

# Armed with property documents, Primeiro Vaddo locals say: THIS LAND IS OURS

Lament mud dumped by Railways to level the century-old road has already left houses landlocked & obstructed one entry point

Team Herald

**MARGAO:** Armed with property documents, the locals voiced their strong opposition to the alleged illegal construction of double tracks on the land, in front of their houses at Primeiro Vaddo-Velsao, which they claimed does not belong to the Railways.

They pointed out that the construction activity undertaken by the Railways will block access and violate their Right of Way.

The locals lamented that truckloads of mud had been dumped by the Railways to level the century-old mud road. This action, they claimed, has already left several houses landlocked and also obstructed one of the entry points to this mud road.

The villagers, supported by residents from neighbouring areas, civil society, Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) President Amit Patkar, GPCC South Goa President Savio Da Silva, and other Congress leaders, asserted their position against the ongoing construction.

Velsao Sarpanch Maria Diana Gouveia and local panch Prancisco Braganza also participated in the emergency meeting called by the villagers.

Speaking to the mediapersons, the locals rejected recent claims that the Railways owned the land.



Referring to Portuguese-era property documents, they explained that their ownership extended up to the railway line. They also presented official correspondence from the Directorate of Settlement and Land Records (DSLRL), which confirmed that the Railways did not own the disputed land. Further, they also showed past communication from Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) to the local authorities that stated that the Railways did not have access to this area.

It is pertinent to note that RVNL is carrying out the double tracking project construction work in Goa for South Western Railway (SWR).

The villagers also pointed out that this specific area in Velsao



## OUR LAND OWNERSHIP EXTENDS UP TO RAIL LINE: VILLAGERS

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- Showed RVNL communication to the authorities stating that Railways did not have access to the area
- Pointed out that this specific area in Velsao was not part of the land acquired for double-tracking

## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- At the meet, it was agreed that Velsao Panchayat would construct a tarred road for the locals
- It was resolved that the locals via the panchayat would write to the South Goa District Collector, who is responsible for Right of

Way issues.

The villagers emphasised that the Right of Way, as per existing laws, cannot be denied to residents, particularly to those who possess documents proving ownership.

Sandra Rodrigues, an affected resident, presented letters she had written to the panchayat in 2022, asking for a tarred road to be built and also a letter she had written to the local MLA recently, outlining the difficulties caused by the construction. She stated that relevant property documents had been sent to the concerned authorities with these letters.

"If you see the photos attached to my letters, they show vehicles passing here that are not from our village. This proves that the public has also been using this road, so it's not just for us alone," Rodrigues said.

The villagers also expressed concerns about the destruction of the drainage system, which caused waterlogging last year, and feared that flooding would worsen if a retaining wall was built on the Right of Way.

"Once they use this road to build the wall or lay the second track, how are we supposed to enter or leave our homes? We will be landlocked," Rodrigues added.

GPCC President Amit Patkar criticized the government's

inaction. "When the late Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar was in power, he promised not to allow double tracking in Goa. Why is Chief Minister Pramod Sawant now pushing this project despite opposition? This is a blatant disregard for public grievances. The government is clearly prioritising corporate interests involved in coal transportation over the rights of locals," Patkar stated. He assured the villagers that Congress MLAs would raise the issue during the upcoming State Assembly session.

After the meeting, which saw participation from senior citizens whose families have lived in the village for generations, a signature campaign was launched.

Goncho Ekvott (GE) Founder Orville Dourado Rodrigues condemned RVNL for conducting construction work as late as 2.30 am, disturbing residents' sleep. "Are we not human beings? Is this how people should be treated? Imagine if someone blocks access to your house. The single track is already causing problems—what will happen when there are two tracks? Will the government care?" he asked.

Locals expressed frustration at what they described as systemic neglect and appealed to authorities to intervene before the situation worsened further.

