

Mollo, Cansaulim locals refrain from festivities, record objections

At the ISLR Court hearing, locals ensure their concerns about the incomplete property demarcation & environmental damage are officially recorded; press for an immediate stay on construction activities; matter adjourned to Jan 24

Team Herald

MARGAO: In a show of unwavering determination, villagers from Velsao, Pale, Issorcim, Arossim, Cansaulim, and Mollo documented their objections against railway double tracking before the Inspector of Survey and Land Records (ISLR) Court in Margao.

Despite the court not granting an immediate stay on construction activities, the villagers, who set aside their Three Kings Feast celebrations to attend the hearing, demonstrated their resilience by ensuring their concerns about incomplete property demarcation and environmental damage were officially recorded.

Max De Souza, a senior citizen from Velsao, spoke on behalf of the assembled villagers. Along with Velsao Sarpanch Maria Diana Gouveia and Goencho Ekvott (GE) founder member Orville Dourado Rodrigues, De Souza pressed for an immediate stay on construction activities. The villagers' persistence



Velsao, Pale, Issorcim, Arossim, Cansaulim, and Mollo locals at the ISLR Court in Margao

led to the judge permitting them to record their objections in the log book before adjourning the matter to January 24.

The hearing comes amid tensions between railway authorities and the locals. What was meant to be a Happy New Year for the villagers of Mollo turned bitter when South Western Railways and Rail Vikas Nigam Limited, allegedly supported by the authorities, demolished age-old structures that served as the sole source of livelihood

UNWAVERING DETERMINATION

- Velsao, Pale, Issorcim, Arossim, Cansaulim, and Mollo locals documented their objections against railway double-tracking before the ISLR Court in Margao
- Demanded an immediate halt to all construction activities until a fair settlement is reached
- The villagers' persistence led to the judge permitting them to record their objections in the log book before adjourning the matter to January 24.
- Highlighted the ongoing environmental destruction
- Claimed that RVNL contractors dumped truckloads of mud on tree canopies in at Survey No 8/1, Khol, without proper property demarcation

for the residents. Pedro Rodrigues, an affected resident from Mollo Survey No 18/1, demanded an immediate halt to construction activities until a fair settlement is reached. These demolitions occurred despite pending formalities in the demarcation process and verbal instructions to railway officials to wait until Monday's hearing.

Bruno Pereira from Issorcim claimed that RVNL contractors were dumping truckloads of mud on tree canopies in his private forest at Survey No 8/1, Khol, without proper demarcation. The timing of today's hearing had already drawn criticism from locals, as it coincided with the Three Kings Feast celebrations at Our Lady of Remedios Chapel, Cuelim, where thousands traditionally gather at the hillock for worship.

The controversy deepened after a government's demarcation exercise conducted on December 20-21, when locals alleged

that railway workers had tampered with official markers. Despite verbal instructions to railway officials to pause work until today's hearing, construction activities continued, leading to multiple confrontations between workers and residents. During recent demolitions, affected locals reported being held back and confined, allegations that railway officials attempted to deny.

"We are dissatisfied with the mere adjournment when we sought a stay on construction activities," expressed frustrated villagers after the hearing, reflecting the growing tension between development initiatives and local heritage preservation in the coastal belt.

The demolitions and ongoing construction work have reignited fierce opposition from locals, who continue to cite environmental damage, heritage loss, and violations of due process as their primary concerns.

Embarrassment for govt: Cabral fires salvo over delayed projects

Team Herald

PANJIM/QUEPEM: In an embarrassment to the Pramod Sawant government, BJP Curchorem MLA Nilesh Cabral expressed his disenchantment over the incomplete projects in his constituency.

Expressing his disappointment during the induction of Manoj Kumar Naik as the new Curchorem BJP Mandal president on Sunday, Cabral highlighted the lack of progress on several projects, despite assurances from the Chief Minister Pramod Sawant during his visit at Curchorem last year.

"A year back, the Chief Minister came to Curchorem and said, 'Bhivpachi garaz na, radpachi garaz na'. He had also stated that BJP will never forget those who sacrificed for the party. But even after a year, works related to several projects are not moving ahead," Cabral lamented.

He said that construction of the bus stand, swimming pool and some other projects which were launched in 2012 are still not nearing completion.

"These projects were not for my interest and were

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— Nilesh Cabral, BJP Curchorem MLA

meant for the people of Curchorem. Only two-and-half years are pending for this term and these works have been expedited. I will speak to the Chief Minister," he said.

However, on Monday Cabral refuted criticising the government for slow pace of works in Curchorem and defended that he had only repeated the Chief Minister's statement.

"I am quoted out of context. I was merely repeating the lines often spoken by the Chief Minister. It's been a year since the upgraded hospital at Cacora, Curchorem, was inaugurated, but many facilities are still not provided there," he added.

4 defunct sewage pumps leave Margao localities stinking

Sewage overflow reported in Comba, Calconda and Chinchal; officials assure to repair the faulty by Jan 15

Team Herald

MARGAO: Nearly four pumps pumping sewage from the drainage channels in Margao have stopped functioning, resulting in sewage overflowing from chambers in low-lying areas.

The sewage overflow has been reported in Comba, Calconda, and Chinchal, causing the these areas to stink.

The sewage corporation officials accompanied by MLA Digambar Kamat, inspected the affected areas and assured residents that these faulty pumps will be repaired by January 15.

