

Keri to get aquarium under 60:40 Centre-state funding

Staff Reporter
Panaji

A state-of-the-art aquarium project by the Fisheries Department is set to come up at Keri in Sattari taluka. The preparation of the detailed project report (DPR) for the same is under process.

The state government has already approved to revive the project and the work of preparation of DPR is allotted to the empanelled consultant Water and Power Consultancy Services (WAPCOS) and the same is under process.

An official of the Fisheries Department said that the project will be submitted to the Department of Fisheries of the Union Government for funding under the Pr-



The aquarium will feature different species of fish including freshwater as well as marine. The Department has already acquired nearly 8,000 square metres of land in the village.

dhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) with a funding pattern of 60:40 with Centre and state share respectively. "Various eco-tourism projects are being proposed in Keri village to promote it as a hinterland tourism area and this project will help in attracting tourists as well as locals," said the official.

Margao consumers want tougher legal met enforcement

Staff Reporter
Margao

With the rise in consumer fraud in Margao and its surrounding areas, which serve as the commercial hub of the state, residents are calling on the legal metrology department to ramp up inspections and enforce stricter penalties against wrongdoers.

An elderly resident said, "Many retailers are selling items without price tags and frequently alter the original tags. Cheating also involves manipulating weights, with many hiding or tampering with scales. During festive seasons, shopkeepers are exploiting consumers even more, leaving them at a significant disadvantage." Another consumer expressing concern said, "While we hear about Legal Metrology department officials conducting raids on various

shopkeepers, the number of reported violations remains low. The reality, however, is quite different. When customers visit hardware stores, clothing boutiques, grocery outlets, fruit and vegetable stalls, or meat vendors in any market, they frequently encounter items without price tags or issues with weight. These unscrupulous vendors are effectively committing daylight robbery, exacerbating the problem of consumer cheating."

Consumer fraud, including the sale of substandard goods, unpriced items, and underweight products, is widespread, particularly during exhibitions. Despite the GOACAN NGO's efforts to raise awareness, file complaints, conduct inspections with officials, and penalize offenders, incidents of consumer cheating continue to rise.

With 280 pending cases, MMC outpaces 12 other municipalities

Staff Reporter
Margao

Among the 13 municipalities in Goa, the Margao Municipality stands out for having the highest number of cases brought before the court of the chief officer, totaling 280 over the past three years. Interestingly, only 27 of these cases were resolved during that period. This low resolution rate is attributed to the frequent transfers of chief officers in this A-class municipality.

Alert citizens have claimed that the disclosed figure of 280 cases over three years, as revealed by the Minister for Urban Development, Vishwajit Rane,

in response to a query from Goa Forward Party chief and Fatorda MLA Vijai Sardesai, is likely an under-estimation.

"The ongoing cases primarily involve individuals who have been unfairly targeted and intimidated. It is probable that there are many more complaints and applications that the Margao Municipality has received in the past three years," said Savio Coutinho, former chairperson of the Margao Municipal Council.

In comparison, the Mormugao Municipal Council follows with the second highest number of cases at 189, out of which 87 have been resolved.

Death trap: Missing drain cover endangers Valpoi pedestrians

Staff Reporter
Valpoi

A missing drain cover on a footpath in Valpoi presents a hazard to pedestrians, particularly at night due to poor lighting. The drain cover has been missing for over 20 days.

"The opening on the pavement is at the entrance of the Valpoi Municipal Council's commercial complex. The broken slab was removed, but it has not been replaced," said a local businessman.

An elderly resident said that in some areas the footpaths are uneven due to displaced pavers and are dangerously slippery. "Ensuring pedestrian-friendly streets should be a priority for the local administration," he said.

Locals have criticised the council for its negligence. "Their failure to address the missing cover poses a serious risk to pedestrians, especially those who are visually impaired," said a social worker.

Telaulim-Varca bridge railing awaits restoration a year after accident

Staff Reporter
Margao

A year after a speeding car damaged a 20 metre stretch of the protective railing on the Telaulim-Varca bridge, the Public Works Department (PWD) has yet to restore it, posing a threat to pedestrians who frequent the bridge's promenade.

The Navhind Times previously reported the railing's poor condition due to corrosion, which was compromising its stability. The PWD responded by merely applying a coat of paint, neglecting the necessary repairs on both sides of the bridge.

Last monsoon, a speed-

ing car veered off the road, taking down nearly 20 meters of the protective railing. The Telaulim village panchayat had alerted the PWD and urged it to repair the damaged section.

"The bridge has been neglected, with absolutely no maintenance," local residents said. "The corroded railings are a serious hazard, and someone could fall into the river due to this negligence. Many people visit the bridge to enjoy the scenery, and others use it for walking."

Villagers are demanding the immediate repair and restoration of the protective railing to ensure public safety.

