General public are requested to report about the illegally/overstaying foreigners if noticed in their locality to the nearest Police Station for appropriate action. Timely reporting will go a long way in maintaining law and order and peace in the State of Goa."

HERITAGE OVERLOOKED

JOSEPH FERNANDES



Installed in 1962, the statue of mythical heroine Shakuntala at Mapusa market once featured a working fountain with water flowing from her outstretched pot. While civic workers recently cleared the area of weeds and garbage, the water feature remains defunct—another sign of long-standing neglect

Comprehensive waste management policy in the offing

Team Herald

PANJIM: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Friday announced that the Goa government is set to implement a comprehensive policy to monitor and regulate the disposal of all types of waste—ranging from industrial and chemical to construction and biomedical waste.

Speaking to reporters in Panaji, Sawant said, "We are making a policy decision under which all types of waste will be tracked. Waste will need to be sent to designated facilities created for specific types of disposal. I would like to commend doctors and hospitals—99% of the waste collected from them is biomedical. Now, whether it is hazardous, chemical, or construction waste, all will be brought un-

der strict monitoring."

Reiterating the government's commitment to environmental sustainability, the Chief Minister added, "We must keep Goa clean and green. People should take full advantage of the facilities established by the government. Those who do not comply will face consequences. Strict action will be taken against violators."

Sawant informed that a high-level meeting of the Goa Waste Management Corporation was held on June 26, 2025, bringing together key officials and stakeholders to deliberate on the upcoming policy framework.

Highlighting a significant compliance issue, Sawant pointed out that out of 350 registered hazardous waste generators in the State, only 50 currently utilise the authorised disposal facility.

Interstate ATM card swapping racket busted; 2 arrested

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Goa police have cracked an interstate ATM card swapping racket with the arrest of two suspects, who allegedly targeted senior citizens and defrauded them of large sums of money.

The accused, identified as Sanjay Maheswal (33) and Sonu Kumar (32)—both residents of Hisar, Haryana—were apprehended near Prema Guest House in Calangute, following a complaint involving the cheating of a senior citizen out of Rs 40,000 at Bicholim.

According to police, the accused would approach elderly victims at ATMs under the pretext of helping them with transactions. While doing so, they would discreetly swap the victims' ATM cards and later use the original cards to withdraw money from their accounts.

Upon arrest, police recovered 23 ATM cards and one scooter believed to have been used in committing the offences.

AAP, GFP invite public to submit questions ahead of monsoon Assembly session

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Goa Forward Party (GFP) have called upon Goans to submit their questions and grievances ahead of the monsoon session of the Goa Legislative Assembly, scheduled to begin on July 21.

AAP has announced that its MLAs, Venzy Viegas and Cruz Silva, will raise issues related to various government departments during the session. The party has urged the public, including former government officials, current employees, and Right to Information (RTI) activists, to submit their questions for consideration.

Viegas and Cruz Silva assured, "We may be just two MLAs, but we will continue to be the voice of the people of Goa, actively raising questions on their behalf," Viegas and Silva assured.

Meanwhile, the Goa Forward Party has launched a State-wide outreach programme titled 'Amcho Awaaz Vijai', aimed at collecting public grievances and presenting them in the Assembly session.

GFP President and Fatorda MLA Vijai Sardesai will personally travel across the State - from Pernem to Canacona—to interact with citizens and hear their concerns. The programme is divided into two phases to maximise public engagement.

The party has appealed to Goans to participate in the democratic process by emailing their suggestions and grievances to publicuggestions@goaforward.in by July 10, to ensure they are effectively raised in the Assembly.

The outreach campaign will begin on June 29 at Bhagwati Hall, Pernem, followed by an event at Mapusa Residency on June 30 for Bardez taluka. On July 2, Sardesai will address grievances from Tiswadi taluka at the GFP office in Panjim, and from Bicholim and Sattari on July 3 at Z Square Hall, Bicholim.

