

RAINS, WINDS LASH GOA, LEAVE ROADS FLOODED IN PANJIM

Cause traffic disruptions and poor visibility in capital city; four uprooted trees damage houses in Bhoomwada, Tuem

Team Herald

PANJIM: Heavy rains and strong winds lashed several parts of Goa on Wednesday, impacting normal life in Panjim.

Most roads in the capital city experienced flooding, leading to traffic disruptions and reduced visibility due to dense cloud cover.

In Pernem, sudden cyclonic rains and winds brought down four trees in Bhoomwada, Tuem around 3.30 pm. These trees fell on several houses, though no human injuries were reported. The Pernem Fire Services, along with panchayat members and local residents, assisted in clearing the fallen trees.



Namdev Parwar, an official with the Fire and Emergency Services (FES), informed reporters that Prakash Naik's house sustained damage estimated at approximately Rs 70,000. Another house was also damaged, with the loss yet

to be estimated.

Tuem panch member Sulaksha Naik stated, "Trees have fallen on the houses causing them heavy damage. We will try to help through the panchayat as much as possible."

A local Tulsidas Raut

said, "Around four houses have been damaged in the incident."

Anil Harmalkar, another panch member, commented, "The incident has shown what nature can do. The government should do something to help the people whose houses have been damaged."

The India Meteorological Department (IMD), Goa, reported that Panjim recorded 2.4 inches of rainfall and Dabolim 2.2 inches between 8.30 am and 5.30 pm on Wednesday. In the 24 hours leading up to 8.30 am on July 2, Dharbandora and Sanguem received over 3.93 inches of rainfall, followed by Sankhali with 2.5 inches and Ponda with 2.28 inches.

FDA suspends operations of 7 establishments in city

Team Herald

PANJIM: Following serious lapses, seven establishments in Panjim, where rodent infestation posed a substantial health risk, particularly near the interstate bus station managed by the RTO, were directed by the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) to suspend operations immediately until corrective measures are implemented.

This was informed by the Health Minister Vishwajit Rane after the FDA inspected 26 food business premises during a comprehensive surveillance drive on Wednesday at the Kadamba Transport Corporation (KTC) bus stand area to bolster food safety standards across Goa.

According to the Minister, the inspection revealed a positive trend, with several vendors demonstrat-



ing marked improvement in hygiene compliance since the previous visit by the FDA.

Penalties were imposed under Section 69 of the

Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSAI), 2006. Three vendors were fined Rs 10,000 each, while two others were penalised Rs 5,000 and Rs 2,000 respectively. Additionally, four kiosk operators at the KTC bus stand were fined Rs 5,000 each for hygiene violations.

Improvement notices were served under Section 32 of the FSSAI, with a follow-up verification drive scheduled for next week to assess compliance.

The inspection was led by Designated Officer Richard Noronha (North Goa), accompanied by officials Shradha Khutkar, Ankita Palyenkar, Pritam Parab, Safia Khan, Lenin De Sa, and Amit Mandrekar. The drive was conducted under the guidance of FDA Director, Shweta Desai. The KTC depot manager also joined the inspection team.

Plea in SC against HC verdict on Art 31-A of Code of Comunidades

Team Herald

PANJIM: A special leave petition (SLP) has been filed before the Supreme Court challenging the judgment of the High Court of Bombay at Goa dismissing insertion of Article 31-A into the Code of Comunidades via The Goa Legislative Diploma No. 2070 dated 15-4-1961 Amendment Act, 2025.

Adv Moses Pinto had filed a public interest litigation writ petition (PILWP) challenging the government's decision to amend the Code of Comunidades by inserting Article 31-A.

In his SLP, Adv Pinto has contended that Article 31-A, which empowers the State to revert the grant of land belonging to the Comunidade if granted for certain purpose either

by way of sale or lease or emphyteusis (aforamento) shall not be used for any other purpose except for the purpose for which the land was so granted, is constitutionally invalid.

The core ground of challenge is redundancy and arbitrariness: the pre-existing provisions of the Code of Comunidades, particularly Articles 341 to 346, already provide a detailed mechanism for the reversion of grants in case of non-compliance with conditions. Hence, the new amendment introduces excessive and vague powers, violating Article 14 of the Constitution, Adv Pinto has stated.

The petitioner also asserts that the High Court of Bombay at Goa failed to examine whether The Goa Legislative Diploma No. 2070 dat-

ed 15-4-1961 Amendment Act, 2025, was necessary at all, owing to the doctrine of manifest arbitrariness and whether the legislative overreach was considered at the time of dismissal of the PILWP on June 16, 2025.

