

Amid cholera spread, govt threatens to seal Cutbona fishing jetty over poor sanitation

30-40 toilets to be installed at the jetty early next week; boat owners' federation to fund new sanitation measures

Team Herald

MARGAO: Taking the cholera outbreak seriously, the government has warned fishing vessel owners at the Cutbona that the entire jetty could be shut down if sanitation and vessel management do not improve.

During a meeting held in Margao on Saturday, discussions focused on measures to manage and mitigate the cholera outbreak. As part of the government's broader efforts, there was deliberation on ensuring proper hygiene and sanitary practices at key locations, including the Cutbona jetty. These measures aim to address the outbreak by improving sanitation and



preventing further spread of the disease.

On the same day, a team from the Captain of Ports conducted an inspection at the Cutbona jetty to assess the condition of the vessels anchored there. Additionally, the enforcement agency filed cases against several general store owners operating at the jetty for issues

related to their weighing machines.

On Saturday, Environment Minister Aleixo Sequeira held a meeting with the Cutbona boat and trawler owners' federation to deliberate on the public health crisis and ensuring improved sanitation and compliance at the jetty.

A day prior, Minister for

ABANDONED BOATS WILL BE CONFISCATED, IF NOT REMOVED FROM THE JETTY

On Saturday, a team from the Fisheries Department began posting notices to the owners of abandoned vessels, instructing them to remove their abandoned boats or face confiscation. Additionally, the Captain of Ports conducted a survey to assess the condition of the fishing vessels. "Appropriate action will be initiated once the report on the vessels' conditions is prepared," Sequeira informed.

Fisheries Nilkant Halarnkar, during a joint meeting in Margao, decided to conduct a survey at the Cutbona fishing jetty. The survey aims to demarcate the land acquired by the Fisheries Department before making a decision regarding the demolition of structures along the jetty road.

Halarnkar also placed

blame on the stakeholders for the sanitation problems at the jetty. He criticised them for contributing to the threat of a cholera epidemic.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Sequeira emphasised that the government is taking the issue very seriously and will not hesitate to seal the jetty if vessel

owners fail to comply with the required conditions.

"The government has the power to seal the jetty, as we don't want such a disease to spread," Sequeira stated.

He added that an agency will be providing 30-40 toilets at the jetty, with work expected to begin on Monday or Tuesday, along with other necessary hygiene facilities. The agency, in collaboration with the boat-trawler owners' federation, will ensure cleanliness at the jetty and around the newly installed toilets.

"The fees for the concerned agency will be covered by the federation, and the rate will be determined by them," said the Minister.

shorttakes



The construction of a road on a sloped stretch on a hillock in Sodiem-Siolim raised eyebrows on Saturday, with locals wondering why the work was being undertaken on a holiday. The workers continued filling the stretch with rubble, working into the night. The villagers filed a complaint with the police, requesting them to probe the matter

1 ODISHA MAN NABBED WITH STOLEN VEHICLE IN MAHARASHTRA

MARGAO: Colva police, with the assistance of Panchod police station in Maharashtra, have arrested Mukesh Bhoi of Sambalpur, Odisha, for stealing his employer's pick-up vehicle. Bhoi was apprehended in Panchod, Maharashtra, and brought to Colva along with the vehicle that he had stolen. He was later produced before the Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) in Margao, where he was remanded in custody for five days.

The police recovered the stolen vehicle, valued at Rs 12 lakh, from Bhoi. Valancio Joseph Fernandes, a resident of Sernabatim, had reported that his driver had stolen the vehicle on September 11.

2 ELECTRICAL PANEL BURSTS IN FLAMES NEAR MARGAO RLY STATION, LOCALS DOUSE BLAZE

MARGAO: In a shocking incident, an electrical panel caught fire near the Konkarni Railway police station in Margao.

According to Gil Souza, Station Fire Officer, a team was dispatched to the scene. However, locals managed to extinguish the fire before the duty crew arrived. The estimated loss is not known, and the cause of the fire is still unclear.

3 WEST BENGAL MAN BROUGHT DEAD TO HOSPITAL, NO FOUL PLAY SUSPECTED

MARGAO: Badal Das of Gorvate, Nuvem, a native of West Bengal, died at the South Goa District Hospital. Maina-Curtorim Police registered the case under Section 194 BNSS after they received information from Hospital Police Constable Ashok that Badal Das was brought dead to the casualty.

During the inquiry, it was revealed that Badal Das had complained of chest pain.

Dr Anup Chandran, who performed the post-mortem, certified the cause of death as myocardial ischemia consequent to occlusive coronary artery disease in a person with chronic pancreatitis. The body was later handed over to the relatives. No foul play is suspected.

