

NO SIGN OF PROMISED 24X7 SERVICES AT NAVELIM PHC

With no ambulance or staff, promised emergency care remains a distant goal

Team Herald

MARGAO: Over a month after Health Minister Vishwajit Rane promised round-the-clock emergency services at the Navelim Primary Health Centre, the commitment remains unfulfilled, raising concerns among residents about the lack of accessible healthcare after hours.

On May 18, during a mega health camp held at the centre, Minister Rane announced the setting up of a 24x7 emergency department, staffed with doctors and nurses, along with the deployment of a cardiac ambulance.

The promise was welcomed by the local community, as the centre lies about five kilometres from the South Goa District Hospital and caters to a growing population.

However, the health



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— Ulhas Tuyekar, Navelim MLA

centre continues to shut its doors after 4 pm and there has been no sign of the promised emergency infrastructure or ambulance. The absence of extended medical services is especially worrying for those who rely on the centre during nighttime emergencies.

According to the medical

officer at the facility, a proposal to initiate the emergency department has been submitted to the Directorate of Health Services in Panaji, but there has been no official response so far. The officer added that procedural hurdles are causing delays and that it may take time before the facility becomes operational.

Navelim MLA Ulhas-Tuyekar said a reminder has already been sent to the concerned authorities.

“We are following up on the issue, and I will ensure it is taken up at the right level. The people deserve immediate access to emergency healthcare,” Tuyekar stated.

Adding to public frustration, an earlier government plan to upgrade the primary health centre into a 10-bed hospital was scrapped. Authorities had argued that such an upgrade would result in duplication of services already offered by the nearby district hospital.

With no emergency services yet in place and no clear timeline for implementation, residents are urging the government to act swiftly and deliver on its promise to strengthen local healthcare in Navelim.

Scrapyard demolished at Parra

Team Herald

CALANGUTE: The Parra panchayat, on Thursday, carried out the demolition of an illegal scrapyard situated behind the Nagoa power sub-station on land owned by the Parra community.

According to panchayat members, a notice had been issued a year ago to the tenant, identified as Deukar from Arpora, directing him to vacate the area. The scrapyard, operating without permission, was located on agricultural land and deemed illegal.

Despite being given six months to comply, the tenant failed to clear the premises. Subsequently, the village panchayat initiated action with the support of an order from the Deputy Collector, Mapusa, leading to the demolition of the scrapyard located in Survey No. 183/3.

Parra comunidade members, who were present during the demolition, stated that they have begun proceedings to officially reclaim the land for comunidade use.

Bethora’s ‘crater-ridden’ road turns into a nightmare for commuters

Neglected road hampers travel, safety during festivals and rains; locals demand immediate repairs

Team Herald

PONDA: Travelling along the 1-kilometre-long Bethora Industrial Estate road, which also serves as the main village road, has become a daily nightmare for commuters and pedestrians due to numerous craters and potholes. Locals say the situation mirrors last year’s condition, with little being done for a long-term solution.

Although the Public Works Department (PWD) carried out patchwork repairs in recent months, the onset of the monsoon has worsened the road’s condition once again. According to residents, the road was dug up nearly two years ago for utility works but has never been properly restored.

The stretch is particularly dangerous for two-wheeler riders, children and school students. Commuter Naresh Naik pointed out that while PWD continues



with periodic repairs, what is truly needed is proper hot-mix carpeting and a roadside drainage system. “There are no gutters at several spots, and rainwater accumulates, worsening the road condition and causing inconvenience to thousands of commuters, including industrial workers,” he said.

Residents also recalled the difficulties faced during last year’s Ganesh Chaturthi festival when potholes and craters made it challenging to carry idols along the route. Temporary repairs had to be rushed in at the time.

The issue was raised again during the latest gram sabha, with locals demanding permanent road-



work and an efficient drainage system. In the absence of proper rainwater outlets, waterlogged potholes make it difficult to gauge the road’s surface, posing serious risks during heavy rains. With craters dotting the entire stretch, the road often resembles an island, say frustrated residents.

Chamber of Commerce inks MOU with engineering college to boost ties

Team Herald

PANJIM: In a significant step towards strengthening industry-academia collaboration in Goa, the Goa Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) signed a Memorandum of Under-

standing (MoU) with the Goa College of Engineering (GEC), Farmagudi on Monday, June 30, 2025.

The MoU aims to enhance mutual cooperation in areas such as curriculum development, research, innovation, skill develop-

ment, and industry-oriented training.

The agreement was formally signed by Shrinivas V Dempo, President of GCCCI, and Dr Krupashankara M S, Principal of GEC, in the presence of key dignitaries from both institutions.

Drug abuse awareness held at Curti higher secondary school

Team Herald

PONDA: Kamakshi Education Society’s Higher Secondary School (KES HSS), Curti, organised an awareness programme for its students on the occasion of International Day against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. Principal Surekha Naik

spoke about the importance of making informed choices and staying away from drugs.

