

WAY OF THE CROSS

VINCENT BRAGANZA



HOLY STEPS: Confrarias of Santo Cristo Church walk in a procession with the statues of Jesus carrying the cross, followed by Mother Mary, at Vanxim Island, near Divar, on Sunday

Elusive leopard finally trapped at Canacona

Team Herald

CANACONA: The elusive leopard which stalked and killed two domestic dogs in Kolamb, Patnem here was finally trapped by the forest department and released at the Bondla wild-life sanctuary.

But the villagers were in for a bigger shock after

two more big cats were spotted prowling around in the neighbourhood.

"A leopard had terrorised locals in Mashem area of Loliem-Polem panchayat who was later captured by the forest department two days ago. But given the increase in human interference in the forests of Goa and overall

rise in the number of tourists in State, wild animals are losing out on their natural habitat," said local named Afonso.

"In Gaodongrim, Cotigao and Shristhal, wild animals are damaging crops since they cannot find their food in their natural habitat anymore," said farmer Krushna Velip from Shristhal.

Team Herald

PANJIM: The GAKUVED Federation on Sunday asked the State government to come out with a notification with regards to reserving four seats for ST community in Goa Assembly within 48 hours or face hunger strike.

Addressing a press conference, GAKUVED General Secretary Rupesh Velip alleged that the State government was playing tricks to deny constitutional rights of political reservation to scheduled tribes community of Goa.

He said, "On February 24, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant along with ST delegation met Home Minister Amit Shah who assured to take up urgent matter in the upcoming cabinet meeting of central ministers scheduled on February 28, 2024, and

pass a resolution to constitute delimitation commission before the code of conduct of parliamentary elections."

"But it was surprising to learn that though the meeting was held a day later but no resolution or decision was passed nor ordinance was issued on reservation despite several assurances by successive governments for the past 20 years," he said.

Velip expressed dissatisfaction on the delay tactics and urged to resolve the long pending demand on priority basis before the code of conduct for the Lok Sabha elections comes into force.

He stated that the Supreme Court of India in 2012 in its landmark judgement in the case of Virendra Pratap v/s Union of India had directed Election Commission of

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— Rupesh Velip, General Secretary, GAKUVED

India to decide on the ST seats of all states within three months, and in 2013 Bombay High Court had directed Election Commission to declare ST seats in Goa within 8 months but the successive governments failed to act and give justice to the Scheduled Tribes of Goa.

"Our only demand is that since the delimitation commission was

already constituted in 2020 to reserve seats for Jammu and Kashmir, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland under chairmanship of Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, the Modi government should send recommendation to the President for promulgation of ordinance and include Goa in Gazette notification of Ministry

of Law and Justice dated 6.3.2020 or come up with similar notification for state of Goa and bring final notification to reserve four constituencies for Scheduled Tribes of Goa in Assembly or at part with Jammu and Kashmir, issue similar executive order for constitution of delimitation commission for state of Goa to provide reservation to scheduled tribes of Goa in Assembly before 2024 parliamentary elections instead of constituting fresh delimitation commission which will take long time and we may not get reservation even in 2027 assembly elections," Velip said.

He further said that in case the government failed to accept GAKUVED's demand, the members of the ST community will be forced to start a chain hunger strike.

citizenherald

Will the killer road at Marna Siolim ever be widened?

The Mapusa Ganeshpuri-Marna Siolim road is highly prone to accidents. Several lives have been lost here, while many others are still recovering from the terrible mishaps that regularly happen at this dangerous spot. The road is also known as the 'killer' road because of the faulty engineering designs.

Very often heavy vehicles despite being banned on this route

CITIZEN
WENCY PEREIRA
Siolim

take short cuts to Siolim from Mapusa and end up landing in the neighbouring compound opposite often claiming innocent lives. The poor land lady keeps repairing her compound wall which is knocked down regularly. Unfortunately neither the Vil-

lage panchayat of Marna-Siolim nor the MLAs past and present have shown any inclination to save lives by either widening the road at blind spots or constructing a by-pass road from the pathway. All the present MLA and panchas are doing is widening main roads by mercilessly cutting age-old trees and then posing for photo ops and taking credit for unwanted projects all for the benefits of tourists.

