

Boulder-stewn hill slopes at Connem, Priol NH leave commuters nervous

Team Herald

PONDA: Thousands of commuters plying on Ponda-Panjim NH now fear for their lives from precarious boulders that keep rolling down the bare hills at the Connem Priol NH.

Illegal hill cutting in the areas has exposed boulders posing danger to motorists here.

It may be recalled that a major landslide occurred on July 7, causing mud, boulders, and trees to fall onto the highway. The vertical nature of the landslide poses a continued risk of further landslides. Erosion of soil at tree roots exacerbates the situation. Traffic was halted for hours after the landslide, leading to diversions through internal roads. With heavy rains exposing boulders, commuters are urging authorities to take action. Sandeep Naik highlighted the potential danger to bikers if loose boulders fall. Authorities must take precautions to

prevent accidents on this busy route, stated Naik.

Social activist Sandeep Parkar from Khandepar has brought the attention to the dangerous hill cutting activities taking place at Connem Priol. He emphasized the vertical nature of the hills and highlighted the importance of protecting them, especially in light of the recent Wayanad Kerala incident. Given that Goa is located in the environmentally sensitive Western Ghats region, Parkar stressed the need for the government to take action against illegal hill-cutting practices.

Parkar urged the Goa government to address the complaints regarding illegal hill cutting that have been reported to the flying squad over the past years. He demanded that violators to be directed to restore the hills to ensure the safety of the public residing in the vicinity of these hills.



PICS SANTOSH NAIK

TCP OFFICIAL FILES PLAINT AGAINST ILLEGAL HILL CUTTING AT PRIOL



Team Herald

PONDA: Premananad N Akarkar, Planning Officer with the Town and Country Planning Department, Ponda, filed a complaint with the police against unknown accused regarding illegal hill cutting activities in Priol. The official in his com-

plaint stated that there was unauthorized hill cutting activities going on in Survey No 255/2 of Priol Village without obtaining prior written permission thereby violating the provisions of the TCP Act. PSI Zaki Hussain of Mardol Police Station was investigating the case

FRAUGHT WITH DANGER

SAGUN GAWADE



An angler dangerously sits on concrete slab amidst the rising waves at the Mormugao Harbour, Alto Desterro, Vasco

Raia villagers celebrate Konsanchem Fest with pomp and fervour

Team Herald

MARGAO: In a tradition that dates back 300-plus years, on Monday, August 5, villagers of Raia and from various parts of Salcete converged to celebrate the age-old 'Konsanchem Fest' yesterday.

The feast of Our Lady of Snows Church in Raia was celebrated with pomp and gaiety, especially when Goa's Auxiliary Bishop Rev Fr Simião Purificação Fernandes, blessed the field for a bountiful harvest descended into the fields along with the parish priest and cut the first sheaves of paddy, using a silver sickle, to ceremoniously cut the first sheaf of grain. The paddy metal sheaf later adorn the main altar of 'Our Lady of Snows'



Church Raia during the Eucharistic celebration.

The feast celebrates the cutting of the first sheaves 'konsa' of the rice harvest. To commemorate it, farmers and other villagers participated enthusiastically

and collected the blessed sheaves that were distributed after they were cut. Auxiliary Bishop blessed the farmers for providing food grains to the State.

Incidentally, Raia is the first village to harvest pad-

dy, heralding the beginning of the harvesting season in Goa and it attracts people from all over Salcete.

The harvest also has biblical significance. It may be recalled that in the book of Genesis, Abel offered his best sheaves of corn to God. The local community emphasized that the festival emphasized on the first corn and that it serves to boost agriculture.

The parish youth put up a live brass band for the feast mass.

There were a lot of programmes after the feast mass also to commemorate the feast day that is of great importance to the local residents of Raia.

Of course there were freshly baked grams, khajem, clothes and utensils at the fair.

Betalbatim sarpanch says issue of new controversial project pending before HC

Team Herald

MARGAO: The Betalbatim village panchayat convened a public meeting on Sunday to address residents' concerns about a new construction project opposite the Panchayat Ghar. Sarpanch Anthony Fernandes, accompanied by panchayat members and former MLA Mickky Pacheco, led the discussion.

Fernandes explained that the meeting was organized in response to accusations raised during the previous gram sabha. Residents had claimed the panchayat was turning a blind eye to ongoing construction activities. "I clarified that the Panchayat Secretary issued the construction license based on Town and Country Planning (TCP) clearance. Although we attempted to revoke the license, the Additional Panchayat Director overturned our deci-

sion," stated Fernandes

The Sarpanch informed attendees that the matter is currently awaiting a High Court decision, expected later this month. "We have appealed to the High Court, and a ruling is anticipated soon," he added.

John Fernandes, the restaurant owner responsible for the construction, later addressed the media. He assured that his project fully complies with legal requirements, having received approval from the TCP department. Fernandes reiterated that his construction work adheres strictly to the conditions of the issued license.

It may be recalled that the public meeting was convened for the panchayat to communicate directly with residents, who had wanted their concerns to be addressed and to be provided with clarity on the ongoing legal proceedings surrounding the construction project.

Valpoi-Bhironda roads in pathetic condition



SIDRA KHAN

Team Herald

PORIEM: Motorists, scooterists and commuters face the brunt of potholes along the Valpoi-Bhironda roads.

Travellers are surprised to see that the road and bridge which was constructed about one month ago has developed gaping potholes.

Residents say that the construction work of the new bridge at Bhironda was carried during beginning of the monsoon and was thrown open for public within a month.