The SLP aims to uphold constitutional discipline in legislative drafting and to challenge laws that may unjustifiably expand executive discretion at the cost of community land rights by subjecting the grants to the risk of being arbitrarily reverted by the State government.

Adv Pinto said that he has acted in the public interest to protect Goa's legal and land governance frameworks which is deeply embedded in the legislative ethos of the surviving Comunidade land administration system in the State.

Unified scholarship portal relaunched, 50,000 students to benefit

Team Herald

PANJIM: CM Scholarship Portal, a one-stop online platform for students to apply for scholarships across departments, including Social Welfare, Tribal Welfare, Education, and Higher Education, was relaunched by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Wednesday.

The portal <https://cmscholarship.goa.gov.in/> covers scholarships from pre-matric to higher education for SC, ST, OBC, and EWS students.

Speaking to reporters, the Chief Minister said while nearly 50,000 students are eligible under the scheme, most miss

out on them due to lack of awareness.

He assured that the scholarship funds will be disbursed within 15 to 30 days. He also said that Labour Welfare Fund scholarships will also be added to the portal shortly.

"Last year the portal was launched on a trial basis. Now, whether for the scholarship from Directorate of Social Welfare, Directorate of Higher Education or Directorate of Tribal Welfare, Director of Education or Higher Education, one will have to apply online by visiting the website. Benefits will reach within 15 days and maximum one month," he said.

High Court issues notices over permanent beach structures

Team Herald

PANJIM: The High Court of Bombay at Goa on Tuesday issued notices to the Calangute MLA and two others on a public interest litigation (PIL) writ petition challenging the constitutional validity of the Goa Erection of Shacks on Public Beaches (Regulation and Control) Act, 2024 so as to regulate the erection of shacks on public beaches in the State.

The PIL writ petition has been filed by Desmond Alvares, Jeremy Edward Sousa Ferreira, Colva Civic and Consumer Forum, Judith Almeida and Swapnesh Sherlekar.

The petitioners have prayed to declare the Goa Erection of Shacks on Pub-

lic Beaches (Regulation and Control) Act, 2024, as unconstitutional, ultra vires and void ab initio and to direct the respondents to strictly enforce the provisions of the CRZ Notification, 2011, and other environmental laws in the coastal areas.

Arguing on behalf of petitioners Adv Rohit Bras De Sa stated that permanent structures are being erected on beaches using cast iron pillars and concrete foundations thereby flattening sand dunes and removing beach vegetation using heavy machinery.

The petitioners have sought that the Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) to directed conduct a comprehensive sur-

vey of the coastal areas of Goa to identify and map all ecologically sensitive areas, including sand dunes, and to take appropriate measures for their protection and also to take appropriate action against all constructions that have been erected in violation of the CRZ Notification, 2011, and other environmental laws.

Advocate General Devidas Pangam told the Court that the government will file its reply within the next three weeks.

The Court issued notices to MLA Michael Lobo, Anjuna-Caisua village panchayat, and Gorakh Tuenkar, a field surveyor of GCZMA and posted the matter for next hearing on August 4.

Review govt's decision to denotify Tillari project Command Area: Activist

Team Herald

PANJIM: Environmental activist Swapnesh Sherlekar has urged the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti to review the Goa government's decision to denotify the Command Area of completed Tillari irrigation project at Dhargalim, Pernem.

In May this year, the State cabinet approved the denotification of 3,33,805 square metres from the notified command area of the completed Tillari Irrigation Project (TIP) situated at Dhargalim.

Sherlekar in his letter has urged the Union Ministry to review the Goa government's decision in light of existing legal notifications and public interest and to direct the Goa gov-

ernment to maintain the notified command area status to safeguard the agrarian ecosystem and ensure equitable water access.

He said it was disappointing and alarming that this proposal originating from the Water Resources Department (WRD), whose foremost mandate is to safeguard water security for irrigation and drinking purposes-seeks to denotify critical command area land in favour of a casino project under the aegis of the Goa Investment Promotion and Facilitation Board (Goa IPB). This action starkly contradicts the very principles of sustainable water governance and agricultural empowerment that the Tillari Irrigation Project was intended to uphold, he said.

SLEEPY AND UNSTEADY

JOSEPH FERNANDES



A man, seemingly in an inebriated state, was seen taking a nap under the shade of the Tortoise statue near Patto Bridge - a structure developed under the Smart City project. This beautified public space is often misused as a shelter by migrants, especially during extreme heat or rain. Authorities are urged to take appropriate measures to prevent such misuse and maintain the intended purpose and dignity of the structure.

