

BEEF SHORTAGE HITS GOA AS EXPORTS, PRICES SOAR

Country emerges as a top exporter; acute shortage in local markets as authorities fail to replenish the supply; delicacy off the menu

Team Herald

MARGAO: Goa's domestic market in buffalo meat is reeling under acute shortage given the rise in exports particularly West Asia, Middle East, Europe and Africa over the past few years.

The sudden rise in the export of animals has led to a significant beef shortage in Goa, causing not only a hike in beef prices but also widespread disappointment among consumers and restaurant owners.

While the country has emerged as a top beef exporter to these countries, the rates in the domestic markets have skyrocketed due to the resultant supply shortage and failure of authorities to replenish the supply and regulate the meat industry.

The shortage, which has resurfaced in the state, has disrupted beef supply, forcing several meat stalls to shut down due to a lack of stock. At the Goa Meat Complex, no animals were brought in for slaughtering over the last two days, further compounding



Indian buffalo meat is "cost competitive with other red meats" and is perceived as being more natural

the issue.

Shabbir Bepari, Vice-President of the All Goa Beef Traders Association said "going by the volume of exports there are fewer animals available for slaughter locally".

He assured that efforts are underway to resolve the issue, with additional animals now secured for slaughter. "We have managed to procure the required animals, and beef supplies will resume soon," Bepari said.

Customers visiting the SGPDA market for their

"We provide the necessary infrastructure for the slaughter of animals. The contractor arranges the animals for slaughter as per the traders' orders and there is no problem with our services"

– Dr Rajesh Kenny, MD, Goa Meat Complex

"Going by the volume of exports, there are fewer animals available for slaughter locally"

– Shabbir Bepari, VP, All Goa Beef Traders Assn

slaughtering animals at the Goa Meat Complex over a recent increase in the rates of live animals. The price of live animals has risen from Rs 195 to Rs 215, which may be contributing to the ongoing disruption in beef supply.

Sources have also indicated a potential issue between beef traders and the contractor responsible for

beef shortage, asserting that there is no issue with the facility's operations. "We provide the necessary infrastructure for the slaughter of animals. The contractor arranges the animals for slaughter as per the traders' orders. There is no problem with our services," Dr Kenny clarified. He expressed hope that beef supplies would be back to normal very soon.

It is reportedly learnt that Indian buffalo meat is "cost competitive with other red meats" and is perceived as being more natural.

As of now, the situation remains tense, with both consumers and traders eagerly awaiting a resolution to the beef shortage.

India continues to play a crucial role in the animal products market globally, emerging as a leading producer of high quality items such as milk, meat and eggs. In 2023-24, India's animal product exports amounted to Rs 37,665.51 crore with buffalo meat alone accounting for Rs 31,010 crore, representing over 82 per cent of total exports.

PINK BOOM

usual beef purchases were left frustrated as several stalls were closed. While some stall owners were still selling meat from behind their premises, many had to turn customers away. One stall owner mentioned that no beef supplies had arrived on Tuesday, and they were in the process of selling off remaining stock.

Sources have also indicated a potential issue between beef traders and the contractor responsible for

Rainbow Warriors take on govt over Borim bridge project case

Team Herald

MARGAO: The Federation of Rainbow Warriors (FRW) has expressed disappointment over repeated postponements of their National Green Tribunal (NGT) case opposing the new Borim Bridge construction. The FRW has been guiding local farmers from Loutolim and Borim who filed the petition against the State and Central government.

It may be recalled that the NGT on Monday adjourned the matter to mid-February, following several similar adjournments throughout last year. One of the reasons behind these repeated adjournments is the government departments seeking more time

to file their replies.

The petitioning farmers had hoped for a decisive verdict to halt both the construction and land acquisition for the bridge, which is planned to pass through their khazan fields.

"The government is intentionally not filing a reply, so that it can ask for time and delay the matter," said Abhijit Prabhudesai, FRW Founder. "The government is in grave contempt of the law as decided by the Supreme Court in P V Krishnamoorthy matter. The government is thus brazenly violent against the people and lands of Goa, and breaking all the laws of the land, only to help a couple of coal corporations make profit by destroying Goa and accelerating global warming."

STAGE SET



A décor depicting octopus has been put at the entrance for the upcoming Aqua Goa Mega Fish Festival at Campal ground, Panjim. The event will be held from January 10 to 12

Benaulim fishermen stake claim for Fisheries Dept land, hell-bent on foiling GTDC's privatisation plans

Team Herald

MARGAO: The fishing community of Benaulim, represented by Niz Ramponkaranchi Ekvott (NRE), and the Cana-Benaulim Village Panchayat, joined forces with local residents to voice their concerns before the Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Tuesday.

The group of fishermen submitted a memorandum with the charter of demands

with renewed calls that the Fisheries Department allot land to them to carry on their traditional fishing activities and also opposed the proposed leasing of Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC) land for private development.

