

Highway widening work poses danger at Kerya-Khandepar

Residents call for proper signage, traffic control, and safe access roads

PICS: SANTOSH NAIK



Team Herald

PONDA: The ongoing highway widening work at Kerya-Khandepar has created chaos, turning the area into an accident-prone zone. According to the locals, several minor accidents have been reported in the area recently and are now calling for immediate safety measures to prevent major incidents.

Residents are urging authorities to provide proper

access roads to Nandanwada, install larger "Work in Progress" signs, set up traffic diversion boards, and deploy traffic police to control the flow of vehicles. Locals fear that without these changes, the area will continue to be hazardous for commuters.

The highway widening project, which includes the construction of a four-lane road and service road, is progressing at Kerya-Khandepar. However, locals have

NIGHTMARE FOR MOTORISTS

raised concerns about the lack of adequate safety measures, which have made the site more prone to accidents. "The small warning signs are difficult to spot, especially when vehicles are speeding. We need larger, more visible signs, as well as traffic police to manage the flow of traffic and reduce the risk of accidents," said

one resident.

Sandeep Parkar, a local resident said "The widening work is causing significant disruptions, and traffic is being diverted unexpectedly from one lane to another, leading to confusion and accidents. The few 'Work in Progress' signs that are in place are hard to notice from a distance, making it difficult for drivers to navigate the lanes properly."

Parkar also pointed out

that the access road to Nandanwada has been blocked due to the ongoing work, causing inconvenience for locals. "There used to be a traffic circle near the Kerya Garbage Plant, but with the widening project, the circle appears to have been removed, leaving the road without proper junctions," he added.

Locals are urging the authorities to take immediate action to address these safety concerns and prevent any further accidents.

Bondbaag locals panic as bison spotted in village

Team Herald

PONDA: Panic has gripped the villagers of Bondbaag, Bethora, after a herd of about seven bison were spotted roaming in their residential area.

People say that they now spend sleepless nights and also fear that their plantations and property will be destroyed by the wandering herd.

This comes just three months after a fatal wild bison attack in October last year, when a woman lost her life after mistaking a wild bison for a buffalo and attempting to drive it away. "We still remember the tragic incident and now, with the bison herds returning, we are terrified to go out after nightfall," said Mangaldas Gaude, a local resident.

The herds, consisting of seven to eight bison, enter the village as darkness falls spreading fear around. "We no longer go outside at night, as we fear the bison may attack us," said another villager and added that they were spending sleepless nights.

The village, located near forested areas, is seeing increasing encounters with wild bison. Locals believe the animals are being at-



tracted by discarded food waste, such as garbage and rotten vegetables, which some people leave along the isolated roads leading into the village. "The bison come to feed and often roam not only through backyards but also along the main road, creating a frightening atmosphere," explained Sadanand Gaude, a local villager.

It is worth noting that after the tragic attack in October last year, the forest department took measures to prevent such incidents, including digging trenches for one kilometre at the edge of the village. However, locals believe these

measures have not been sufficient, as the herds continue to venture into the area. "The trenches didn't stop the bison from entering," said one local. "We need the forest department to drive the animals back into the deep forest," said another.

Wild bison have also been spotted in other areas, including Ponda City, Dhavalim, Chirputem, and Curti. The recent disturbances in the forest, caused by construction activities and highway widening, have been blamed for pushing the bison out of their natural habitat and into nearby residential areas.

Taxi falls into pit near Dabolim junction



Team Herald

VASCO: In a freak accident, a tourist taxi fell into a deep pit dug for a flyover pillar near Dabolim Junction on Wednesday morning. However, no one was injured in the incident.

The taxi driver reportedly lost control of the vehicle, which then veered into a roadside pit, a few metres deep, dug for the construction of the ongoing flyover. The car sustained damages.

According to the police, the taxi had picked up two tourists from Dabolim International Airport and was heading to Agonda, Canacona, when

the accident occurred. The vehicle, along with the passengers, plunged into the open pit. Fortunately, the car's airbags deployed in time, preventing any injuries. The tourists were transferred to another vehicle and continued their onward journey to Agonda.

Local residents have expressed serious concerns over the contractor's safety measures, calling the mishap an eye-opener. They have demanded that the relevant authorities ensure proper barricading and safety protocols at the ongoing construction site to prevent further accidents.

