

Residents demand flyover at Bethora junction as traffic woes increase

Say widened road has increased traffic; fear it could turn into an accident prone zone

Team Herald

PONDA: The Curti-Bethora-Borim bypass road has been widened and converted into a four-lane highway. However, since then, local residents have felt the urgent need for an underpass or a flyover at the Bethora main junction due to severe traffic congestion on bypass road.

Fearing that the prevailing chaotic situation could lead to accidents, the residents have called for the immediate construction of a flyover.

According to locals, the four-lane expansion was carried out without provisions for underpasses or a flyover, leaving key infrastructure developments incomplete.

Residents claim that the widened road has led to in-



creased traffic, particularly heavy vehicles speeding towards Margao and Belagavi. In addition, industrial estate workers commuting via Bethora Junction have contributed to congestion, especially during working hours. The same road also provides access to the Bethora Nirankal Consheem Codar panchayat and the Dabal Kirlalpal panchayat. Local resident Hemant

Samant has strongly emphasised the urgent need for a flyover at Bethora Main Junction.

"Our priority is the flyover," he said. "For the past two years, I have repeatedly raised this issue at the gram sabha and even wrote to the PWD (National Highways) two years ago requesting the construction of a flyover."

Samant stressed that the Panchayat's priority should

be the flyover. However, he suggested that until the flyover is constructed, a traffic signal system should be installed to manage the heavy traffic from all directions.

"There is an industrial estate at Bethora, and due to this, there is chaos during working hours. Everyone wants to cross the road, which could lead to accidents. The government should immediately con-

"Our priority is the flyover," he said. "For the past two years, I have repeatedly raised this issue at the gram sabha and even wrote to the PWD (National Highways) two years ago requesting the construction of a flyover."

Hemant Samant, Bethora resident

"There is ongoing follow-up with the authorities regarding this issue. If implemented, this would be the first traffic signal system in Ponda taluka, and it could help streamline the traffic flow at the junction,"

Madu Khandeparkar, Sarpanch

struct a flyover at the junction," he added.

Meanwhile, Madu Khandeparkar, Sarpanch of Bethora Nirankal Consheem Codar Panchayat, revealed that authorities are currently working on installing a traffic signal system at the junction to regulate traffic.

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plemented, this would be the first traffic signal system in Ponda taluka, and it could help streamline the traffic flow at the junction," he said.

Residents, however, remain firm in their demand for a flyover, insisting that a traffic signal system can only be a temporary solution to an escalating traffic problem.

shorttakes

FDA CRACKS DOWN ON SUBSTANDARD CASHEW SALES IN CALANGUTE, BAGA

CALANGUTE: The Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) conducted raids on three shops—Balaji Kaju, P Patel Kaju, and Goa Kaju House—for violating quality norms. Officials found vendors misleading customers by packaging premium cashews visibly on the outer side while concealing inferior ones inside. Additionally, they were caught selling underweight packets by tampering with weighing scales and packaging stale nuts. Legal cases have been filed against all three vendors. Raids are conducted every fortnight to uphold product quality. "Cashew nuts are a symbol of Goa, and we want tourists to get the best quality," FDA officials stated.

MAN BOOKED FOR ASSAULTING WOMAN AND SON OVER PROPERTY DISPUTE

MARGAO: Preeti Estiberio of Macazana, Salcete, has lodged a complaint with Maina-Curtorim Police, alleging that she and her son were allegedly assaulted and threatened by Anthony Basildes D'Costa, alias Tony, over a property dispute. The incident occurred on February 20, around 8.15 pm, near Algeria Dance Floor, Maina-Raia, where the accused allegedly blocked her vehicle, smashed a car window, and attacked her and her son, Arvind Victor Estiberio, with a hard object, causing injuries. The accused also verbally abused, threatened, and made indecent gestures towards Estiberio. Police have registered an offence under multiple sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), and an investigation is underway.

CALANGUTE DEPUTY SARPANCH OUSTED IN NO-CONFIDENCE VOTE

CALANGUTE: Geeta Parab, Deputy Sarpanch of the Calangute Panchayat, was voted out in a no-confidence motion on Thursday after eight out of 11 panchayat members backed the move. Calangute Sarpanch Joseph Sequeira, who had filed the no-confidence motion on February 12, stated that there was an understanding that Parab that she would step down after two and a half years. However, as she refused to resign, he initiated the motion, leading to her removal. Parab, a former sarpanch, denied the existence of such an agreement, stating that the no-confidence motion came as an unexpected surprise.

