

COUNTDOWN BEGINS FOR RO-RO FERRY ON RIBANDAR-CHORAO ROUTE

Service to start in 10 days; villagers seek assurance on safety and timetable

Team Herald

PANJIM: The long-awaited Ro-Ro ferry service on the Ribandar-Chorao route is set to commence operations within the next ten days, confirmed Vikramsinh N Rajebhosale, Director of the River and Navigation Department (RND), on Monday.

Speaking to reporters, Rajebhosale said that ferry rides will be free for passengers and two-wheelers, while four-wheelers will be charged Rs 30 without a pass and Rs 15 with a pass. Rent-a-cars will be charged Rs 100, tourist-owned vehicles Rs 300 and tourists opting for joy rides Rs 50 per person.

The ferry will operate between 7 am and 9 pm, after which three traditional ferry boats will continue service during the night hours from 9 pm to 7 am.

However, several residents of Chorao raised concerns regarding the new service and posed questions to the RND Director during the briefing. They demanded that the ferry schedule be prominently displayed at both the Ribandar and Chorao boarding points for public awareness.



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Shrikrishna Haldankar, Former Chodan-Madel sarpanch

“I asked several technical questions regarding the boat’s carrying capacity and water displacement. While some answers were provided, they were not entirely satisfactory. I was told those details are known to the operator. Similarly, questions regarding safety measures were also left to the operator’s purview

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Former Chodan-Madel Village Panchayat Sarpanch, Shrikrishna Haldankar, said, “We’ve been told the ferry will run from 7 am to 9 pm and have requested the department to display a timetable at both terminals so people are informed about the ferry timings.”

Another Chodan resident, Euzebio D’Silva, said, “I asked several technical questions regarding the boat’s carrying capacity and water displacement. While some answers were provided, they were not entirely satisfactory. I was told those details are known to the operator.

SALVAGE OPERATION OF SUNKEN FERRY TO TAKE FOUR MORE DAYS: RND



PANJIM: The ongoing effort to salvage the sunken ferryboat Betim is expected to take at least four more days, according to RND Director Vikramsinh N Rajebhosale. “Our team is working closely with salvage experts to recover the vessel. The underwater environment poses challenges such as poor visibility for divers, but we are doing our best,” Rajebhosale told reporters. He added that equipment from two companies has been requisitioned to support the operation. When asked about measures to prevent similar incidents, he stressed the importance of vigilance and compliance. “RND staff must strictly follow safety protocols while on duty. Formal instructions will be issued to ensure alertness aboard all vessels,” he said. The salvage operation is expected to cost the government between Rs 25 lakh and Rs 30 lakh, with two private firms assisting in the recovery. The ferryboat Betim, docked at the Chorao Island ramp, partially submerged on June 23, 2025, after one of its tanks flooded. Three parked two-wheelers were also submerged but successfully recovered later the same day.

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Cabinet reshuffle on the cards ?

CM, ministers rush to Delhi, meet party bigwigs ahead of Assembly session

Team Herald

PANJIM: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, Ministers Vishwajit Rane, Subhash Shirodkar and Calangute MLA Michael Lobo left for the national capital renewing talk of a cabinet reshuffle.

There are reports that the cabinet rejig would take place ahead of the monsoon session of Goa Assembly starting from July 21. At present one cabinet berth is vacant after Govind Gaude was dropped from the Ministry.

On Monday, Sawant interacted with Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi and discussed key issues including the early operationalisation of the Helicopter Engines MRO Pvt Ltd (HEMRO) unit at Honda, Sattari, relocation of the Panjim Military and Dental Hospitals to facilitate public use of the existing space, and the proposal for sanctioning one Sainik School in the State.

Later Sawant accompanied by Lobo met Union Home Minister Amit Shah. While the Chief Minister stated that the meeting focused on key

DELHI VISIT FUELS TALK OF SHAKE-UP

- ◆ Cabinet berth vacant since Govind Gaude’s exit
- ◆ Sawant, Ministers Rane, Shirodkar & Lobo in Delhi ahead of monsoon session
- ◆ CM meets Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Piyush Goyal; key development issues discussed
- ◆ BJP says Delhi visit pre-planned, part of routine party consultations

Sawant held discussions on strengthening export support for Goa, with a specific request for the establishment and operationalisation of an Agricultural and processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) office in the State to boost the export of agricultural produce from Goa

developmental initiatives and political matters related the State, the visit has sparked fresh speculation about a possible cabinet reshuffle.

