

shorttakes

TEEN DIES IN BICYCLE ACCIDENT ON STEEP SLOPE IN CURCHOREM

**MARGAO:** A 14-year-old boy from Cacora, Curchoem, tragically lost his life in a bicycle accident at Marutgad-Curchorem, on Sunday. Curchorem police reported that Darsh Dilip Prabhu Dessai, a ninth-standard student, was riding down a steep slope with his friend, Daksh Suresh Dessai, as a pillion rider. Darsh allegedly lost control of the bicycle, which crashed into a compound wall, causing both riders to sustain serious head injuries. Darsh was rushed to South Goa District Hospital, Margao, where he succumbed to his injuries during treatment. Daksh was transferred to GMC Bambolim for further medical care. Police conducted an inquest and a post-mortem, which determined the cause of death as 'damage to head and chest due to blunt force trauma'. Investigations are ongoing.

YOUTH FROM ODISHA FOUND DEAD IN CORTALIM

**MARGAO:** Subhagit Swain Rohit, a 27-year-old, native of Odisha residing in Kesarwal-Cortalim, was found dead by hanging in his locked room. Verna Police stated that the body was discovered through the window. Police conducted an inquest and scene panchanama, ruling out foul play. The body has been sent for a post-mortem at South Goa District Hospital, Margao.

FOREIGN NATIONAL DIES IN AGONDA GUEST HOUSE

**MARGAO:** A 56-year-old foreign national, Richard Moucha, residing at a guest house in Agonda-Canacona, was declared dead at the CHC Canacona after collapsing in his room. Canacona Police revealed that Richard had been staying alone at a guest house since January 18, 2025, and had reportedly been feeling unwell before collapsing. An ambulance transported him to the hospital, where doctors confirmed his death. The body has been preserved at South Goa District Hospital, Margao, for medico-legal formalities. PSI Babu Dessai is conducting further investigations.

GUEST HOUSE MANAGER BOOKED FOR VIOLATING FOREIGNERS ACT

**MARGAO:** Verna Police have filed a case against a guest house manager in Cansaulim for failing to comply with the Foreigners Act. According to the police, Lizette Fernandes, manager of the guest house at Prialwaddo-Cansaulim, accommodated two Russian nationals but failed to submit their C-forms to the FRRO in Panjim as required under Section 7(1) of the Foreigners Act. An offence under Section 14 of the Foreigners Act has been registered based on the complaint of PSI Rajdatt Arsekar. LPSI Pramila Fernandes is handling further investigations.

UNIDENTIFIED MAN RUN OVER BY TRAIN IN VASCO

**VASCO:** An unidentified man, believed to be around 50 years old, was fatally struck by a train near Vasco-da-Gama, on Monday. The deputy station manager reported the incident to Vasco Railway Police, who described the deceased as thin-built, wheatish in complexion, approximately 5'1" tall and wearing a white and black checked shirt with blue jeans at the time of the accident. The body has been preserved at South Goa District Hospital, Margao, for identification and medico-legal formalities. PSI Krishna Talpi of Vasco Railway Police Station is leading the investigation.

35-YEAR-OLD QUEPEM RESIDENT DIES BY SUICIDE

**MARGAO:** Sharad Shetye, aged 35, of Cotta-Amona in Quepem, tragically died by suicide at his residence. The deceased was found hanging. Quepem police attended the scene, conducting both a scene of occurrence panchanama and an inquest panchanama over the body. According to police, preliminary inquiries with family members revealed that Shetye had been suffering from depression. The body has been preserved at the South Goa District Hospital, Margao, pending further medico-legal procedures.

PROF SUNDER DHURI ASSUMES OFFICE AS REGISTRAR OF THE GOA UNIVERSITY

**PANJIM:** Prof Sunder Dhuri, Professor of Inorganic Chemistry on Monday assumed office as the new Registrar of Goa University. A distinguished academician, Prof Dhuri brings with him over two decades of teaching, research, and administrative experience. In addition to his academic and research pursuits, Prof Dhuri has held key administrative responsibilities, including the positions of Vice-Dean, Academics, School of Chemical Sciences; Director, Directorate of Internal Quality Assurance; Member of the Academic Council; Vice-Dean, Research, School of Chemical Sciences; Director, Directorate of Research Development and resource mobilisation; Director, Directorate of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan; Director, Directorate of Students Welfare and Cultural Affairs; Warden, Men's Hostel and many more.



Soaring coconut prices leave farmers grappling losses, consumers in despair

Team Herald

**PONDA:** Skyrocketing coconut prices have become a pressing issue, affecting farmers, vendors, and consumers alike. Discussions about the sharp price hike are rampant in markets and public places in Ponda, with the price hike being attributed to low production caused by prolonged rains, diseases, and animal interference.

