

# Bicholim truckers protest against outsourcing of ore transportation

Halt transportation from mining block to Sarmanas jetty after Vedanta Limited engaged a contractor; claim outsourcing will impact livelihood of locals

Team Herald

**BICHOIM:** The transportation of iron ore in Bicholim Taluka has come to a standstill since Thursday after the Bicholim Truck Owners Association stopped transportation in protest against the mining company's decision to outsource transportation.

After staging a protest in front of the company's main gate at Bicholim, the Association president Rajaram alias Satish Gaonkar said that Vedanta Limited had now outsourced 12-wheeler trucks through a contractor to transport ore within the mine route. This has resulted in losses as their daily trips have been reduced thereby impacting their livelihood.

Gaonkar has demanded that the mining company should stop the transportation of ore by outsiders



HERALD PIC

**“We will not allow transportation from Bicholim mining block to Sarmanas jetty point till the time company stops outsourcing of transportation”**

**- Satish Gaonkar**  
Bicholim Truck Owners Association

dra Shet, representatives of truck operators and the mining company failed to resolve the issue. Both the MLAs told the company representatives to give preference to local truck operators.

The company representatives have now stated that they will resolve issues of transportation of ore and other related mining operations in a collaborative manner with all stakeholders.

and that the local truck operators be allowed to transport the ore. “We will not allow transportation from Bicholim mining block to Sarmanas jetty point till the time company stops outsourcing of transportation,” Gaonkar warned.

The Association president claimed that the mining company had assured them that the company would allow trucks of local operators and had now suddenly engaged an outside contractor. Initially, the company operated these 12-wheeler trucks on trial basis for about a week and then these 22 trucks were lying idle at the mining block for the last two

months. But now suddenly the company has started using them to transport ore. After failing to get concrete assurance from the mining company, the truck operators have stopped transportation since Thursday.

A joint meeting held between MLAs Dr Chandrakant Shetye, Premendra Shet, representatives of truck operators and the mining company failed to resolve the issue. Both the MLAs told the company representatives to give preference to local truck operators.

## Two cars stuck on Morjim beach, drivers arrested

Team Herald

**PERNEM:** The Mandrem Police have booked two individuals—one from Delhi and the other from Vasco—for driving their vehicles on the beach on Friday morning.

Both vehicles, a rent-a-car and a tourist taxi, were stuck in the sand at Vithaldaswado Beach, Morjim, and were seized by the police.

The incident occurred when the tourist from Delhi hired a rent-a-car and drove onto the beach, following Google Maps, unaware that the movement of vehicles is prohibited on beaches.



The car became stuck in the sand, and he was unable to pull it out despite frantic efforts. Subsequently, a tourist taxi driver took his vehicle onto the beach to assist in pulling the car out

of the sand. Following this, a local resident informed the Mandrem police, who arrived at the scene and seized both vehicles. The police have also registered cases against



HERALD PICS

Hasneetsingh Sehgal from Delhi and Chandappa Lamani, a resident of Mangor Hall, Vasco, under Sections 281 and 125 of the BNS.

The vehicles were later removed with the help of

a crane and taken to the police station. ASI Pratik Garudi is conducting further investigations under the guidance of Mandrem PI Sherif Jacques.

## Cong protest shows solidarity with Cansaulim gang-rape victim

Agitators say govt failed to address increasing incidents of sexual violence; call for self-defence classes in schools

SAGUN GAWADE



Team Herald

**PANJIM:** In a show of solidarity with the Cansaulim gang rape victim, members of the Goa Pradesh Youth Congress, Mahila Congress and Pradesh Congress Committee staged a protest at Azad Maidan on Friday, demanding stronger actions from the State government to ensure the safety and protection of women. The protest highlighted the growing concerns over crimes against women in Goa and the government's failure to address these issues adequately.

Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) General Secretary Manisha Usgaonkar, called attention to the BJP government's alleged inaction in tackling crimes against women. Usgaonkar expressed disappointment at the government's focus on land conversion while ignoring the rising incidents of sexual violence. “The BJP government has turned a blind eye when crimes like rape occur. The women leaders of the BJP, who once protested against crimes before 2012, are

now silent. They gave the slogan 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao', but have failed to guarantee the safety of girls, particularly those pursuing higher education,” she said.

Panjim Block President Pratibha Borkar claimed that there had been around 147 incidents of crime against women in the past year alone, with the numbers continuing to rise. “The question remains, who will change this mentality of rape and violence against women?” she questioned.

The protesters also called for urgent action, including the introduction of self-defence lessons for all girls from the 7th standard onwards. They argued that, despite the increasing number of rape cases, the government has shown no initiative to curb such crimes.

Goa Pradesh Youth Congress President Mahesh Nadar criticised the government's failure to install CCTV cameras in schools, colleges, and public spaces, given the frequency of reported incidents. “The government has not taken any safety measures for

women. We demand that self-defence classes be introduced in schools. Martial arts should be a subject in the curriculum. However, teaching martial arts alone will not solve the issue. The mentality of men must also change,” he stated.

GPCC General Secretary Shrinivas Khalap pointed out the inefficiency of the police response, claiming that emergency numbers provided by the government are often unresponsive. “Isn't it the responsibility of the chief minister, who heads the home department, to ensure that the police respond promptly? What use are emergency numbers if the police don't arrive on time? The home department must be held accountable, as even basic issues are being ignored,” Khalap asserted.