PUNE BUSINESSMAN ACCUSED OF CHEATING IN PET FOOD SCAM

MARGAO: Akhsay Vaidya from Bavdhan, Pune, has been booked for fraud after allegedly inducing a complainant into a pet food business under Pure Bite Pvt Ltd and supplying contaminated products. The complainant suffered financial losses of Rs 1.7 lakh while Vaidya allegedly misused two blank cheques worth Rs 4,44,846 each. He later filed a cheque dishonour case under Section 138 of the NI Act against the complainant.

RICKSHAW DRIVER BOOKED FOR NEGLIGENCE IN MARGAO CRASH

MARGAO: Yuvaraj Mallainar, a rickshaw driver from Moti Dongor, Margao, has been booked for rash and negligent driving after colliding with motorcyclist Rajasab Sanyed near Krishna Temple, Railway Station Road. The victim sustained serious injuries.

POWER SHUTDOWN

CANDOLIM: From February 22 to March 1, from 7 am to 3 pm. Affected areas are Xmer, Anavaddo, Camutiwaddo, Arady, Pinto vaddo, Souzaavaddo, Dando, Siquerim, Mudda, Bamanavaddo, Confrariavaddo, Orda, Saipem, FABR Siquerim, Pilerne Industrial estate, Science and Technology at Calangute.

PONDA: On February 22, from 9 am to 2 pm. Affected areas are Sahakar Bhandar, Dangui building and surrounding areas at Curti-Ponda.

TALEIGAO: On February 22, from 9.30 am to 1 pm. Affected areas are La Marvel colony and surrounding areas.

BICHOLIM: On February 23, from 9 am to 2 pm. Affected areas are Bicholim market, near Bicholim bus stand and surrounding area.

BICHOLIM: On February 23, from 3 pm to 4 pm. The affected areas are Chimulwada, Hira Talkies, Viswash Nagar, Karapurkar building, Vaibhav residency, Pajwada, Gaonkarwada Bicholim and surrounding areas.

MARGAO: On February 24, from 9 am to 6 pm. Affected areas are Hindu pharmacy, Fast Track, Govind Pai hardware, Mustafa, Vanita Jewellers, Silver shoes, Rainbow Collection, Vissu Virginkar sons, Ratna Traders and surrounding area.

MARGAO: On February 25, from 9 am to 6 pm. Affected areas are Jagannath traders, Naik traders, Teacher wine, Flyover bridge area, Emeskey enterprises, hotel Santosh Bhojanalay and surrounding areas.

CANSULIM: On February 25, from 9 am to 5 pm. Affected areas are Velsao Dando, Fabrica vaddo, Infant Jesus area at Verna.

VASCO: On February 25, from 10 am to 12 pm. Affected areas are Fatima Colony, Dabolim junction and surrounding area.

VASCO: On February 25, from 10 am to 2 pm. The affected areas are Ulta Pulta Museum, Umiya Quatro A, B, C, D building, Croma, Flofee Bar, Keshav Smruti High school, Green Meadows building and Green Valley at Vasco.

Transport dept warns rent-a-cab operators against violating order

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Directorate of Transport has issued a public notice to Rent-a-Cab operators against violating terms and conditions.

The Department has warned cancellation of permit of rent-a-cab vehicle if conditions are violated. Rent-a-cab vehicles have been assigned a specific stand. However, many vehicles are found at unauthorised public places such as airports and railway stations in violation of the conditions and guidelines prescribed under the Rent-a-Cab Scheme 1989.

These operators have been asked to strictly operate from their registered main office or designated branch offices as permitted

"We will abide by the licence conditions. We are service providers and people book our vehicles online. But we request the department to take similar action against operators other than Rent-a-cab."

—Maulani Shaikh, North Goa Rent-a-Cab Assn GS

under their licence.

Reacting to this North Goa Rent-a-Cab Association general secretary (GS) Maulani Shaikh said, "We will abide by the licence conditions. We are service providers and people book our vehicles online. But we request the department to take similar action against operators other than Rent-a-cab."

These operators have been asked to strictly operate from their registered main office or designated branch offices as permitted

Bethora locals demand removal of illegal scrapyards

Besides posing danger to locality, locals say, place is turning into hideout for anti-social elements

Team Herald

PONDA: Residents of Bethora have demanded the immediate removal of scrapyards operating in the panchayat area, citing fire hazards and an increase in theft-related activities. Locals claim that truckloads of scrap being transported through residential roads are causing inconvenience to the community.