MMC's green blind spot: Margao footpaths choked with weeds

Staff Reporter
Margao

Despite significant expenditure on constructing footpaths in and around Margao, poor maintenance has led to overgrown weeds and wild creepers, posing a risk to the lives of pedestrians. The issue is particularly evident along the stretch of road from the KRC station to the Rawanfond area.

Concerned citizens have urged prompt action by MMC and other authorities to trim the weeds and clear footpaths, questioning the purpose of unusable footpaths. Slippery conditions post-rainfall also endanger pedestrians, prompting cautious use or avoidance of the MMC garden-surrounding paths.

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Slippery conditions post-rainfall also endanger pedestrians, prompting cautious use or avoidance of the MMC garden-surrounding paths.

"After heavy rainfall, many footpaths maintained by MMC have become slippery. Consequently, people prefer the road, especially near the MMC garden, exercising extra caution," said John Fernandes of Maddel. Several residents have urged the authorities to trim overgrown plants along these footpaths.

DMC College, Blue Kites join hands for green initiative

Staff Reporter
Panaji

In an effort to promote sustainability and lend support to local farmers, Dnyanprassarak Mandal's College and Research Centre, Mapusa in collaboration with The Blue Kite and Unnat Bharat Abhiyan launched a tree plantation and distribution programme at Dr Malik Farm, Hassapur, Pernem recently.

Farmers received 1,000 fruit-bearing plants including jamun, coconut, breadfruit, cashew, tamarind, mango and 3,000 kg of organic compost.

The Blue Kite pledged to track the maintenance of the plants through two stu-



The Blue Kite pledged to track the maintenance of the plants through two students from DMC College, who will receive scholarships for a period of two years.

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Caroline Mulliez, CEO of The Blue Kite, said the company is committed towards sustainable development to

enhance farmers' income. "By planting 1,000 fruit-bearing trees, we are not only contributing to Goa's green landscape, but also supporting our local farmers and reducing carbon emissions," she said.

Associate professor and nodal officer for Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA), Rajesh Pednekar highlighted the work done by the college under UBA & Community Outreach Cell, linking higher education to the community's needs.

Chairman and Director of Pernem Taluka for Farmers Producers Company, Uday Prabhudesai appreciated the work by the college and assured all the help for various projects. The event was attended by Pernem Zonal Agricultural Officer Prakash Palyekar, local panch member Prajaya Malik, Blue Kite official Namdev Tulaskar, DMC college professors and students of Goa Agriculture College.

Goa Archdiocese unveils annual directory on St Lawrence feast day

Staff Reporter
Panaji

Coinciding with the feast of St Lawrence, the Archdiocese of Goa and Daman unveiled its annual Directory for 2024-2025 on August 10. The release took place at the Archbishop's House, officiated by Archbishop Patriarch Filipe Neri Cardinal Ferrao and Auxiliary Bishop Simiao Fernandes.

The event was attended by Fr Barry Cardozo, Director of the Diocesan Centre for Social Communications Media, along with staff members Janet Barcellos and Romualdo Fernandes.

In his address, the archbishop extended congratulations to the Diocesan Centre for Social Communications Media for completing a challenging task. He expressed hope that the directory would serve as a



Archbishop Patriarch Filipe Neri Cardinal Ferrao extended congratulations to the Diocesan Centre for Social Communications Media for completing a challenging task.

significant step toward fostering a Communion of Communities within the Archdiocese, encouraging collective progress as "Pilgrims of Hope." Auxiliary Bishop Simiao Fernandes praised the Directory of the Archdiocese of Goa and Daman as a commendable initiative by the Diocesan Centre for Social Communications Media (DCSCM).

He said that the directory serves as a valuable tool and a potent asset in the mission to be Messengers of the Good News, offering a beacon of hope to those facing various challenges. He said that, as the Archdiocese continues its journey in synodality, the directory will facilitate connections among Christ's Faithful across different walks of life.

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			Contract	01
2.	Teacher Grade - I in Konkani	M.A. in Konkani with B.Ed.	Regular	01
			Contract	01
3.	Teacher Grade - I in Computer Science	B.E./M.E. in Computer Engineering or M.C.A.	Regular	01
4.	Teacher Grade - I in French	M.A. in French with B.Ed.	Contract	01
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1. Those already in service should forward their applications through proper channel.
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WALK - IN - INTERVIEW

A walk-in-interview is scheduled for a Project Assistant position on 14th August, 2024 at 10 am, for Goa State Research Foundation (GSRF) sponsored Major research project entitled "Exploring possible lead compounds towards development of potential anti-flavivirus agents", under the supervision of the project investigator, Prof. Vidya G. Desai, Department of Chemistry.

Essential Qualification: M.Sc. Organic Chemistry with a minimum of 55% marks.
Age Limit: upto 28 years.
Fellowship or Assistantship: Rs 20,000/- per month.
Duration of the fellowship: Three years

No TA/DA will be paid for attending the interview.

For further details contact: 7620568264 Sd/-
Shri. Kiran H. Shirodkar
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Date: 11/08/2024.

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