Carrying placards with slogans such as 'Power Hungry BJP has failed on women's safety' and 'Do not boast of detection, focus on protection,' the Congress leaders rallied against the BJP government, urging them to prioritise the safety of women.

## Assagao man claims he was attacked twice by same Rottweiler

Team Herald

**MAPUSA:** 40-year-old Vinil Salgaonkar of Badem, Assagao was bitten on two occasions by the Rottweiler dog even as the dog owner Shyam Govekar has claimed that the victim was teasing his dog and had even thrown a coconut at him.

The Rottweiler attacked Salgaonkar on Thursday night causing injuries to his leg as the owner had unleashed the dog during night.

The police investigations have so far revealed that the complainant and Govekar were neighbours and were on amicable terms. Salgaonkar complained that he was bitten by the same dog in the past and that the owner was not taking adequate care of the ferocious canine.

On the other hand, Govekar told the police that the victim was teasing the dog often and that he used to unleash it only during night so that it can pee and poop. He has further claimed that there were no instances nor any complaints of his dog biting the locals.

The Anjuna police have registered the case under section 291 of BNS and head constable Harish Sawant is conducting investigations.

Sawant said that both the parties will be called at the police station for investigations.

## Councillor requests temporary closure of Taleigao road amid repair delays

FILE PHOTO



Team Herald

**PANJIM:** Concerned about the ongoing hardships faced by the public due to the poor condition of a key road, Nelson Cabral, the Councillor for Ward No. 1 of the Corporation of City of Panaji (CCP), has urged the Deputy Collector to issue an order for the temporary closure of the stretch of road from Mitra Bazaar Garden to Fern Kadamba Residency, which leads to the Taleigao Cemetery.

Cabral expressed frustration that despite multiple attempts to communicate with the relevant authorities regarding the restoration of the road, the issue remains unresolved. He highlighted that since March 2023, there has been consistent correspondence with the authorities, yet the Public Works Department (PWD) has continually

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**O Herald** had highlighted the issue on October 22, 2024, and the plight of commuters who suffer due to the negligence of the authorities towards restoring the road.

Cabral said, “The authorities fail to recognise the extent of the difficulties faced by senior citizens, the elderly, and those who are sick or disabled. The CCP Commissioner has made considerable efforts to bring this critical issue to the PWD's attention, but to

**“The authorities fail to recognise the extent of the difficulties faced by senior citizens, the elderly, and those who are sick or disabled. The CCP Commissioner has made considerable efforts to bring this critical issue to the PWD's attention, but to no avail”**

**- Nelson Cabral**  
Ward 1 Councillor, CCP

no avail.” Cabral has now urged the Deputy Collector, the PWD, the CCP, and the Superintendent of Police (Traffic) to order the closure of the road until repairs can be made. He emphasised that immediate action is necessary to alleviate the suffering of those affected, noting that the community would greatly appreciate any swift intervention.

### POWER SHUTDOWN

**BICHOIM:** On February 2, from 9 am to 4 pm at Bicholim Market, Auchutwada, Bandarwaa, Near Bus Stand, Khumarwada, Nagzarwada, Sunderpeth, Sastiwada, Shivnay Colony, Lakerem, Kholkar Bhat, Near Shantadurga School, Shirodkar Hall and surrounding areas.

### LOOKING FOR LANDS ON JOINT DEVELOPMENT (JDA) BASIS IN AND AROUND GOA

WE ARE REPUTED BUILDERS, LOOKING FOR LANDS AND PROPERTIES, (SETTLEMENT & RESIDENTIAL LANDS WITH SANAD & CLEAR TITLE AND LEGAL REPORT) ON DEVELOPMENT BASIS (JDA). SUBJECT TO MUTUAL ACCEPTANCE AND TERMS, THE LANDS WILL BE DEVELOPED INTO PRIME RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES FOR VILLAS OR FOR APARTMENTS. UPON AMICABLE WORKING REFUNDABLE DEPOSITS AND SHARING PERCENTAGES CAN BE MUTUALLY DISCUSSED. INTERESTED PARTIES AND LAND OWNERS MAY MAIL TO WITH NAMES & CONTACT NUMBER & LAND DETAILS @ luminarizen@gmail.com



**Directorate of Food and Drugs Administration**  
Government of Goa



## E-COMMERCE FOOD BUSINESS OPERATORS TO NOTE FOR STRICT COMPLIANCE



- ➔ Compliance by e-commerce food business operators is crucial for ensuring the safety, quality, and authenticity of food products being sold online, to mitigate risks associated with food-borne illnesses & fraudulent practices.
- ➔ One of the critical needs for e-commerce FBOs is to prioritize the training of the last-mile delivery personnel. It is essential to ensure that delivery staff are well-trained in food safety and hygiene practices.
- ➔ Furthermore, any product claims made on e-commerce platforms must be fully aligned with the information provided on the product's physical label. No claims substantiated on the product packaging should appear online.
- ➔ E-commerce FBOs to ensure that food products being delivered have sufficient remaining shelf life. FSSAI mandates that products must have a minimum shelf life of 30% or at least 45 days before expiry, at the time of delivery.
- ➔ E-commerce platforms are required to prominently display FSSAI License/Registration numbers of the sellers and Hygiene Ratings obtained by food business operators.
- ➔ It is reiterated that no e-commerce FBO shall list any food business operator [seller] on its platform without displaying their valid FSSAI License or Registration.