The issue escalated further on Thursday when a minor was caught committing theft in broad daylight. The suspect was later traced to a scrapyards, prompting locals to demand the arrest of the mas-



termind behind the thefts. They have called for a thorough police investigation and the implementation of a tenant verification process to track those involved in illegal activities.

Residents also reported that a motorcycle was found abandoned in the area after

thieves fled the scene, having removed its fuse for copper extraction. Though small in quantity, copper wire from fuses is highly valuable, leading to frequent thefts.

Locals stated that for several years, they have raised concerns in gram sabhas, demanding the removal of haz-

ardous scrapyards from the panchayat area. Their frustration peaked on Thursday at around 11:30 am, when they spotted an unknown thief tampering with an electricity transformer box, allegedly attempting to steal copper wiring. The act caused a power outage in the locality.

Residents apprehended a minor at the scene and handed him over to Ponda Police. They suspect that the stolen copper wires are being sold to illegal scrapyards in the area. They have urged the police to conduct a thorough inquiry, identify the culprits, and take strict action to curb thefts in the locality.

Youth remanded in custody for raping minor

Team Herald

MARGAO: Cuncolim police arrested Sushan Nayak (21), a waiter from Sarzora, Salcete, for allegedly raping a minor girl, who is now pregnant.

He was remanded for five days by the Margao JMFC court under BNS 2023 Section 65(1), GCA 2003 Section 8(2), and POC SO Act 2012 Section 4.

The victim, brought to Goa from Jharkhand without her parents' knowledge, will record her statement in court. Nayak was picked up from his rented room in Salcete, and evidence, including his clothes, has been seized.

Arpora-Nagoa sub-health centre achieves national quality certification

Team Herald

CALANGUTE: The Arpora-Nagoa AAM Sub-Health Centre has been awarded the prestigious National Quality Assurance Standard (NQAS) Certification by the National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC), achieving an impressive score of 96%. The assessment was conducted by a national team in January 2025, according to Candolim PHC Health Officer, Dr Roshan Nazareth.

Dr Nazareth highlighted that the Arpora-Nagoa Sub-Health Centre is the first of its kind in Goa (and possibly in India) to



be designated as a fully air-conditioned, Wi-Fi-enabled facility. It also features interior-designed spaces, inverter backup, 15 point-of-care tests, and a stock of 106 essential medicines

and vaccines, along with the necessary healthcare infrastructure and equipment required for quality certification.

The sub-health centre was fully funded under a CSR

initiative by Arpora-Nagoa Sarpanch and MLA Michael Lobo and was inaugurated in 2024 by Health Minister Vishwajit Rane.

The Arpora-Nagoa healthcare team, which played a crucial role in securing the certification, includes: Dr Roshan Nazareth (Candolim PHC Health Officer); nurse Manali Nalkar; Dr Shiya Candolkar (Homeopathy); Dr Karishma Shirodkar; Dr Mitali Arabekar (Nodal Officer); Arun Tutekar; Samreen Shaikh; Aruna Gawas; Vishwambar Bhsale (Malaria Staff); Krishna Gaonkar; Chandrakant Pednekar and Dikita Murari.

'A' category power ratings for Electricity Dept

PANJIM: The Electricity Department, Goa, has been upgraded from B+ to A in the 13th Annual Integrated Ratings & Ranking for Power Distribution Utilities, announced by the Ministry of Power, Government of India yesterday.

A total of 72 State and Government Utilities and Power Departments were assessed in the ranking process. Currently, only 11 DISCOMS have achieved the highest A+ category.

The rankings are based on key performance parameters. Goa's AT&C losses are now at their lowest, 9.32%, with an ACS-ARR gap of 0.52, contributing to its improved ranking.

Alcoholism linked to rising social and health issues: Alcoholics Anonymous

Team Herald

PANJIM: Alcoholism is a major contributing factor to one-third of suicides, two-thirds of domestic violence cases, 40% of job absenteeism, and over 200 medical conditions, according to Alcoholics Anonymous (AA).

Speaking at the Global Convention in Goa, the organisation emphasised the need to challenge the false narrative of modernity associated with alcohol consumption.

Dr Ashish Deshpande, Trustee at Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), highlighted a growing trend of alcohol consumption among women in corporate settings. "As the age of first exposure decreases, the likelihood of social damage due to addictive substances increases by up to five times, especially if consumption begins before the age of 15," he stated.