## Despite warnings, improper chicken waste disposal haunts Margao locals

Residents want swift action against chicken vendors for creating health hazard and nuisance

Team Herald

**MARGAO:** In response to concerns over improper disposal of chicken waste, Margao locals have urged authorities to act swiftly against vendors for dumping waste in open spaces, creating health hazards and a nuisance.

Reports reveal that chicken vendors are irresponsibly discarding chicken waste in public areas, including Nuvm-Arlem bypass, Ring Road, the road leading to Rawanfond from the railway station, and near Sonsoddo dump yard. These locations are plagued by the stench and unhygienic conditions. It has come to light that both chicken vendors and the private agencies responsible for waste collection are involved in this illegality, despite warnings.

Highlighting the problem along the Western Bypass, Savio Fernandes, a Fatorda resident said, "The stench is unbearable, and it's time that the Margao Municipality and the local panchayat

initiate action. If the vendors cannot manage their waste, they should shut down."

On Monday the residents of the Old Market intercepted a pick-up van suspected to be transporting chicken waste for disposal in the storm water nullah or along the Ring Road. The locals were shocked to discover tonnes of meat waste floating in the nullah.

The Fatorda Police seized the vehicle.

Citizens have called for stricter enforcement to prevent further environmental damage and health risks.

## BELINE FOR SLOTS



Public thronged the Art And Culture Department at Sanskruti Bhavan, Patto to collect coupons for setting up stalls for the upcoming Lokotsav 2025 to be held at Darya Sangam, Kala Academy. The coupons are allotted based on a lottery system

## EXCEEDING SPEED LIMITS: Police to crackdown on food delivery agents

Team Herald

**MARGAO:** To curb reckless riding, the South Goa Police have announced plans to initiate action against delivery agents working for online food delivery platforms, by speeding on roads and endangering other motorists.

South Goa Superintendent of Police, Sunita Sawant, said that the police have conducted a sensitisation programme for

delivery boys. This follows numerous complaints from locals that delivery personnel are often racing to meet tight deadlines, leading to dangerous riding.

"We are aware that the delivery boys of online platforms are riding at high speeds to reach customers on time. Hence, we have conducted a sensitisation programme to educate them on road safety precautions," she said.

Additionally, the police

have carried out an enforcement drive to crack down on over-speeding among delivery agents.

As part of the ongoing Road Safety Week, the South Goa police chief confirmed that the enforcement efforts will continue, with increased vigilance and action against those found violating speed limits.

With public safety at the forefront, residents hope that the police will ensure strict adherence to road

safety norms and continue to keep the roads safe for all users. Reacting to the initiative, Margao resident Sadanand Naik, noted that it is good to see the police are taking the issue seriously regarding the rash driving by food delivery agents.

"Mostly during the night hours, these delivery agents are found violating the Motor Vehicle Act. They are even found taking the no-entry routes, posing a danger to other motorists," he said.

## Margao eatery moves HC, dares GSPCB's order

21 establishments sealed till Tuesday

Team Herald

**MARGAO:** With the authorities initiating action against businesses operating without the necessary consent from the Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB), an establishment has approached the High Court, challenging the closure order.

Following the Board's directions and orders from the High Court, the district administrations started sealing eateries found violating environmental norms and operating illegally. Till Tuesday, 21 establishments were sealed.

The authorities are taking steps against owners of 46 units for failing to obtain the consent from the GSPCB. According to documents, the GSPCB had issued orders to suspend operations of 107 units in Margao for operating without consent and discharging effluents improperly.

In response, 53 units have applied for the necessary consent, leading to the revocation of closure orders for those establishments.