Earlier in the day, the Chief Minister met and interacted with Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal.

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specific request for the establishment and operationalisation of an Agricultural and processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) office in the State to boost the export of agricultural produce from Goa.

On the other hand, BJP State President Damu Naik stated that the Chief Minister’s visit to Delhi was pre-planned and meant to discuss issues related to the State with the Centre.

“He (CM) is likely to meet senior party leaders including Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Piyush Goyal and B L Santosh. This is part of party procedures,” Naik said.

On Rane’s visit, Naik said the Health Minister is also in Delhi in connection with departmental work. Every minister has departmental work from time to time, he claimed.

ENCROACHMENT REMOVAL



Vendors near Malim Jetty in Betim began dismantling their illegal kiosks on Monday, following a demolition notice issued by the local panchayat, with official action set to begin on Tuesday

Narcotics cell busts interstate drug peddling racket, nabs key meth dealer from Mumbai

Team Herald

PANJIM: The ANC has yet again achieved success in dismantling an interstate drug peddling network. In a discreet and covert operation, the ANC sleuths travelled to Mumbai in the wee hours of Sunday and swooped down upon the accused Ashraf Shaikh r/o Bandra West Mumbai who was apprehended and brought to Goa.

It may be recalled that the ANC on June 21 had apprehended one Krushna Sonkellu native of Dapodi Pune and temporarily residing at Arambol with methamphetamine. Thorough and sustained interrogation of

LIBERIAN NATIONAL HELD WITH COCAINE AT MAPUSA

PANJIM: The Mapusa Police have arrested a 25-year-old Liberian national, Anthony Kromah, from Canca, Bardez, for alleged possession of 22 grams of cocaine valued at Rs 11 lakh. According to police, the accused was arrested after a raid conducted at near Hotel Jerome, Canca, Bardez, during which the accused was allegedly found with the contraband.

the accused revealed that he had procured the drugs from Ashraf Shaikh in Mumbai.

The ANC team led by PI Sajith Pillai and PCs Makaran Ghadi and Sairaj Naik based on technical surveillance traced the accused at Mumbai. The

accused was produced before the Court and remanded to 7 days police custody. The entire operation was closely monitored and guided by DySP ANC Nerlon Albuquerque under the direct supervision of SP ANC Sunita Sawant

Margao to reinstate CCTV at key spots before Ganesh festival

Team Herald

MARGAO: In a bid to bolster safety and manage traffic more effectively, the Margao Municipal Council (MMC) is reviving its Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) surveillance system with cameras to be installed at 16 priority spots across the city ahead of the Ganesh Chaturthi festival.

According to MMC Chairperson Damodar Shirodkar, the move marks the start of a phased rollout intend-

ed to eventually cover the town with a network of over 100 cameras. For now, the first batch of 16 CCTV units will be operational in key areas identified by a five-member committee formed under the Chief Officer (CO).

This committee, comprising officials from the Regional Transport Office (RTO), Margao Police, and MMC, has jointly assessed locations to determine high-priority zones for surveillance coverage. “The

focus is to start with key intersections and public points that experience both traffic bottlenecks and security concerns,” Shirodkar said.

While this is not the city’s first foray into digital monitoring—Margao had introduced a similar system back in June 2012—the earlier initiative faltered due to poor upkeep and lack of oversight. The camera system eventually went offline, rendering the setup ineffective over time.

Govt to tap CSR funds for child protection unit

Dept of Women and Child Development reaches out to Goa Chamber of Commerce to boost resources to look after vulnerable children

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Department of Women and Child Development has written to the Goa Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) and the Goa Corporate Social Responsibility Authority, for financial contributions to augment existing State resources earmarked for the care and protection of underprivileged children.

It had also decided to approach business houses and associations of traders operating within the State to sensitise them on the issue of child welfare and the need for financial augmentation of State initiatives dedicated to child protection and to contribute towards the upliftment

The Department of Women and Child Development is operating a telephonic Child helpline No. “1098” which is functional 24x7. It has also set up help desks at Mapusa, Margao, and at the offices of the District Child Protection Units in both, North Goa and South Goa

of underprivileged children through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funding.

This was stated by Director of Women and Child Development Jyoti Desai in an affidavit filed before the High Court of Bombay at Goa, related to a public interest litigation (PIL) writ petition filed by Adv Moses Pinto regarding the issue of minor children found begging at traffic signals and other public places within the State.