Cycle rally to spread awareness on maritime safety

Team Herald

VASCO: A cycling rally on the theme 'Surakshit Tat' is making its way along India's western coastline, spreading awareness about maritime safety, security, and national pride, as part of the Coast Guard Week 2025 celebrations.

The rally, which started from Daman on February 2, will cover 1,860-km, culminating at Vizhinjam, Kerala, on February 23. A total of 20 cyclists are participating in this initiative, promoting fitness, environmental consciousness, and maritime security awareness.

Upon reaching Vasco on Monday, the rally was warmly received by Coast Guard District Headquarters No. 11 (CGDHQ-11). During their day stay in Goa, the cyclists interacted with local fishermen and officials of fisheries department, discussing the Indian Coast Guard's role, career opportunities, and the vital contribution of fishermen to coastal security.

The initiative aligns with national campaigns like the Fit India Movement and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, reinforcing a commitment to a cleaner and safer maritime environment, states a release.

On Wednesday late evening, the team was flagged off towards Karwar by Suman Kumar, IDSE, Chief Engineer, Coast Guard, Goa.

Alliance needed to defeat BJP, asserts Benaulim MLA

Team Herald

MARGAO: Benaulim's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Venzy Viegas on Monday asserted that an alliance was the only answer to defeat the BJP in the next State elections.

Speaking about the alliance, Viegas, who was responding to queries from media persons, recalled that Congress South Goa MP Captain Viriato Fernandes won due to the contribution of AAP as the alliance partner and added that no one could deny this fact.

He added that the MP is traveling around the country and the state as the South Goa Legislator, thanks to the hard work put in by AAP along with other alliance partners in

Given the visible cracks in the alliance, Viegas said that ultimately it is for the people to see what happens in the future but asserted that only the alliance formula can win the elections, or else BJP would win

the run-up to the Lok Sabha elections. Based on that, he said that AAP expects the Congress to reciprocate the support towards its party (AAP) in the future.

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the elections, or else BJP would win.

He referred to Delhi and other State elections where BJP won due to infighting among alliance partners and said in the end, everyone except the BJP had lost. In the bargain, BJP's politics on religion, communalism, and hatred was allowed to prevail as well.

Viegas added that in Goa at the moment, unless there is one single political party in the Opposition, be it AAP or any other party, that has its grassroots organisational structure big enough to single-handedly defeat the BJP, an alliance is the only option.

He indirectly warned that if the INDIA Alliance were to break, then only the BJP stands to benefit.

Viegas added that the Delhi elections were lost as there was an attempt to target the party's supremo Arvind Kejriwal through false cases against him and party colleagues, but that this did not diminish the philosophy and identity of the party.

"The AAP has accepted the verdict of the people of Delhi and the party has fought against all political parties, besides ED, police, etc. Though AAP has lost power, the party has secured a vote share of 44 per cent, compared to the BJP's 46 per cent, a difference of just two per cent," said Viegas.

He said that the immediate focus is on the forthcoming Zilla Panchayat (ZP) elections in December 2026.

APPOINTMENTS

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For position below, Walk-in interviews will be conducted on 15th & 16th (Saturday & Sunday) February 2025 for our Cable & Connectivity Solutions Business (CCS)

