

Beef and fish cannot be sold side-by-side: Meat vendors

Oppose CCP's proposal to share space with fish vendors; cite religious and practical concerns over shared market space

Team Herald

PANJIM: Meat vendors whose shops were recently sealed and demolished by the Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP) as part of the old fish market's redevelopment plan, have opposed the municipality's proposal to share space alongside fish vendors.

Speaking to **O Herald**, All Goa Beef Vendors Association president, Manna Bepari, said, "The CCP's resolution will not serve our purpose. A resolution has been passed by the CCP to allocate space for us to sell our products, but that setup will function like SOPO. We are against this arrangement as we must adhere to FSSAI and FDA norms. We cannot sell our products like fish



Fish vendors occupied the shed and beef vendors sold meat in the now-demolished CCP market building

vendors." Bepari further highlighted religious sensitivities, stating, "Fish is purchased by people of all religions. If we are forced to sit with fish vendors, it could hurt the religious sentiments of some people. The CCP

should understand this. As licensed tenants, we cannot sell beef in baskets." In response, CCP councillor and market committee chairman, Bento Lorena, assured that adequate space will be provided to meat vendors, addressing

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— Manna Bepari, All Goa Beef Vendors Association president

their concerns. "They will be given enough space, and it will not be like SOPO. The area will be larger, and we will ensure sufficient distance between meat vendors and fish vendors to respect all communities' sentiments,"

Lorena stated. When asked about the issue of refreezing meat, Lorena clarified that vendors will need to manage this independently until the new market complex at the old building site is completed. "The new complex will include facilities for refreezing meat," he added.

The CCP recently resolved to allow the six meat vendors to sell their products under the same conditions as fish vendors, paying a daily SOPO fee in a shed being constructed for fish vendors. However, the area proposed by the meat vendors in their representation was deemed unsuitable due to the planned construction of the third phase of the market in that location.

Caranzalem children's park to get a new lease of life

CCP plans Rs 2 crore renovation; work expected to begin next month, pending funds approval

GREEN DREAM TURNS NIGHTMARE: PANJIM'S PARKS IN DESPERATE NEED OF RESTORATION

Miramar and Caranzalem children's parks lie in dilapidated condition with broken equipment, neglected green spaces and dwindling facilities



Team Herald

PANJIM: After **O Herald** highlighted the sorry state of affairs, the Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP) has announced its decision to renovate the Caranzalem Children's Park, with the tender for the project likely to be issued by the end of next month.

A senior CCP official told **O Herald**, "The project is at the tendering stage, and we have already prepared estimates. The renovation will cost approximately Rs 2 crore and will be executed in phases. The works include replacing children's play equipment, upgrading

lights and bulbs, constructing a toilet, and replacing chairs and benches, among other improvements. If funds are secured, the work is expected to commence by the end of next month."

The official added that a grant-in-aid of Rs 1 crore has been requested from the Directorate of Municipal Administration (DMA). "The remaining amount will be sourced from funds received under the 14th Finance Commission. These funds are already with the CCP, and we are awaiting permission to use them for this purpose," the official said.

The park, situated along

the seashore, was once a well-maintained recreational space featuring swings, slides, open-air gyms, and a scenic view of the beach. It was a favourite spot for children and the elderly alike, known for its peaceful ambience and picturesque architecture with elegant pillars.

However, the park has since fallen into disrepair. Children's play equipment now lies broken and scattered, and the once-popular space has been neglected for over a decade. CCP sources admitted that no maintenance has been carried out at the park for the last ten years, leading to its current dilapidated state.

Private bus crashes at Dona Paula jetty following brake failure



The private bus that crashed into the gates of Dona Paula jetty and entered the ramp

Team Herald

PANJIM: A private passenger bus veered onto the walking path of the Dona Paula Jetty on Monday morning, crashing into the entry gate and damaging it. The bus, operated by Filip Travels and running on the Panjim Market-Mira-

mar-Caranzalem-Dona Paula-Goa University-Bambolim-GMC route, reportedly experienced a brake failure at around 7:05 am.