NRE President Saby Fernandes, alongside fishermen leaders like Pele Fernandes, presented the community's plea for utilizing portions of Fisheries

Department land located at Survey Nos. 362 and 357 in Benaulim for their livelihood. In a memorandum addressed to the Fisheries Director and Minister, NRE highlighted the traditional fishing community's long-standing demand for foreshore facilities. These include a net-mending shed, ice plant, fish storage unit, parking for fishing canoes, and repair sheds for fishing boats, all of which

are vital for sustaining the livelihood of the local fishermen. The letter emphasized that the land in question has remained underutilized, despite repeated proposals submitted since 2020, urging immediate intervention to allocate the land for community use.

Simultaneously, Benaulim Sarpanch Xavier Pereira presented the panchayat's objections to

GTDC's plans for leasing prime beachside properties at Survey Nos 365/2A and 365/2B to a private entity for developing a hotel and a parking lot.

The panchayat's letter to the CM, Tourism Minister and GTDC Managing Director detailed objections to leasing public property, arguing that the land was originally acquired at nominal rates for tourism infrastructure development.

Illegal structures in Assolda demolished after court order

Team Herald

QUEPEM: The demolition squad, under the directive of the Quepem Mamlatdar, carried out the demolition of illegal structures on the Comunidade of Assolda land. The action followed a protracted legal battle lasting nearly six years, initiated by the villagers of Assolda, who had filed complaints about unauthorised constructions on Comunidade land.

The case went through multiple legal stages, including hearings before the Assolda Village Panchayat, the Director of Panchayats, the Quepem Court, and the District Court, before ultimately culminating in a court-ordered demolition.

The Quepem Mamlatdar led the demolition operation, which was executed with the support of the Block Development Officer (BDO), police personnel, a demolition squad, and the electricity depart-

ment. Comunidade of Assolda president Aditya Dessai, attorney Sanjay Raut Dessai, and treasurer Achyut Raut Dessai were present at the site.

However, the demolition was not without incident. During a media interaction, a scuffle broke out between the violators of the illegal structures and Aditya Dessai. The situation escalated, prompting police intervention to restore order.

Speaking to the media, Aditya Dessai said, "The Comunidade land had been fraudulently transferred with the help of government officers, and land plotting was being carried out. These plots were used for building illegal structures. We appreciate the authorities for taking action and demolishing such illegal structures in Assolda. This step sends a clear message against encroachment and misuse of Comunidade land."



IS ALEIXO SEQUEIRA NOT FIT FOR THE BJP? WHICH PARTY SHOULD HE JOIN?

BJP State President Sadanand Shet Tanavade had said that Nuvem MLA must 'introspect' as he was not sure whether he fits 'into the party system'. In this context Herald Digital asked people, 'Is Aleixo Sequeira not fit for the BJP? Which party should he join?'

I think it is the prerogative of the leaders and functionaries of the BJP. But in my personal opinion, he should not only be expelled, or stripped of his portfolios as a minister, he should never have been taken into the BJP, because he has betrayed the voters of Nuvem constituency, in particular and Goa in general, cutting across religious lines, he has hurt the sentiments of the people of Goa. These type of people should not only be removed from the party, they should be made tadipar from Goa. They are not fit to keep their foot on this Mankulem Goa soil

– Anthony D'Silva, social activist

"Whether he remains with the BJP or leaves, either way, I don't see a future for Aleixo Sequeira. As a BJP MLA, he has no scope in Nuvem and minus BJP I don't think that anyone is going to support him. In my perspective, Aleixo must have decided to join the BJP thinking that this will be his last election. I assume that he contested thinking that he cannot win another election and probably he doesn't want to contest any more elections. So his logic may have been, let me make the best out of the last term. He must have determined that him there is no more future in politics. So whatever he wants to do he will do it this term. Now it is for the BJP to decide whether they need him. He will not contest and not win as an independent"

– Radharao Gracias, Advocate

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Centre says Goa failed to finalise CZMP plan over five years

Remains the only coastal State to make progress on plan; NGT to take serious note of delays

Team Herald

MARGAO: The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has highlighted Goa's persistent failure to finalize its Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) under the CRZ Notification of 2019.

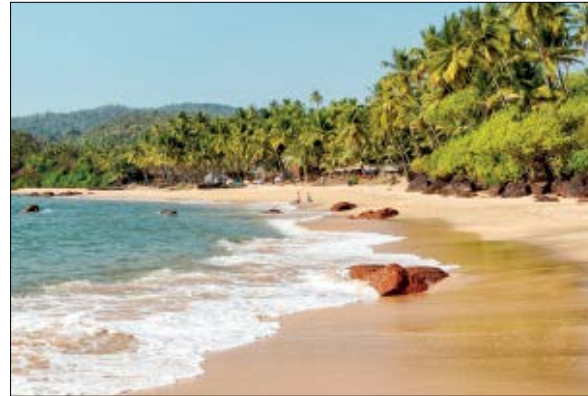
The MoEF&CC, in its response, stressed that Goa remains governed by the CRZ Notification of 2011, as the state has failed to update its CZMP to reflect the enhanced provisions of the 2019 notification. The revised CZMP would include stricter safeguards for Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESAs) and more comprehensive regulatory measures. However, until it is finalized, all development and regulatory activities in Goa are assessed under the older framework.