According to sources at Ponda's Marketing Yard, farmers have reported a one-third drop in coconut yields this season. Prolonged rainfall during the monsoon, diseases such

as bud rot (locally called Suyaro), and insufficient maintenance of trees have contributed to the crisis. Farmers face increased difficulties due to the high cost of maintenance and coconut harvesting. Many are reluctant to hire pluckers as their fees often outweigh the revenue from smaller harvests. Vendors, too, are struggling, with reduced supplies from both local farmers and imports from other States. A vendor at the Ponda Agri Market remarked, "The low production and soaring prices have hit everyone—farmers, vendors, and consumers. The

government should step in to provide relief." The price hike has significantly impacted household budgets, with the smallest coconuts now priced at Rs 20-25, up from Rs 10-15. Medium-sized coconuts cost Rs 30-35, and larger ones have reached Rs 40-45. For the common man, these price jumps have made daily kitchen staples unaffordable. Ponda Zonal Agriculture Officer Omkar Desai stated that the prolonged rains disrupted the adequate sunlight needed for coconut trees, leading to lower yields. Diseases like bud rot

and nuisance caused by animals have further exacerbated the problem. "Surayo is a reason for the slow death of coconut trees," he said, adding that the government offers various schemes and training programmes to assist farmers in managing these challenges. Farmers and vendors are urging the government to take measures to stabilise coconut prices and support farmers during this difficult time. Suggestions include promoting the cultivation of new saplings, offering financial aid for maintenance, and improving disease control mechanisms.

BARDEZ FACES SEVERE WATER CRISIS AMID TILLARI CANAL REPAIRS

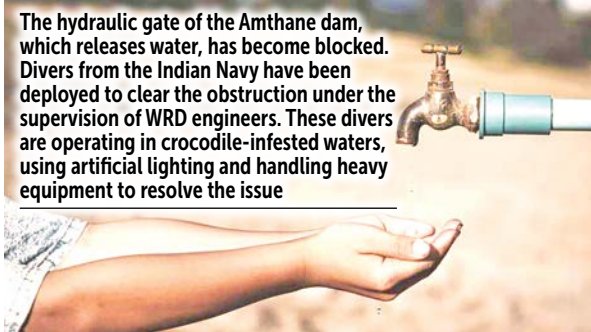
Efforts to restore supply delayed as repair work continues at Maharashtra's Kudase

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** The Bardez taluka has been grappling with a severe water shortage for the past three days. The situation worsened on the third day as the breach in the Tillari canal in Maharashtra remained unrepaired for 72 hours. Several localities in Bardez had to rely on water supplied by tankers.

Efforts to repair the canal breach at Bhomwadi, Kudase, Maharashtra, are ongoing on a war footing to restore the water supply to Goa. Despite Chief Minister Pramod Sawant's visit to the breach site and the Tillari-Amthane irrigation projects, the restoration

work has been indefinitely delayed. Sources within the Water Resources Department (WRD) revealed that repairs to the Tillari canal will require an additional five days to complete. In the meantime, water from the Sal barrage is being pumped to the Amthane reservoir. Engineers stationed at Amthane are working to ensure a steady supply to the Assonora water treatment plant. By late evening, the Assonora plant is expected to begin pumping treated water to Bardez. However, the likelihood of Mapusa receiving water by Wednesday, January 29, remains uncertain. Currently, 30 million li-



The hydraulic gate of the Amthane dam, which releases water, has become blocked. Divers from the Indian Navy have been deployed to clear the obstruction under the supervision of WRD engineers. These divers are operating in crocodile-infested waters, using artificial lighting and handling heavy equipment to resolve the issue

tres per day (MLD) of raw water is being supplied from Amthane to the Assonora water treatment plant, which is only a third of the required 100 MLD. Additionally, the hydraulic gate of the Amthane dam, which releases water, has become blocked. Divers from the Indian Navy have been de-

ployed to clear the obstruction under the supervision of WRD engineers. These divers are operating in crocodile-infested waters, using artificial lighting and handling heavy equipment to resolve the issue. Once the hydraulic gate is fully functional, normal water supply is expected to

resume.

Meanwhile, the Congress party has strongly criticised the Goa government over the worsening water crisis, describing it as a "state emergency" and demanding immediate action. Speaking at a press conference on Tuesday, North Goa District Congress Committee President Vijai Bhike condemned the government's "inadequate response" to the crisis, highlighting the millions of people struggling to access safe drinking water.