Very often concerned citizens had called for meeting from various departments to sort out the issue. Besides wasting public money on tea and coffee on senseless meetings and paying lip service, the authorities have done nothing to save lives and stop accidents at this dangerous spot.

Is the government waiting for major tragedies to happen to wake up from slumber?



Unbearable garbage stink



The new major district road from Chandor to Margao has become a garbage dumping ground besides a death trap for road users.

CITIZEN
JOAQUIM DIAS
Chandor

At 'Deva Marg' on this road is full of dumped garbage which citizens throw

every morning when using this road from Quepem via Chandor Margao.

Such clean fields and forested area is getting turned into garbage ground and stinking place.

PWD is another white elephant who is responsible for all this garbage mess on road and shoddy maintenance. PWD and government has named this major district road but where are the sign boards

to stop garbage from being dumped here?

Where are the signs for uneven surface and speed breakers? Is the PWD and local panchayat really concerned about well being of the locals?

We hope CCTVs are installed by panchayat and PWD and strict enforcement takes place before this Deva Marg on the new road becomes stinking Sonsoddo.

Light-house at Campal is under threat of forced extinction

The internationally acclaimed path indicators to the voyagers and mariners and others, have been well recognized and of the crucial importance due to their intrinsic values in guiding the Captains of the sea men in ensuring safety of their travels.

CITIZEN
ANIL LAAD
Panjim

It becomes, therefore, the duty of the governments, to take utmost care in safeguarding and protecting such of the lifesaving installations, known as, Light-houses, and keep them well maintained and serviceable.

Surprisingly, the decades old Light-house in Campala has been under



serious condition with the threat of extinction. The port authorities or the government, as the case may be, need to

urgently act upon to save this esteemed installation, at Campala, from being getting collapsed to the ground.

Traffic chaos reigns at Varunapuri junction



From the time the highway from Varunapuri to Sada was thrown open the traffic along the route has increased manifold. As a result there is traffic congestion at the Varunapuri-Mangor junction.

However there are no traffic signals here. Several accidents have been reported here including a fatal one.

It is pertinent to note that there are several traffic sig-

CITIZEN
ADELMO FERNANDES
Vasco

nals along this highway from Verna junction to Dabolim Airport but not at this particular junction.

The authorities concerned need to see to it that traffic signals are installed at this busy junction as soon as possible.

Political influence must not hold back development of Salvador do Mundo

Locals have been demanding that the village panchayat of Salvador do Mundo do up the interior road passing through Umbra, Quitla vaddos to join at the intersection near the ruins of Serula comunidade building.

CITIZEN
AYRES SEQUEIRA
Salvador do Mundo

A little patch work has been done here and there but that's not sufficient to keep safe lives of the general public.

In most places, the road has been cut across to provide water connection to the locals. This causes, particularly two

wheelers and vehicles to bump into each other.

We are given to understand that the road has been approved and passed for hot mixing but some political influence is holding back the work for unknown reasons. This is criminal and an inhuman act seeking self interest.

This being election year, funds have been allocated for development purpose and most roads have been done.

Why should we, the villagers of Salvador do Mundo, be the victims for no reason. The concerned authority must look into this problem and our road travelling inconvenience and do up the road on priority.



Banastarim locals inconvenienced due to lethargic approach of PWD staff

The PWD office at Banastarim is replacing non functioning meters and the job to do so has been sublet to a contractor.

CITIZEN
SEBASTIAN FERNANDES
Narao

While the meters are replaced, the details are not sent on time to the revenue cell at St Inez. As a result, the details are fed after three months.

The consumers then receive huge bills which are difficult for the common man to pay given their limited resources.

When this matter was brought to the notice of



the Revenue Cell staff, they admitted their fault and stated that the Assistant Engineer at Inez was not available to the public.

Also the issue of change of name and new water connections are delayed by the staff here for reasons best known to them and consumers are made to visit the office on sev-

eral occasions.

The Revenue Cell at St Inez aslo refuses to accept any application for correction of bills without any authority letter.

The concerned authori-

ties need to look into this at the earliest to avoid inconvenience to the public. Remember that the PWD is duty bound to serve the public in particular and the tax-payer in general.

appointments

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