According to reports, the incident occurred as the bus driver was heading downhill to take a U-turn and continue the journey

towards Dona Paula. The vehicle struck the jetty gate on impact and travelled another 50 metres before coming to a halt on the jetty itself.

Fortunately, since there were no tourists or visitors present on the jetty at that early hour, a major tragedy was averted.

Civil Services officers demand action after years of neglect

Team Herald

PANJIM: The election for the president of the Association of Goa Civil Services Officers (AGCSO) has not been held for the past eight years. As a result, Goa Civil Services (GCS) officers have faced political humiliation and apathy, with no one holding them accountable for their duties.

Several incidents of humiliation and neglect towards GCS officers in recent days have gone unnoticed. The latest incident involved Panchayats Minister Mauvin Godinho calling GCS officer Dipesh Priolkar "incompetent", which has not been well received by officers across the State.

The AGCSO's annual general body meeting has been scheduled for January 28 at the Secretariat Seminar Hall in Porvorim at 5 pm. Sources revealed that plans are in place to elect a new executive committee and complete the process without any meaningful discussion.

Ironically, many officers who faced similar embarrassments in the past had to remain silent. However, some officers now say that the Association is expected

to take a stand regarding their problems and the humiliation they face in public.

The GCS officers are now calling for the activation of the association. A GCS officer, who wished to remain anonymous, told **O Herald**, "The association elections have not been held for several years. The meeting called for Tuesday, January 28, is scheduled at a time when all the officials are working across the State. How are officers supposed to attend in this situation?"

The AGCSO has nearly 200 registered members, all GCS officers. Sources have indicated that several officers, who have faced humiliation and neglect, have longed to voice their concerns before the association. The lack of action from the association has further angered the beleaguered members.

When contacted, AGCSO Secretary Rajan Satardekar said, "The executive committee will meet and decide whether to hold the meeting on January 28 or postpone it." However, it was later resolved to go ahead with the meeting at 5 pm.

power shutdown

DHARBANDORA: On January 28, from 9.30 am to 3 pm in Village Panchayat Usgao-Ganjam and Village Panchayat Dharbandora

RAIA: On January 28, from 8 am to 3 pm around Village Panchayat Raia, Village Panchayat Rachol, Village Panchayat Camorlim, Village Panchayat Loutolim, Village Panchayat Curtorim and Village Panchayat Macazana.

CUNCOLIM: On January 29, from 9 am to 2 pm, at Malangini, Juzegaal, Gotton, Gochebhat, Volatodi, PWD Pump, Demani, Valley View and Ballimath.

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Liquor traders urge crackdown on public drinking

Team Herald

PANJIM: The All Goa Liquor Traders Association (AGLTA) has urged the Goa Police to take stringent measures against public drinking, which they claim tarnishes the State's image and creates law and order issues.

The Director General of Police (DGP) Goa, Alok Kumar, chaired a crucial meeting with senior police officers and key stakeholders from the tourism industry. The discussion focused on road safety, cyber awareness, and challenges related to foreigners in the State.

Speaking at the meeting, AGLTA President Dattaprasad Naik said, "We have urged the police to take strict action against individuals and tourists engaging in public drinking. Many bars in Goa have now converted into wine stores and are allowing people to stand and drink outside. This is damaging the State's reputation and creating law and order problems."

Naik further added, "We want the police to enforce anti-public drinking provisions under the law to restore decency in Goa's tourism operations."

The meeting was convened in response to recent incidents of hotel booking cyber fraud and growing concerns about lawlessness and road safety violations, particularly involving tourists. It was attended by Inspector General of Police (IGP) Goa, Omvir Singh, Superintendent of Police (Crime/Cyber) Rahul Gupta, and other senior officials.

Representatives from the Travel and Tourism Association of Goa (TTAG), including President Jack Sukhija, Vice Presidents Aakash Madgaokar (North Goa) and Vinay Albuquerque (South Goa), as well as Dattaprasad Naik, President of the Goa Wine Stores Association, participated in the meeting. The stakeholders stressed the need for collaborative efforts to enhance safety and security for both residents and visitors.

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