Applications are currently under review for three units, while the closure orders have been lifted

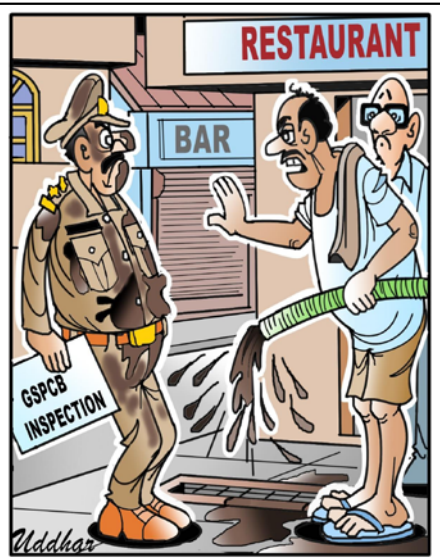
## ILLEGAL OPERATIONS

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- GSPCB issued orders to suspend operations of 107 units for not obtaining consent
- 53 units applied for the necessary consent, leading to the revocation of closure orders
- Applications of three units are under review
- Another unit had its closure order revoked
- A unit has approached the board, indicating its intention to change operations, which would require consent

ed for two units based on their permanent closure. Another unit had its closure order revoked due to a change in its activities that no longer fall under the purview of the GSPCB. One unit has approached the board, indicating its intention to change its operations, which would require consent.

MAX. TEMP 34.0 °C  
MIN. TEMP 23.0 °C

idharudhar



Step back! Wastewater disposal underway!

## Religious tourism meet begins today

Team Herald

**MARGAO:** Goa is set to host the 3rd Asia Pacific International Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage Conference (APIRTP 2025) from January 15 to 18.

Organized by the Institute of Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage in partnership with the International Journal of Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage and V M Salgaocar Institute of International Hospitality Education (VMSIHE), the event will bring together leading academics, researchers, and policymakers from across the globe.

The event, which will take place at VM-SIHE campus in Raia, has already attracted delegates from diverse nations including Portugal, the United Kingdom, Indonesia, Canada, Philippines, Mauritius, Lithuania, and Sri Lanka. Among the distinguished speakers, Dr Carlos Fernandes, Associate Professor at Instituto Politécnico de Viana do Castelo, Portugal, will share his expertise in tourism innovation, while renowned cultural geographer Dr Rana P B Singh, formerly of Banaras Hindu University, will offer his insights into the field.

## STREET VOICES

WHERE GOANS ARE HEARD

The Opposition had opened a can of worms with the cash-for-jobs expose. The government was on the back foot. However after a few cases were booked, all the accused are out on bail and the investigations have now gone silent. Herald Media asked people "What is the Opposition doing about the cash-for-jobs scam, now that it has fallen silent?"

“The Congress party does not look like an Opposition because a Congress spokesperson was found at the CM's residence asking for a job for his daughter. The Congress has to speak, but the party is hand-in-glove with the BJP. The Congress in Goa has been purchased by the government. Rahul Gandhi does not know this. Amit Patkar, the Congress leader, should have lit a fire all over Goa due to this scam and about the CM's wife. All those involved are BJP persons

– Sanjay Barde, social activist

## WHAT IS THE OPPOSITION DOING ABOUT THE CASH-FOR-JOBS SCAM?

“A big hullabaloo took place when certain ladies were arrested in the job scam for taking money from many people and not giving jobs. Taking money and not giving jobs has nothing to do with the jobs scam. It is a pure case of cheating. The real job scam is where people have got jobs from 2012 till today, after paying money or for some other considerations. If that is investigated you will find out the real scam. Why is the Opposition silent? Because many from the Opposition including MLAs have secured jobs to their favourites

– Trajano D'Mello, political commentator

“Why is the Opposition silent? Where is the Opposition? If there was an Opposition, this would not be the state of Goans. Today, the main Opposition are the activists, NGOs and common people who are affected. We make noise and awaken the government. They only open their mouths during the Assembly session and say that we will do this and that. But as far as ground realities are concerned, they are completely zero. The job scam had reached such a height and the main culprit was supposed to be exposed. However, due to some reason the issue took a back seat. The government made many attempts to divert the issue. Even arrests were made, but today the issue has fallen silent, because Goans are susegad. We have to arise and awake.

– Mariano Ferrao, social activist

YouTube



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