Counsellor Kalpa Fatrekar delivered a comprehensive presentation based on the theme “The Evidence is Clear: Invest in Prevention.” Her talk, supported by a detailed power point presentation,

covered various aspects of drug abuse — including how to say ‘No’ to drugs, the consequences of drug use on individuals and society, the current drug scenario at the state, national and global levels, how to identify substances disguised as drugs, resisting peer pressure, and the legal

consequences of drug possession and trafficking.

As part of the programme, a poster competition titled “Say No to Drugs” was organised by teacher Molly Abraham. The exhibition of student-created posters was inaugurated by Principal Naik.

The competition saw en-

thusiastic participation from students where Geetika Gaude (XI Arts), Prem Gaude (XI Commerce) Smriti Shikumar (XI Science) won the first three places respectively while Heramb Gaude (XI Science) and Nitesh Wadkar (XI Science) won the first and second consolation prizes respectively.

National DOCTOR'S DAY Special Supplement



Supporting the well-being of medical professionals

Doctors work under immense pressure, especially in a populated country like India. Long hours, night shifts, and a perpetual responsibility for someone else’s well-being make it natural to feel overwhelmed and distressed under such an environment

Supporting the well-being of medical professionals’ National Doctors’ Day is observed on July 1, each year to acknowledge and recognise the contributions of physicians to lives and communities.

India is the birthplace of one of the oldest medicinal practices. In fact, Sushruta, an 8th century BC Indian physician, is considered the “founding father of surgery”. So it is no surprise that India is home to some of the world’s most skilled and efficient doctors. Indira Hinduja, Kamini A Rao, Devi Shetty, AGK Gokhale, Upendranath Brahmachari, etc, are some of the most well-known physicians in India. One such unforgettable doctor of India was Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy.

In 1991, the Government of India officially designated July 1, as National Doctors Day to honour renowned physician, freedom fighter, and ex-Chief Minister of West Bengal Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy’s legacy, professionalism, and humanitarian values in the field of healthcare and public health.

He played an important role in establishing several hospitals in India, even during the pre-independence period. Roy founded the Dr B C Roy Institute of Medical Sciences and Research as Chittaranjan Seva Sadan for women and children’s treatment in pre-in-



dependent India. Despite wanting to progress in his profession as a doctor, Roy accepted the role of Chief Minister of Bengal on Gandhiji’s advice and the Indian National Congress’ insistence. Despite the partition and formation of East Pakistan, which led to internal chaos and communal violence, Roy brought unity. He restored West Bengal’s law and order within about three years of office.

Roy was awarded the Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award in India, on February 4, 1961, for his contributions to medicine and West Bengal’s well-being. He passed away on July 1, 1962, the same day he was born in 1882. To commemorate this Indian hero who played a significant role in the Indian freedom struggle and the post-independent Indian government, his birth and death anniversaries are celebrated as National Doctors’ Day every year in India on July 1.

Behind the Mask: Who Heals the Healers?

This year’s theme, Behind

the Mask: Who Heals the Healers?, highlights the burdens doctors face as they selflessly put their patients first and often overlook their own care and the toll it takes on them mentally. The theme is a reminder to all of us that doctors are people as well and deserve the same amount of care they give to their patients. The celebration of medical pro-

shifts, and a perpetual responsibility for someone else’s well-being make it natural to feel overwhelmed and distressed under such an environment.

A study from a tertiary care hospital in North-India found that 30.1% of resident doctors were suffering from depression, 16.7% had had suicidal thoughts at some point, and up to 90% reported some level of burnout.

The suicide rate for doctors has been variably estimated to be between two and five times the general population rate.

In an Australian survey, thoughts of suicide were significantly higher in doctors (24.8%) compared with the general popula-

recognising and honouring their work and dedication to their profession is extremely important for doctors to feel seen and appreciated. Working at odd times of the day, missing their precious family times and enjoyment, forever updating themselves in this fast-paced medical world, etc, would be exhausting to anyone. Despite doing all of it, doctors faced severe backlash from COVID-19 victims’ families and society during the pandemic outbreak. If these real-life heroes feel they performed a thankless job and give up, it could be the downfall of our entire society.

Appreciating and wishing the doctors in our lives a “Happy National Doctors’ Day” for their hard work and societal service is one way to show your gratitude to these white coat heroes. It could go a long way in helping doctors with their personal and professional fulfilment.



professionals cannot be limited to times of pandemics and outbreaks, as they live each day on a war footing.

Significance of ‘Who Heals the Healers?’

Doctors work under immense pressure, especially in a populated country like India. Long hours, night

tion (13.3%) and other professionals (12.8%). Psychiatrists and non-patient specialties (where doctors do not come into direct contact with patients) had higher rates than other specialties.

Why honour doctors? Celebrating doctors by

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