Further stops include Vasco on July 4 at Z Square Hall, Canacona on July 6 at the GFP office in Chaudi, Dharbandora and Quepem on July 7 at ESM Galaxy in Curchorem, Ponda on July 9 at Vithoba Temple Hall, Sanguem on July 10 at the Municipal Hall, and Salcete on July 11 at the Margao Municipal Hall.

Special train request for Goa-Velankanni pilgrimage raised at railway users meeting

Team Herald

MARGAO: The 38th Division Railway Users Consultative Committee (DRUCC) meeting was held at the Seminar Hall of the Chief Workshop Manager's Office in Hubballi, with Divisional Railway Manager of the Hubballi Division, Bela Meena, presiding over the proceedings. A total of 13 committee members were present.

Representing South Goa at the meeting was Augusto M Da Costa, nominated to the committee by South Goa MP, Capt. Viriato Fer-

nandes. During the session, Da Costa urged railway officials to introduce special trains annually to cater to Goan pilgrims travelling to Velankanni for the novenas and feast celebrations. He proposed that the special train service between Vasco and Velankanni and its return be scheduled from August 27 to September 8 this year. He also appealed for these services to be announced well in advance—preferably more than a month before the journey dates—to enable pilgrims to make necessary arrangements without difficulty.

The committee responded positively to the request, stating that the operation of such special trains was deemed feasible. A formal proposal will now be forwarded to the Chief Passenger Traffic Manager of South Western Railway, seeking approval for three special train trips on the Vasco-Velankanni-Vasco route, with timings and dates to be finalised based on operational convenience and subject to the Divisional Railway Manager's clearance.

Another concern raised during the meeting was related to the existing weekly

Vasco-Velankanni train, which departs every Monday morning and arrives at Velankanni the following afternoon. Members pointed out that the late arrival left pilgrims with little time for their religious activities. A suggestion was made to allow the train to halt an extra day at Velankanni, providing devotees with sufficient time for their pilgrimage before commencing the return journey. The Divisional Railway Manager assured that this proposal would be added to the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

Two booked for submitting fake SSC certificates in Home Guard recruitment

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Panjim Police have registered a criminal case against two individuals for allegedly submitting forged Secondary School Certificate (SSC) mark sheets during the Home Guard volunteer recruitment process.

The complaint was filed by the Deputy Commandant General of the Home Guard and Deputy Director of Civil Defence, Goa. As per the FIR, the accused—

residents of Dabem-Morpila and Madernol-Fatorpa in Quepem—submitted fabricated mark sheets purportedly issued by the Goa Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education in a bid to secure positions in the Home Guard. The case has been registered under sections relating to forgery and cheating in the Indian Penal Code. Police are investigating the extent of the fraud and whether additional individuals may be involved.

Kolkata businessman abducted and extorted; TV actors named in FIR

Team Herald

PANJIM: A Kolkata-based businessman, Shyam Sunder Dey, was allegedly abducted and extorted of Rs 23 lakh while on a visit to Goa between May 31 and June 4, according to a complaint filed with Calangute police.

The offence was registered based on a Zero FIR forwarded by the Bidhanagar Police Commissionerate, West Bengal.

As per the complaint lodged by Dey's wife, Malabika Dey, her husband and his assistant were travelling in a rented car in

Calangute when they were intercepted by the accused. The FIR names Kunal Verma, Puja Bannerjee alias Puja Bose, Piyush Kothari, and others. Verma and Bannerjee are reportedly known television actors.

The complaint alleges that the accused conspired to abduct Dey, who was then forcibly restrained, assaulted, and threatened with false narcotics charges. He was allegedly moved between several undisclosed locations over the course of the next few days and was coerced into transferring Rs 23 lakh to the accused.

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(Dy. Registrar of Co-Op. Societies, Govt. of Goa)

Mrs. Smita Kankonkar
(Asstt. Registrar of Co-Op. Societies Central Zone, Panaji)

In the presence of
Shri. Pandurang A. Madkaikar
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