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The Director has stated that the Task Force associated with the Helpline undertakes regular patrols of the streets in all major cities across the State, and children found living in dilapidated conditions or appearing to be abandoned are rescued. From 2024 till date, the Task Force has rescued

approximately 19 children who were found to be engaged in begging activities.

The Department of Women and Child Development has also proposed to initiate a State-wide awareness campaign through anganwadi centres, police stations, especially traffic cells and local self-governing bodies, aimed at sensitising all stakeholders on the issue of children being forced into begging and kept away from the formal education system, thereby being deprived of their basic fundamental rights. This awareness campaign will prevent abuse, neglect, and exploitation of children. The first phase of the campaign will be launched from July 2025 onwards.

Four Pls transferred

PANJIM: Four Police Inspectors (PI) were transferred by an order with immediate effect.

PI Ritesh Tari was transferred and has been posted at the Security Unit, Panjim, while PI Melson Colaco has been posted as PI of Curchorem Police Station.

PI Vikram Naik has been shifted to Colva Police Station in place of PI Ritesh Tari and PI Tukaram Chawan has been transferred to the Economic Offences Cell (EOC) Police Station. PI Naik has been transferred fourth time within a year.

Quepem PI Arjun Sangodkar was holding additional charge of Curchorem and Sanguem police stations in addition to his own duties. There was no independent police inspector at the Curchorem police station for the last more than one-and-half-month. Sanguem PI Dhirendra Naik who was also on leave resumed on Monday.

Understanding how body, mind function will help lead a better life: Milind Soman

Says covering 567 km at the ‘Fit India Run 2025’ was a fantastic experience

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PANJIM: Fitness enthusiast and model Milind Soman, who will soon turn 60, is in Goa after completing 567 km distance in five days at the ‘Fit India Run 2025’.

Speaking to O Herald, Milind said it was a fantastic experience because it helped him challenge himself mentally and physically—something he likes to do once or twice a year.

He said, “As you get older, you discover that things change—the changes in your body, your mind, your expectations, your ideas—everything is continuously evolving. These kinds of experiences help create awareness of those changes, and you learn whether those changes are in the direction you want. If they’re not, you can take corrective action.”

Milind cycled 90 km every day, which took him about four hours to complete, followed immediately by a 20 km run that took around two hours. This was his daily routine for five consecutive days.

He said the objective in life is to enjoy it. Everything, he emphasised, depends on one’s response to what life presents—and it’s important to modify that response in order to truly live it. Some people, he noted,

“If we understand how our body works and how our mind functions, we’ll be able to live better lives. I want to live the way I did when I was 20, 30, or 40. I’d like to continue living like this into my 70s and 80s. That is my goal

—Milind Soman, Actor, fitness enthusiast



are more prone to negativity, frustration, and anger; they are less tolerant, and that stems from a lack of understanding and self-awareness. Ultimately, it comes down to what one

wants out of life.

He explained, “If we understand how our body works and how our mind functions, we’ll be able to live better lives. I want to live the way I did when I was 20, 30, or 40. I’d like to continue living like this into my 70s and 80s. That is my goal.”

The idea to run from Mumbai to Goa, he said, came from his love for long-distance running whenever time permitted. The decision to combine 90 km of cycling with 20 km of running daily was inspired by Goa hosting India’s first half-marathon. He wanted to take on the challenge daily until he reached Goa—it was a good test, and a great experience.

He acknowledged there were many challenges—some obvious, others not so much. Roads, for instance, varied in quality. Some stretches were terrible; others were good. The ghats were tough because of the steep climbs, the rains could be wild, and when the sun came out, it could be unbearably hot. The hotels they stayed in weren’t always comfortable, and yet rest was crucial to prepare for the next day.

“It’s important to change your perspective in order to get the sleep you need,” he said. “The food may not be what you want, but you have to adjust and manage.” These



small hurdles, he believes, build the strength to deal with anything else in life.

“I take these lessons and apply them to any other situation, and I can deal with it. That’s the whole advantage of challenging oneself.”

As he turns 60 this November, Milind reflects on his life with contentment. He says it has been fantastic.

“I’ve been blessed,” he says. “I meet people who’ve had difficult lives—tough childhoods, mental or physical challenges, bad relationships—and I realise how beautiful my life has been.”