The delay has persisted for nearly five years, with Goa missing multiple deadlines since the 2019 notification was issued. The state's inability to meet the October 2023 deadline set by the National Coastal Zone Management Authority (NCZMA), and a subsequent extension to May 2024, reflects the slow progress. With the January 2025 deadline fast approaching, the situation has reached a critical juncture.

The bottleneck lies in Goa's failure to secure approval for its revised 2011 CZMP, scaled to 1:4,000, which was submitted to the NCZMA in September 2024. Approval of this plan is essential before drafting the CZMP in compliance with the 2019 notification. The National Centre for Earth Science Studies (NCESS), tasked with preparing the updated plan, has confirmed that the draft 2019 CZMP will only be ready by January 2025 if the earlier plan is approved without delay.

Despite the urgency, Goa remains the only coastal state yet to make significant progress on its 2019 CZMP.

In its comprehensive submission to the NGT in the Borim bridge case, the Ministry detailed the evolution of coastal regulations in India for clarity. The original CRZ Notification of 1991, which sought to balance development with environmental protection, was replaced by the 2011 notification. The latter aimed to secure livelihoods for fisher communities while regulating activities along coastal stretches. The 2019 notification introduced additional measures, such as prioritizing ESAs and mandating updated CZMPs for states. However, until these updates are completed,



Activists frown over inordinate delays

Team Herald

MARGAO: Local activists and community leaders have raised serious concerns about the prolonged delay in finalizing Goa's Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP), highlighting potential threats to traditional fishing communities and coastal ecosystems.

Dixon Vaz, Cavelosim Sarpanch, emphasized the importance of inclusive planning that benefits local residents. "The CZMP must benefit the locals who are the inhabitants of the area. The plan must be done by taking the village panchayat and locals in confidence. The fishing communities and the toddy tappers interest needs to be protected. There cannot be more delay as most of other states have already submitted," said Vaz.

Olencio Simoes, General Secretary of Goenchea Raponkaranchi Ekvott (GRE), expressed deep concern about the potential misuse of this administrative delay. "Our main concern is that any delay in finalising the CZMP could be used to push for tourism commercial projects or even government projects via Sagarmala that want to forcibly displace traditional fishermen whose traditional dwellings are meant to be protected under the CRZ Rules."

Environmentalists Savio Santos from Carmona took a firm stance: "Till the time CZMP for the new CRZ 2019 is made, no permissions whether permanent or temporary should be allowed in CRZ areas in Goa."

Jack Mascarenhas, President of the NGO Goyche Fuddle Pillge Khatir (GFPK), emphasized the broader implications.

ed, states like Goa remain bound by the 2011 regulations.

The Ministry's remarks highlighted the broader implications of Goa's delay. The continued reliance on outdated regulations has hindered the implementation of the 2019 notification's stricter guidelines, leaving the state's coastal areas vulnerable to unregulated development. Environmentalists have criticized the delays, warning that they undermine efforts to protect fragile ecosystems and expose the state to potential legal challenges.

The NGT, known for its proactive stance on environmental compliance, is expected to take serious note of these delays. With less than a month remaining to meet the January 2025 deadline, Goa risks further scrutiny and potential legal repercussions. The Tribunal has the authority to hold the state accountable for failing to meet its obligations under national directives.

The MoEF&CC's statement has brought renewed attention to the systemic inefficiencies in Goa's coastal management efforts.

SC lawyer to hold meet on 'misuse' of EVMs

Team Herald

MARGAO: Civil society members along with Supreme Court lawyer Adv Mehmood Pracha resolved to fight against what they termed as 'misuse' of electronic voting machines (EVMs) and have organised an informative seminar on January 11 at the Our Lady of Grace Church hall in Margao.

Savio Coutinho, along with other members of the Civil Society including Jack Mascarenhas, Shaik Mansoor, Amancio Fernandes, Lumina Da Costa Almeida, Cristian Carvalho, Iltiyaz Shaik, and John Baptista, held a press briefing on Wednesday to announce the event and encourage public participation.

During the briefing, Coutinho emphasized the

growing concern among opposition parties and Indian citizens regarding the use of EVMs and the urgent need for greater transparency in the electoral process.

He stated that the meeting with Adv. Mehmood Pracha, the founder and National Convener of Mission Save Constitution, aims to provide insights into the ongoing battle for electoral reform and the demand for 100% transparency during elections.

Coutinho also criticized the BJP government for suppressing criticism and attempting to stifle whistle-blowers. Adv. Mehmood Pracha, known for his advocacy of electoral reforms, has been at the forefront of challenging the status quo in the courts, including the Supreme Court.