Dr Deshpande warned that un-

awareness of alcohol's dangers is allowing modern lifestyle influences—films, advertisements, and social trends—to normalise drinking. "Young minds receive the message that alcohol is harmless, making them more curious and open to experimenting with it," he said.

To counteract this, he stressed the urgent need for awareness campaigns. "Real-world information about alcohol-related diseases must be published and broadcast in the media to provide a counter-narrative," he urged. "If no alternative viewpoint exists, society becomes increasingly permissive, and as alcohol consumption rises, 3% to 8% of individuals will face social consequences linked to drinking."

"We must unite our voices and actively challenge this so-called 'modernity' associated with alcohol," he concluded.

Site inspection of mining affected areas conducted

Team Herald

BICHOLIM: Bicholim Deputy Collector and Sub-Divisional Officer Bhimnath Khorjuvekar on Friday carried out a site inspection of mining affected areas in Mulgao village and directed the mining company to take preventive measures within a fortnight.

Mulgao sarpanch Mansi Kauthankar, panchayat members, Mulgao Nagrik Kruti Samiti president Vasant Gad, Comunidade of Mulgao president Maheshwar Parab, villagers and representatives of mining company were present.

Recalling the landslide reported at Mulgao in July 2011, the villagers expressed their apprehensions and urged the authorities to take immediate corrective measures and to ensure that no untoward incident happen. The Mulgao village is recorded as landslide prone area. The villagers also demanded that the transportation of iron ore be not allowed in Mulgao.

In a press communique, M/s Vedanta Limited stated that the mine inspection carried out at Mulgao was part of the routine pre-monsoon inspection by the district administration. The inspection is being carried out by Bicholim Dy Collector and has got no connection with any other issue reported previously.

Goa Triathlon: Road closures and traffic restrictions in Panjim

Team Herald

PANJIM: The North Goa Collector has imposed the following road closures and traffic restrictions on Sunday, February 23 in Panjim, in view of the Goa Triathlon being organised as part of the mini Orange Aqua Moga sports event.

The Beachside lane (LHS) of the stretch of Dr Jack De Sequeira road from NIO Circle, Dona Paula to Campal Indoor Stadium (D B Road) shall be used exclusively for the race events and shall be closed for general vehicular traffic from 6 am to till the end of the race.

The right hand side lane from NIO Circle to Campal Ganesh shall be used for two-way vehicular movement. Further, the left hand side lane of Dr E Borges Road from NIO Circle to Super Specialty Block Hospital, Bambolim shall be ex-

clusively used for the cycling event. Likewise the right hand side lane from NIO Circle to SSB Hospital, Bambolim shall be used for two-way vehicular movements.

The vehicles proceeding from Dona Paula towards Panjim shall be diverted at Aivao Junction to proceed further via Old Caranzalem Road, Tonca, La Campala Road to exit onto D B Road at Starbucks Junction, Campal and proceed further.

Emergency vehicle such as ambulance, fire brigades etc, shall be allowed to move unobstructed.

The organiser shall make a car lane available for the benefit of locals residing along the race route from Campal to NIO Circle and from NIO Circle to SSB Bambolim and allow crossing over of vehicles at strategic points by deploying volunteers.

APPOINTMENTS

INDIAN OIL CORPORATION LIMITED (Marketing Division)			
Advertisement No. IOCL/MKTG/HO/REC/2025			
All India Open Recruitment of Experienced Personnel in Non-Executive category			
& Special Recruitment Drive [SRD] for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities [PwBD] in Non-Executive category			
Extension of date for submission of Application Attention is invited to the advertisement issued in this newspaper on 3 rd February, 2025 through which applications (in online mode) from eligible candidates were invited for the following posts:-			
A) For All India Open Recruitment of Experienced Personnel in Non-Executive category:			
Post Code	Grade	Name of Post	Total no. of Positions
101 to 123	Gd.-I	Junior Operator	215
B) Special Recruitment Drive [SRD] only for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities [PwBD] in Non-Executive category:			
SRD - Posts Reserved only for PwBD			
Post Code	Grade	Name of Post	Total no. of Positions
201 to 204	Gd.-I	Junior Attendant	23
205 to 208	Gd.-III	Junior Business Assistant	08
The last date for submission for online application for the above posts has been extended till 23.55 hours of 28th February 2025. To refer to the detailed advertisement and to apply online, visit website www.iocl.com , then go to 'IndianOil For You' > click on 'IndianOil For Careers' > 'Latest Job Opening' > 'Job Opening' > 'Recruitment of Non-Executive Personnel in Marketing Division-2025'.			