Position	Department	Qualification	Years of Exp	Shifts	Job Description
Team Leader	CCS Operations	Diploma / Bachelor's in Engineering	4+ years of related experience	Shifts	Responsible for coordinating, monitoring, supervising and executing the activities of one or more production areas. Assists in the development of departmental personnel to enhance skills, improve responsiveness. Must have high level of skill and knowledge in manufacturing / production operations with demonstrated ability to function in a leadership role, and very good interpersonal and communication skills..
Technician Process	CCS Operations	Diploma / Bachelor's in Engineering (ECE / Mechanical / E&E.	3+ years of related experience	Shifts	Work closely with Team Leaders and Process Engineer to implement standard production processes. Modify or develop new processes / methods, tools, fixtures or equipments for repeatable, reliable and cost effective manufacturing. Must have experience in a medium volume / mix electro-mechanical manufacturing or production environment with an emphasis on manufacturing processes.
Technician Quality	CCS Quality	Diploma / Bachelor's in Engineering	3+ years of related experience	Shifts	Responsible to Assist Quality Engineer/Quality Manager in developing, maintaining, and auditing the operations and support processes and systems that are intended to assure the quality of the products manufactured.Must have working knowledge of-7 QC Tools, Root Cause Analysis, 8D, Process Audit.
Technician Maintenance	CCS Operations	Diploma / Bachelor's in Engineering	2+ years of related experience	Shifts	Responsible for preventive maintenance and breakdown, installation, commissioning of equipment, especially fiber optic / cable machinery. Understanding of PLC / Drives / Automated systems. Should have sound understanding of hydraulic & pneumatic systems.Added advantage to have Knowledge of SAP, Solid Works, and AutoCAD.
Assistant Shipping	Export / Import Operations	Any Graduate	3+ years of related experience	Shifts	Responsible for generation of Pre-Shipment Export/Domestic documents, such as Tax invoice, Commercial invoice, P/L, Examination report, E-Waybill etc Coordinating with planning, W/h, Transporter, Freight forwarder, CHA for smooth function of Shipping Responsible to Obtain checklist from CHA and approving after verification. Follow up and Verifying Bill of lading and Shipping bill. Required Knowledge of HSN, DBK, RODTEP, EPCG. Must be expertise in Post shipment and refund process. Must be expertise in Post shipment and refund process.
Materials Coordinator Shipping	Logistics Operations	Any Graduate	3+ years of related experience	Shifts	Basic Knowledge of Receiving, Put away, Picking, Packing and Dispatch of Finish Goods Generate shipping documents and labels, coordinating with the shipping department for timely delivery. Collaborate with production teams to ensure timely completion of production runs and meet delivery schedules. Maintain detailed records of finished goods inventory levels within the SAP system. Generate reports on inventory turnover, sales trends, and potential stock issues. Conduct quality checks on finished goods before shipment to ensure compliance with standards.
Material Coordinator Warehouse	Warehouse Operations	Any Graduate	3+ years of related experience	Shifts	High level of skill and knowledge in Raw Materials warehouse operations with demonstrated ability to function in a Materials Co-Ordinator role. Good SAP transaction skill Like GRN, Putaway and Production Order issuance . Familiar with material and inventory ordering and distribution processes. Familiar with storage and disposal of chemicals, Bulk, Shelf life, FIFO parts.

Walk-in interviews will be conducted between 10:30 am to 3:30 pm at "CommScope India Pvt. Ltd.", Plot No. N-2, Phase IV, Verna Industrial Estate, Verna, Goa. Please bring your updated bio data.

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Raw sewage in open gutters raises a stink at Ponda

Locals hit out at authorities for turning Nelson's eye to illegalities by roadside

SANTOSH NAIK



Team Herald

PONDA: The problem of raw sewage being discharged into road side drains has raised a stink once again in Ponda with residents approaching the civic body and health authorities to act against those guilty.

The sewage discharge is particularly noticeable near the Daag Ponda area, close to the PWD Office and the Goa Dairy milk booth, making the area unbearable for locals and passers-by.

Kisan Naik, a Ponda resident, highlighted that although Ponda has a sewage treatment plant, some buildings, continue to release waste directly into open gutters. "There are around 200 flats in a residential building here and for the past two years, raw sewage has been flowing into the

There are around 200 flats in a residential building here and for the past two years, raw sewage has been flowing into the roadside gutter.

— Kisan Naik, Ponda resident

The situation is especially problematic near the Goa Dairy milk booth, where the sewage flows directly in front, causing hardships for people who come to buy milk."

Naik also pointed out the health risks posed by the sewage, particularly to schoolchildren and the general public. "The sewage accumulates near the PWD office, creating a nuisance for those visiting the Water Supply Division," he added.

PWD employees have also expressed frustration

with the ongoing issue. "We have been forced to endure the stench for a long time and despite filing numerous complaints with the Health Department and PMC three times, the sewage stops temporarily, only to begin flowing again after a few months," said an employee on condition of anonymity.

PMC officials confirmed that a notice has been issued to the housing society and they have been warned them to resolve the issue immediately.

Sanitary Inspector Manoj Naik confirmed that he had visited the site and directed the building's management to stop the sewage discharge. He also urged the society to connect to the proper sewage system. "I have taken the necessary steps, and they have been informed to resolve the situation," Naik said.