During the inspection, it was revealed that four pumps, which are crucial for pumping sewage from these channels and sending it to the treatment facility, have stopped functioning.

Speaking on the matter, MLA Kamat stated that the shutdown of these pumps had caused sewage to flow back into the low-lying areas, flooding the chambers.

As a temporary solution, sewage will be pumped out using tankers, which have already been deployed in the affected areas, including Comba and Chinchal. These tankers will operate round-the-clock until the pumps are repaired. Additionally, efforts are underway to divert the excess sewage away from the low-lying areas.

"The situation will be brought under control as soon as the pumps are fixed. In the meantime, tankers will continue to pump out the sewage, and measures are taken to redirect the flow," the MLA assured.

He emphasised that the sewage issue would be fully addressed by the deadline set for the repairs, ensuring that the affected residents would no longer face the ongoing inconvenience.

A meeting was also held with the District Collector to discuss the issue in greater detail.

CHAMBERS FLOODED WITH SEWAGE

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Pomp, religious fervour mark Three Kings festivities in Cuelim, Reis Magos, Chandor

SAGUN GAWADE



Jayson de Souza, Allwin Nadar and Bonny D'Souza, representing as Three Kings, make their way to the Reis Magos Church, Reis Magos, Nerul

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VASCO/CALANGUTE/CHANDOR: The feast of Epiphany, popularly known as the Three Kings Feast, was celebrated with traditional pomp and religious fervour at Our Lady of Remedios Chapel, Cuelim-Cansaulim, Reis Magos church in Reis Magos-Nerul and Nossa Senhora de Belém, Chandor, on Monday.

At Cuelim, the highlight of the feast was three children from the village portraying as Three Kings and arriving on horseback in a grand tradition.

Aaron Fernandes from Cuelim, Cayden Correa from Arossim and Ethan Gracias from Cansaulim represented the Three Kings this year. They arrived at the chapel on horseback, accompanied by a band and converged near the chapel, symbolising the journey of the Magi guided by the star of Bethlehem.

A large number of people attended the feast mass. A fair selling traditional sweets, Goan delicacies and other items was set up. Fr Ave Maria Afonso said, "As



Children dressed as Three Kings pose with gifts at Chandor

As part of the feast, three young children from the villages of Cansaulim, Arossim, and Cuelim represent Three Kings and arrive on horseback. They come from three different routes and meet at a designated point near the Our Lady of Remedios Chapel. They attend the masses, where they renew their faith and commit to following Jesus Christ

— Fr Ave Maria Afonso

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Children dressed as Three Kings are accompanied by a brass band during the Three Kings feast at Our Lady of Remedios Chapel, Cuelim-Cansaulim, on Monday

SHANE SIGWALD DESOUSA

dressed as kings, gathering outside the small chapel dedicated to Nossa Senhora de Piedade, located on the Monte Hill. Clad in royal garments of blue, green, and red, the boys rode on horses and proceeded to the Igreja de Nossa Senhora de Belém, accompanied by a six-member brass band. Colourful umbrellas were utilised to shield the young kings from the intense sun.

Upon their arrival at the church around 10 am, a solemn high mass was presided over by Auxiliary Bishop Simão Purificação Fernandes.

After the mass, each king returned to their respective homes, accompanied by the brass band.

Typically, the young kings are selected from Cotta, Guirdolim, and Cavorim; however, this year, all three kings hailed from Guirdolim.

The church square has been filled with a vibrant fair featuring numerous stalls offering a variety of items, including roasted gram, confections, toys, clay utensils, furniture, and much more. This fair is anticipated to continue for the next eight days.



Transport Minister Mauvin Godinho said: "I'm more Hindu than my own religion. I have more connections with Hindus and I'm proud that I'm more Hindu than my own religion. If we go to check our roots, I'm Hindu only. Afterwards we were converted, this is my belief." Herald TV asked people what their reactions were to Mauvin's utterance.

He has not said anything wrong. Man is born without religion, it's only after the religious rituals that one attains any religion. But you must have seen a chameleon, he changes his colours according to the situation. Even a chameleon will feel ashamed, the way that this minister is carrying out his programmes. If he says he is a Hindu, he does not become a Hindu. Actually he has to drink a glass of gomutra daily, that is how he will be a Hindu. This is only to fool the people and get votes

— Tara Kerkar, social activist

PEOPLE SAY IF YOU GO TO MAUVIN'S ROOTS, HE WILL BE NON-GOAN

I agree with Mauvin Godinho's point of view politically. He may be making such statements keeping in mind the constituency where he is contesting and keeping his vision for electoral politics. But I challenge him to contest in a constituency like Velim, where I am ready to pay for his deposits and I'm willing to forgo the money. Genetically he may be correct, because he is less of a Goan and more of a non-Goan. Thirdly, religiously, by certain rituals, his statements suggest 75% more of a Hindu and 75% of his body should be cremated and 25% of his body should be buried

— Anthony D'Silva, social activist

Mauvin's statement that he is more of a Hindu is absolutely bereft of any faith and trust in Goa. His statement is made to please his Hindu bosses to remain in power, that he will be dropped in the reshuffle which is likely to take place. It has been his strategy to be in power, while in the Congress he told everyone he has Congress blood and that he would never leave the Congress. He said if you go to the roots you'll find out that he was originally a Hindu. The real roots if you go to, it will be known that he is not a true Goenkar. He belongs to the migratory birds which have come to Goa

— Trajano D'Mello, political commentator

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