4 GOA GOVERNOR P S SREEDHARAN PILLAI EXTENDS GREETINGS ON ONAM

PANJIM: Governor P S Sreedharan Pillai has extended his heartiest greetings and warm wishes to the people of Goa and particularly those brethren from Kerala and other Keralites all over the world, on the auspicious and joyous occasion of Onam.

In his message, the Governor said, "Onam is the biggest and the most important festival of the State of Kerala. Onam festival symbolizes love, brotherhood and communal harmony. It is a harvest festival celebrated by the people of Kerala, irrespective of faith or creed. This festival also marks the homecoming of King Mahabali, wherein people pay a glorious tribute to the memory of this benign King who nobly sacrificed for his kingdom."

The Governor said that Onam is a 10-day-long festival that celebrates brotherhood and culture bonding, making people understand the significance of unity from all walks of life together. "The celebration of Onam rekindles the splendid legacy of a life of equality, oneness and prosperity, filling minds and homes with the celestial joy of festivity," the Governor said adding, "May this year's Onam festival bring immense happiness, joy and prosperity to one and all."

POP-UP MARKET

SAGUN GAWADE



Traditional fishermen have set up a makeshift shed to sell fresh fish on Caranzalem beach, where the recent massive catches have been attracting large crowds of customers

'PWD negligence, Adani gas workers to blame for defunct Nuvem streetlights'

Team Herald

MARGAO: A senior engineer from the Electricity Department in Verna said that the Public Works Department's (PWD) negligence is responsible for the absence of functional streetlights along the Nuvem section of the Western Bypass. "The streetlights were provided by MVR, the PWD's National Highway contractor, and were working properly after commissioning. However, the PWD authorities failed to hand over the streetlights to us, despite having availed a permanent connection. They also gave Adani the permission to lay a gas pipeline, and these

workers damaged the incoming cable, causing the entire streetlights to go off," said the official, who did not want to be named.

"The Electricity Department assisted PWD NH authorities to pinpoint the faults at various locations, but none of them - the PWD, the contractor, or Adani Gas authorities - got them rectified," he lamented.

Saturday's edition of **O Herald** reported that the absence of streetlights has led to a series of accidents and raised alarm among Salcete residents. The Nuvem stretch in particular is pitch dark and encourages the dumping of garbage. The dark stretch is also used by anti-social elements and drunkards who tend to break

bottles on the roadside, leaving locals who walk along the road feeling unsafe.

"Even during the Prime Minister's visit, we assisted in temporarily fixing the streetlights by providing overhead 10sqmm wire, but MVR locked the panel soon after the visit, and the streetlights remain non-functional," said the official.

"This was telephonically communicated to the PWD's EE Dattaprasad Kamat and AE Rajesh Gawade on several occasions. Every time, they say that letters have been sent to MVR but they are not responding. Because of the negligence of PWD NH, the Electricity Department is blamed unnecessarily," said the engineer.

Biodiversity Committees tasked with collecting, disposing PoP idols



Team Herald

MARGAO: The government has instructed Village Biodiversity Committees to collect Ganesh idols that have washed up after *visarjan*, and ensure their proper disposal, said Minister for Environment Aleixo Sequeira.

He appealed to the public to boycott idols made of Plaster of Paris (PoP) and to support government authorities in taking strict action against those responsible for bringing such idols into Goa.

Sequeira emphasised that using PoP idols con-

tributes to environmental damage and urged citizens to choose eco-friendly alternatives.

Recently, several Ganesh idols were found washed ashore at Caranzalem beach, among other locations. "Yes, the monitoring system needs to be strengthened, but at the same time, there is also a need for support from the people to prevent the entry of idols made from PoP," said the Minister.

"Once the PoP idols are collected, they will be sent to the Saligao waste treatment plant for proper disposal," he added.

JSW's coal dome is a smokescreen, measures against coal pollution inadequate: MLA

Team Herald

MARGAO: Welcoming the statement made by the Union Minister of Shipping on Friday that Goa would become a global hub for cruise tourism, Goa Forward Party President and Fatorda MLA Vijai Sardesai said that comments regarding JSW's coal handling operations at MPA are a red herring. According to him, on the policy front, it is crucial for both the Central and State governments to understand that coal handling operations and an international cruise hub do not coexist at the same port.

The issue of coal pollution at the Mormugao Port Authority (MPA) has been a concern for Goans since 2017, he stated.

