

Oppn to double-tracking gets louder after ex-Min's backing

Eco-warriors say the former minister's views reinforce the need to stop the project that will harm local communities around Velsao, Cansaulim

KARSTEN MIRANDA

MARGAO: The simmering opposition to the ongoing railway double-tracking work in Goa is gathering steam and urgency after former Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu spoke in Goa on the need for public hearings for major develop-



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Public hearing is a must for any project. It was made mandatory in 1998. Without public hearing, any project can be challenged in court. The Goa government must give due consideration to the concerns of local communities. People in Goa are living with their traditional businesses like fishing, farming, horticulture and tourism. No doubt double-tracking will help development, but without the permission of the local people, it should not happen

- Suresh Prabhu, ex Railway Minister



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This is an era of progress, and focusing on minor issues to stop projects benefits no one. It only keeps the State and the country lagging behind. All issues can be resolved through discussion and not by agitation. People once opposed the Konkan Railway, but today they use it extensively. Central government projects ultimately benefit everyone, and we must support them instead of objecting to them

- Mauvin Godinho, Panchayat Minister and Dabolim MLA



ment initiatives. Environmental activists in Goa are using Prabhu's remarks to reinforce their long-standing opposition to the project, which they believe will harm both the environment and local

communities. Abhijit Prabhudesai, co-convenor of Goyant Kollso Naka (GKN) and a key figure in the 2020 Chandor protest, condemned the double-tracking plan as harmful to Goa's ecology

and economy. "The entire population of Goa opposes the double tracking, and democracy demands that it must be cancelled," Prabhudesai asserted, reflecting widespread dissent. His criticism extended beyond

the expansion project itself to the existing railway infrastructure, particularly the coal trains that pass through densely populated villages and the Western Ghats.

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Violent protests erupt in Nagpur over Aurangzeb's tomb, curfew imposed



People gather near charred remains of two-wheelers amid curfew in Nagpur, early Tuesday

NAGPUR: Tensions escalated in Nagpur after protests against Mughal emperor Aurangzeb's tomb turned violent on Monday night. The unrest prompted authorities to impose a curfew in several areas, while over 50 individuals have been taken into custody.

Stones were thrown at police personnel in the Mahal area, resulting in injuries to 34 officers. Vehicles were set ablaze and chaos engulfed central Nagpur's Chitnis Park locality. To contain the situation, police imposed a

curfew at around 4:30 am on Tuesday, restricting movement in parts of the city, including Kotwali, Ganeshpeth and Lakadganj. Only essential services are currently permitted in these zones.

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The violence erupted following an agitation led by members of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and Bajrang Dal, who staged protests demanding the removal of Aurangzeb's tomb located in Chhatrapati

Sambhajnagar district. The protests included burning an effigy of the Mughal emperor and chanting slogans. According to Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, violence ensued when rumours spread that a holy book had been burnt during the agitation.

Nagpur Police Commissioner Ravinder Kumar Singh confirmed that five First Information Reports (FIRs) have been registered in connection with the violence.

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Rosary Edu Complex defends school extension, rejects Navelim forum's allegations

Says proposed plan, which will meet NEP requirements, aims to improve facilities, not increase enrolment; dismisses increased traffic congestion claims as baseless

Team Herald

MARGAO: The Navelim-based Rosary Education Complex (REC) has rejected allegations made by the Navelim Civic and Consumer Forum (NCCF) regarding its proposed school extension, calling the claims baseless and misleading.

In a statement to O Herald, REC clarified that the extension aims to improve facilities for existing students, not to increase enrolment, as claimed by the NCCF. REC also stressed that

the extension plan includes two levels of parking to address concerns about traffic congestion.

"First and foremost, we want to say that there was no storm that brewed in Navelim. Rather, we would say that whatever has been expressed (by those opposing) is baseless," REC stated.

They said education is 'the backbone of any progressive society' and criticised the NCCF, alleging it was attempting to disrupt educational progress for 'selfish gain'.

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"The cause of traffic congestion is the massive boom in residential complexes and business enterprises in and around the area. This issue has to be addressed through systematic traffic management rather than needlessly objecting to educational development

"For decades, these institutions under Rosary Education Complex (REC) have been a beacon of education, shaping the future of thousands of students across generations who will stand by the institution to reject any selfish attempts to hinder progress

- Rosary Education Complex

Israel strikes Gaza, killing over 400 as ceasefire breaks

AP, DEIR AL-BALAH (GAZA STRIP): Israel launched airstrikes across the Gaza Strip early Tuesday, killing at least 404 Palestinians, including women and children, according to hospital officials.

The surprise bombardment shattered a ceasefire in place since January and threatened to fully reignite the 17-month-old war.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered the strikes after Hamas refused Israeli demands to change the ceasefire agreement. Officials said the operation was open-ended and was expected to expand. The White House said it had been consulted and voiced support for Israel's actions.

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BITS Goa students develop filter to screen radical content

PTI, PANJIM: BITS Pilani in Goa has developed a path breaking solution to screen radical content online, and the Union Home Ministry has lauded the institute's efforts, which can help security agencies in the country.

A group of students worked on this ambitious project that helps identify and filter online content that can spread hate. Rohit Raj, a third-year Computer Science student, said that the idea originated from a hackathon organised by the Goa Police, where the problem statement was to address online videos containing extremely



A student of BITS Pilani, Goa Campus, working on an AI-based tool to scan social media platforms for radical or extremist content

Radical content that can instigate violence, hatred and discrimination. Raj said the product allows users to paste a URL from YouTube or X or upload their video, and the website analyses the content and provides a comprehensive report, including a radical probability score, which indicates the likelihood of the content being radical and a radical content percentage, which shows the proportion of the video that is radical.

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