"The government's lack of action is unacceptable. It is their responsibility to ensure that every citizen has access to this basic necessity," Bhike said.

Siolim Mahila Block Congress President Parvati Nagvekar also accused the government of betraying public trust through its inaction. "The water crisis is severe, and the people of Goa deserve immediate solutions," she said.

The Congress leaders have demanded immediate steps to address the crisis, including increased funding for water conservation and management projects, promotion of water harvesting, and improvement of water infrastructure.

Meanwhile, Mapusa Municipal Council Chairperson, Nutan Bicholkar, stated that the municipality is doing its best to supply water to those in need.

DUSTY RELICS



Layers of dust coat the walls of a historic building near the Head Post Office in Panjim

SAGUN GAWADE

Government intensifies efforts to resolve forest rights cases

Team Herald

FOREST RIGHTS CASES SUMMARY (OCT 2024-JAN 2025)

NORTH GOA	SOUTH GOA
● Total Claims: 2,482	● Total Claims: 7,654
● Approved by SDL: 114	● Approved by Gram Sabha: 166
● Approved by DLC: 23	● Approved by SDL: 292
● Rejected: 11	● Approved by DLC: 242
	● Rejected: 45

**PANJIM:** The government is actively working to reduce the backlog of forest settlement rights cases in the State, with State-level executive committee meetings now being held more frequently.

Speaking to *O Herald*, a senior government official stated, "We are very serious about reducing the number of pending cases. State-level executive committee meetings are now being held frequently, unlike before."

The State-level executive committee is chaired by the Chief Secretary and includes the Revenue Secretary, Panchayat Secretary, Forest Secretary,

Collectors of both districts, and Block Development Officers (BDOs) from all tribal talukas.

According to the official, the committee's next meeting is scheduled for next week.

Last year, the High Court of Bombay at Goa directed the State government to determine and settle the rights and claims of Scheduled Tribes (STs) and other forest dwellers as per the law within 12

months. This directive was part of the Court's order dated 24th July 2023 concerning the notification of a Tiger Reserve.

VERNA SPORTS CLUB
LOTTERY DRAW held on 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2025
1 <sup>st</sup> Prize - 1300
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize - 0806
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize - 2578
CONSOLATION PRIZES
1 <sup>st</sup> - 2398, 2 <sup>nd</sup> - 2196, 3 <sup>rd</sup> - 2907, 4 <sup>th</sup> - 2407, 5 <sup>th</sup> 1967
Prizes to be collected within one month.
Contact :- 8698857231

Police sensitised on child protection laws

Team Herald

MORE GOA NEWS ON PG 7

**MARGAO:** A training programme titled 'Justice for Every Child: Enhancing Prosecution with Compassion' was held recently, organised by SCAN Goa in collaboration with the Office of the Superintendent of Police, South Goa, and VVM's Govind Kare College of Law. The event aimed to sensitise police officers on handling cases involving children and vulnerable individuals.

The programme was coordinated by Police Inspector Sudiksha Naik of the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit, Margao, under the guidance of Superintendent of Police, South Goa, Sunita Sawant.

Chief guest Poonam Bhatne highlighted the critical role of police in supporting victims and urged officers to treat the charge sheet as their 'baby' to ensure justice is upheld throughout trials. She unveiled a Ready Reckoner

poster for police stations, detailing offences against children.

Archana Bhoje emphasised key provisions of the BNS Act 2023 and the Goa Children's Act 2003, stressing the need for diligent and sensitive policing. Adv Chandan Shirodkar elaborated on the roles of police and Child Welfare Committees in cases under the POCOA Act 2012 and JJ Act 2015.

PI Rajesh Job conducted a session on cybercrime affecting children and women, offering practical insights. Former forensic expert Dr Silvano Dias Sapco stressed the importance of forensic involvement and avoiding procedural lapses during investigations.

The event, attended by 60 police sub-inspectors, concluded with certificates and mementos for participants and resource persons.

10 GOLDEN RULES FOR ROAD SAFETY

- 1 Normal speed meets every need.
- 2 Leave sooner, drive slower, live longer.
- 3 Its better to loose one minute than to loose life in one minute.
- 4 Avoid RASH driving and be a courteous driver.
- 5 Always wear helmet while riding & seat belt while driving.
- 6 Know the road signs and obey them.
- 7 Give priority to pedestrians on zebra crossing
- 8 Do not drive after drinking
- 9 Do not violate speed limits
- 10 Do not use mobile phone while driving or while crossing the road.

ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN "EMPATHY"

Issued by: Directorate of Transport Panaji Goa