"During this time, Goa has seen three different

Yesterday, the current Union Minister of Shipping claimed that a dome constructed by JSW at a cost of Rs 180 crore will solve the pollution issue. Today, the dome is being used as an excuse not to reduce the coal handling capacity. Once the dome is complete, it will be used as a justification to increase the coal handling capacity at the port
—Vijai Sardesai, Fatorda MLA

Ministers for Shipping, yet none have made any serious commitment to reducing coal handling at the port. On the contrary, in 2022, the Union Ministry of Environment granted clearance to JSW to increase the coal and other cargo handling capacity at berths 5A and 6A from 7.5 MTPA to 15 MTPA. Further, in May 2024, the GCZ-MA granted approval for deepening the channel to facilitate the entry of cape-size vessels," said Vijai.

He claimed that neither JSW nor the government at the Centre or State has any inten-

tion of reducing the coal handling capacity at the port. "Yesterday, the current Union Minister of Shipping claimed that a dome constructed by JSW at a cost of Rs 180 crore will solve the pollution issue. He probably thinks we Goans will change our stance on coal, just like some MLAs who were once part of the anti-coal movement but now support coal after defecting to the BJP. However, the rest of us Goans will continue to oppose coal even after the dome has been constructed," Vijai said.

Vijai is of the strong opinion that simply constructing a dome is no justification for continuing coal handling operations, whether at a rate of 5 MTPA or 15 MTPA, since coal pollution is also caused during transportation of coal via trains and trucks passing through the State.

"Irrespective of the statements issued by the Ministers, I, along with my party, will continue to oppose any move to expand the coal handling operations at the MPA, both inside and outside the Goa Legislative Assembly," he remarked.

Vijai demanded that the government prepare a plan before the opening of the new cruise terminal at MPA in January 2025 or be prepared to face intense scrutiny over its incompatible coal hub and cruise hub policy.

Margao locals slam defector MLA, cite govt failures and corruption

Team Herald

MARGAO: On Saturday, a group of Margao residents voiced their frustrations about the difficulties they face in handling small tasks with various government departments.

The press conference, marking the second anniversary of the defection of eight Congress MLAs including Margao MLA Digambar Kamat, featured sharp criticisms from youth leader Prabhav Naik. Naik accused Kamat of shaming the people of Margao by undermining democracy and the Indian Constitution.

Naik presented videos showing Kamat questioning the media's credibility when asked about his plans to join the BJP, suggesting that Kamat had insulted both the

media and the citizens of Margao, as well as disrespected God.

He also highlighted Kamat's silence on the alleged misappropriation of funds in the Margao Municipality. Recently, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant labeled the government led by Kamat from 2007-2012 as a 'Lootmar Sarkar', which Naik argued was a clear indication of Kamat's promotion of corruption.

Naik criticised Kamat for the incomplete South Goa District Hospital, noting that it remains non-functional, putting patients and those in need of emergency medical care through hardship.

He remarked that Margao's residents have realised that it is time for Kamat, now in his seventies and with a long political career behind him, to step aside.



The fact remains that no policemen have been courteous to the common man or woman. No person would like to go to the police station even if they are attacked or if they witness somebody breaking the law. They believe that when they go to the police station, the people who are supposed to be in charge, who are supposed to be caretakers of the law, they themselves act so rudely that nobody would like to go to them and lodge a complaint. They prefer to suffer rather than go there. The government has to take this very seriously, because if the protectors of law, themselves break the law, we will slip into a State of anarchy.
—Trajano D'Mello, political analyst

HOW SHOULD POLICEMEN BEHAVE WITH CITIZENS AND FELLOW POLICEMEN?

A few days ago, a police constable was suspended for getting into a brawl with an ASI at Banastarim. The constable accused the ASI of slapping him. Earlier, a lady PSI was booked for allegedly harassing a senior advocate which led to his suicide. In the light of recent incidents Herald TV asked people how policemen should ideally behave with the general public and colleagues

Presently, the crime rate in Goa is very high. In every aspect - whether it is rape, molestation, accidents, murder, kidnapping. What is the reason for this? The main person - the Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, who is also the Home Minister does not have a watch on the crime rate. Otherwise this would not have happened. Take the Banastarim brawl between new and old policeman. If they fight among themselves, what will happen to law and order? The video which went viral, looks like a gang war at Banastarim.
—Rajesh Dabholkar, social activist

It is not enough to catch hold of one policeman who is not disciplined, or who uses extra constitutional authority, just to suspend them. This will not solve the problem from the root. I'm saying that these policemen should be given some classes, some education, they need some counselling. At least once in two months. Policemen go out of control even when they are not in uniform, just because they are recruited as police personnel. The indiscipline within the force has just gone out of control
—Anthony D'Silva, social activist

MAX. TEMP 31.6 °C
MIN. TEMP 25.4 °C

idharudhar



Ridiculous! How will I survive here without Goan fish curry?