

# PIL seeks to remove gaddas encroaching Old Goa pavements

Most of 250 carts in Old Goa VP jurisdiction trading illegally: Petitioner

Team Herald

PANJIM: Basavaraj Naraboli, a resident of Carambolim has filed public interest litigation (PIL) writ petition in the High Court of Bombay at Goa seeking to remove carts (gaddas) which have encroached footpaths at Old Goa.

Petitioner has stated that there are more than 250 carts in the jurisdiction of Old Goa Panchayat and most of them are trading illegally. The carts are erected on the footpath in front of panchayat office while in some places they have been converted into shops.

In a response to an application filed under Right To Information (RTI) Act, the Se Old Goa Village Panchayat has confirmed that there are about 250 gaddas. The carts are two-metre-long and one-metre wide and most of them have been



issued permanent electricity connection. The pedestrians are unable to use the footpath due parking of the carts on public footpaths, the petitioner has stated.

Although a specific space has been designated for carts in Old Goa, they are parked on footpaths. This also results in traffic congestion during rush hours and causes inconvenience



The kiosks encroached pavements at Old Goa.

## GADDAS GIVEN PERMANENT POWER CONNECTIONS: SE OLD GOA VP

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to people. Apart from that these carts parked on the side of the road are being converted into shops and hotels.

According to the petition-

er, the Village Panchayat has issued licences to some of the gadda owners to sell tobacco related products. Adv Vibhav Amonkar is representing the petitioner.

# Bhatlem road closed for Smart City works

Residents, commuters directed to use alternative routes for three days

Team Herald

PANJIM: In more trouble brewing for commuters, residents and others in the capital city, the Imagine Panaji Smart City Development Limited (IPSCDL) has issued an advisory that the stretch of road spanning from Ram Mandir to Sitabai Complex at Bhatlem will be completely closed for all vehicular movement from February 21 to 23, to carry out the ongoing Smart City works.

During the road closure, residents and commuters will not have access to the road and alternative routes will have to be used.

To minimise inconvenience, the Imagine Panaji Smart City Development Ltd (IPSCDL) has announced traffic diversions:

Commuters traveling from St Inez and Taleigao to 4 Pillar Junction via Bha-



## TRAFFIC DIVERSION FROM FEB 21 TO 23

» Commuters travelling from St Inez and Taleigao to 4 Pillar Junction via Bhatlem will have to take a diversion through Altinho

» Those commuting from Panjim and St Cruz to Ram Mandir Junction will have to re-route via Rua de Ourem

tleem will have to take a diversion through Altinho. Similarly, those commuting from Panjim and St Cruz to Ram Mandir Junction will have to re-route via Rua de Ourem.

The Imagine Panaji Smart City Development Limited has appealed to residents, businessmen and daily commuters to co-operate to facilitate the successful

execution of critical inter-connection work.

The Imagine Panaji Smart City Development Limited has already submitted that all roads in Panjim will be made operational by March 31, while work of footpaths, beautification and other ancillary works of landscaping, tree plantation, etc, will be completed by June 30 this year.

## CLEARED AT LAST



UPENDRA NAIK



The Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP) cut down the decaying tree near Thomas Garage in St Inez. (Inset) O Herald in its February 15 edition had highlighted that the branches of the tree had begun to drop, posing risk to passersby

# Activist Kankonkar gets police summons, dares CM to arrest him

Team Herald

PANJIM: Activist Rama Kankonkar, who was summoned to the Panjim Police Station in connection with a public statement against the Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, has dared the head of the government to arrest him.

Kankonkar has claimed that the Police tracked him through Google, picked him from Marcel and brought to the police station.

Stating that he was kept there for nearly half a day for questioning, the activist said that he has given his

**Please arrest us, we have nothing left now. This is frustration and I am ready to get arrested and ready to stay in jail for whatever number of years**  
-Rama Kankonkar, activist

statement to the police, demanding that the complaint be withdrawn.

Speaking to mediapersons after coming out of the police station, Kankonkar said, "Please arrest us, we have nothing left now. This is frustrating and I am ready to get arrested and ready to stay in jail for whatever number of years."

In his statement to police, Kankonkar stated that he would continue to stand firm on his statement.

It may be recalled that Kankonkar on Wednesday in a video had said that a migrant is threatening Goans openly and the Home Department is not doing anything about it.

Kankonkar's statement

was a reaction to an incident in Sancoale panchayat where a person speaking in Hindi pointing to the local Panch in the Panchayat premises had threatened that "he will bury them alive".

The activist later made a remark against the Chief Minister following which he was summoned to the Panjim Police Station.

Meanwhile, Kankonkar's wife Rati accused the Chief Minister of overstepping his position which is meant to help and support people, by using the police against Rama.

## Sao Matias VP asks locals to pay taxes

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Sao Matias village panchayat has asked residents to pay house tax, garbage user fees and professional or commercial fees as soon as possible.

In a public notice, the panchayat has said, "This is to inform all residents in the jurisdiction of village panchayat Sao-Matias that the office of village panchayat has started collecting house tax, garbage user fees, profession/commercial taxes etc. In this regard, you are hereby requested to pay the above said taxes and user fees, as soon as possible."

ing the exercise successful.

Dr Murugan Appupillai, Director at Mission Rabies said that the campaign has been organised for quick action to completely eradicate rabies from Goa.

Halarankar said that the department will soon begin a drive to identify the dogs of banned breeds in Goa.

Halarankar made it clear that owners of such pets will have to sterilise and register their pets. "These banned breeds are dangerous for humans, as seen in Panjim and Anjuna cases," he said.

The Minister said, "Already the Centre has done a census and some may have hidden their pets from it. We will take police protection and our veterinary doctors will identify and sterilise the pets of ferocious breeds," he said.

# Controlling stray population: Eight-day drive aims to make Bardez rabies free

Another drive to identify dogs of banned breeds in Goa soon: Minister

Team Herald

PANJIM: In a bid to make Bardez rabies free and control the dog pollution, a massive eight-day special free vaccination, sterilisation drive for stray and pet dogs will be organised in the taluka from February 21.

This was announced by Minister for Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services (AHVS) Nilkanth Halarankar. He said after an intensive surveillance in Goa, three cases of rabies in animals were recorded in 2023 and two in 2024. The cases of stray dog bites on beaches in Bardez taluka and rabies cases have prompted the AHVS to start the mega drive.

The minister said hundreds of volunteers will undertake the task of



vaccinating, sterilising and creating awareness among the locals. In all 1,500 persons with 32 vaccination teams will be involved in the exercise.

The drive will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant.

Halarankar said the AHVS with the help of Mission Rabies completed 100 per cent vaccination and sterilisation.

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- Nilkanth Halarankar, Minister for Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services

"Despite the sterilisation exercises, the population of dogs has not reduced. I urge the people to help the mission to identify and eradicate rabies. The campaign will continue. We are aiming at cent percent vaccination and sterilisation, the minister said, and urged the people to help the volunteers in mak-

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