During the period of construction of this bridge, an alternative route mud road was constructed adjacent to the bridge and during heavy rains the road was kept closed for public.

Motorists have questioned the quality of the work since the asphalt on the newly laid road has been washed away with the rains.

The condition of this road is so bad that the commuters have to stop and carefully manoeuvre along the road.

A commuter who frequently takes this road to office expressed his frustration.

"I travel daily through this route as my office is in Ponda and I am fed up with these potholes. When it rains the potholes are filled with water and the road is in a dangerous state. I had a miraculous escape after falling from my bike" said a resident from Valpoi.

Another Valpoi resident who goes to Margao for work said that his car was damaged after it landed in a

RACHOL VP HOLDS TREE PLANTATION DRIVE

MARGAO: The Rachol Village Panchayat, in collaboration with Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB) via the Rachol Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC), organized a tree plantation and sapling distribution program along the banks of the Zuari River at Ilha de Rachol. Sarpanch Joseph Vaz emphasized upon the critical importance of tree plantation for environmental conservation.

APPOINTMENTS

WANTED

- Teacher in Health & Physical Education - 01 post (Contract Basis)**
Qualif.: Master's degree in Physical Education with 50% marks.
- Multi-Tasking Staff - 01 post (Contract Basis)**
Min. Qualif.: S.S.C.E. or equivalent.

Applications with full bio-data, valid employment exchange registration card, 15 years residence certificate and other relevant documents should reach the Administrator, St. Joseph Vaz Institute of Education, Church Street, Cortalim, Mormugao, Goa - 403710 within 7 days from the date of publication of this advertisement.



The Unity Mall will showcase local products. Are the Taleigao vegetables coming to Panjim Market? No. Are the watermelons from St Cruz coming to the Panjim Market? No. The beans and chillies grown in Bicholim do not go to the Bicholim market. Why can't you put up a 20-storeyed building where the handicrafts head office is proposed at Mala? Who is stopping the government? You are bent on destroying Goan land. Believe me on not, if you build the mall at Chimbel plateau, a Wayanad like situation will happen in Chimbel village. All the medicinal plants will be destroyed. Their dirt and waste will flow into the village. Water will be destroyed.

— Tanoj Adwalpalkar, social activist

DOES GOA REQUIRE A UNITY MALL, WHEN A MASSIVE HANDICRAFTS HEAD OFFICE IS COMING UP IN MALA?

Due to the proposed Unity Mall at Kadamba Plateau, it is feared that there will be large scale destruction of biodiversity. This has infuriated many locals over the possible destruction. In this edition of Street Voices, Herald TV spoke to people on whether Goa requires a Unity Mall for handicrafts when a massive handicrafts head office is coming up in Mala.

“It is wrong to select his place for Unity Mall. The water of the Chimbel Lake was supplied to Panjim during the Portuguese regime. We also have our field where we earn our livelihood. The plateau is rich in biodiversity. We opposed the IT project and the PIL is still pending in the court. They gave us the relief that in case the government comes up with anything, they can approach the court. Some person came here and started clearing the bushes. I went up to the engineer and asked what was happening. He told me the Unity Mall was proposed here. Why do you want to put up a mall here? When your handicraft building is coming up at Mala, why do you want to put up a mall here?”

— Govind Shirodkar, Chairman, Bio Diversity Committee, Chimbel

“The central project of Unity Mall in each State is not a problem. How much is the existing flow of people in the existing malls? Do people frequent these malls? The Unity Mall is proposed at the previous proposed location of IT Park at Chimbel. The locals have opposed the IT Park and it was scrapped. It was opposed and scrapped due to the devastating effects it would have on the environment, the Chimbel Lake and the lives of the people. This project too will be opposed. Previously, government had acquired the (Zuari) land at 25 paise and now it is given to the builders. What kind of logic is this?”

— Mariano Ferrao, Social Activist

Watch Street Voices in our English news bulletins at 3 pm and 8 pm and the Konkani bulletin at 9 pm on Herald TV and YouTube

YouTube



To watch this story on Herald TV's Youtube channel, scan this code or go directly to our YouTube channel

ST. XAVIER'S HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL, MAPUSA, BARDEZ-GOA

Managed by DIOCESAN SOCIETY OF EDUCATION (DSE)

Sr. No.	Name of the Post	Qualifications	Post	No. of Post	
1.	Teacher Grade-I in Mathematics	M.Sc. (Mathematics) & B.Ed.	Regular Basis	01	Applications with testimonials are invited within 08 days from the date of advertisement
2.	Teacher Grade-I in Hindi	M.A. (Hindi) & B.Ed.	Contract basis	02	Walk-in Interview on Monday 12.08.2024 at 9:00 a.m. (post till the end of the academic year 2024-25)
3.	Physical Education Teacher	B.A./B.Com./B.Sc. & M.Ped. or M.A./M.Com./M.Sc. & B.Ped.	Contract basis	01	
4.	Teacher Grade -I in Konkani	M.A. (Konkani) & B.Ed.	Contract basis	01	Walk-in Interview on Monday 12.08.2024 at 11:00 a.m. (post till the end of the academic year 2024-25)
5.	Lower Division Clerk	XII / B.Com. (Computer course)	Contract basis	01	

Candidates below 45 years of age having valid Employment Exchange Registration, Residence Certificate and requisite Qualifications as per Recruitment Rules in force may apply to The Manager, St. Xavier's Higher Secondary School, Mapusa Goa.

MANAGER