Private bus owners seek study on 50% female fare concession

Will consider joining 'Majhi Bus Scheme' 2025, only after receiving outstanding subsidy payments

Team Herald

PANJIM: The All Goa Private Bus Owners' Association on Wednesday made it clear that bus owners will consider joining the 'Majhi Bus Scheme' 2025, following a detailed study with regards to 50% fare concession for women on both private and Kadamba buses, and only after receiving outstanding subsidy payments.

They also sought clarification on all the scheme points.

Speaking at a meeting to address several critical issues, association secretary Sudip Tamhankar said, "We are in regular contact with the Chief Minister and

the Transport Minister, and discussions are ongoing. Until there is full clarity, we will not participate in the scheme."

Meeting also addressed several critical issues, including the Chief Minister's announcement of a 50% fare concession for women on both private and Kadamba buses, the introduction of ticketing machines, and other proposed measures.

Tamhankar stated that none of these decisions were discussed with the Association beforehand.

The meeting also gathered input from bus operators regarding the bus scheme. Tamhankar

emphasised that the association's top priority is securing pending subsidy payments from July 2018 to July 2019 and stressed that bus owners would only consider joining the new scheme after receiving these outstanding payments.

Tamhankar reported that Association members reviewed the scheme's conditions and agreed not to participate without complete clarity on all aspects.

He said while the government proposed paying for nine months in one installment, with the remainder to follow, the Association demands a full upfront payment.

Security staff at Colvale jail held with charas

Team Herald

PANJIM: Security personnel at Colvale Central Jail on Wednesday apprehended a youth working under the government's apprentice scheme after 200 grams of suspected charas was allegedly found in his possession during a routine frisking at the second gate.

Sources revealed that the trainee, assigned as a CCTV camera operator, was intercepted at the entrance checkpoint and detained by prison guards.

This incident follows closely on the heels of a recent controversy involving Jail Warden Narayan Naik, who was suspended in connection with two liquor parties held by inmates inside the jail's cowshed. Naik, who was in charge

CAUGHT IN THE ACT

• Youth trainee under government's apprentice scheme caught with 200 grams of suspected charas

• Incident occurred during routine frisking at the second gate of Colvale Central Jail

• The trainee was working as a CCTV camera operator

of the cowshed, had allegedly allowed inmates unsupervised access under the pretext of cleaning duties. The parties, where liquor, tobacco, fish, and chicken were reportedly consumed, were exposed by IRB police deployed for prison security.

All are invited

150th Anniversary of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India

Government of Goa
DIRECTORATE OF TRIBAL WELFARE
PANAJI, GOA

Cordially invite you for

30 DAYS Bharat Ashirvadi Jambhantari Abhiyan

at flagship initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, New Delhi

on 3rd July, 2025 at 9:00 am onwards
Venue:- Sanguem Municipal Hall, Sanguem - Goa

Chief Guest
Shri. Jai Oram
Hon'ble Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, Government of India

Presided by
Dr. Pramod R. Sawant
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Goa.

In the distinguished presence of

Shri. Ramnath Tikvedkar
Hon'ble Speaker of Goa Legislative Assembly

Shri. Subhash Phal Desai
Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare

Shri. Sagarand Shet Tikvedkar
Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Tribal Welfare)

Captain Virgie Fernandes
Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) South Goa

Shri. Ganesh Beorkar
Hon'ble MLA of Bersondon Constituency & Chairman of GTDC

Shri. Nilesh Cabral
Hon'ble MLA of Curchiora Constituency

Shri. Altona D'Costa
Hon'ble MLA of Quessim Constituency

Ms. Chabita Yadav, IAS
Secretary, Tribal Welfare

Ms. Rigaa Chotus, IAS
Collector, South Goa District

Ms. Sanjivani Gajjar
Chairperson, Bargaon Municipal Council

Shri. Venkatesh M. Gankar
Chairman, Goa State Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation Ltd.

Chief Guest Inauguration

Shri. Dipak Desai
Director, Tribal Welfare

AWARENESS & BENEFIT SATURATION CAMP & HEALTH CAMP

FACILITY

ROUTINE SCREENING
DENTAL SCREENING
DENTAL CHECKUP
TB SCREENING
PRIMARY CARD CREATION

Empowering Tribes. Honouring Legacy. Ensuring Inclusion.