

# Double-tracking: Velsao locals challenge Railways over land ownership in court

Right-of-way turns into contentious issue; locals object to reply filed by Railways based on 'missing' Cadastral Plan; say document not annexed along with reply

Team Herald

**MARGAO:** There was yet another showdown between the villagers of Velsao-Pale-Issorcim and the South Western Railway (SWR) at the court of the Inspector of Survey and Land Records (ISLR) in Margao.

While SWR has finally filed its replies to support its claims of land ownership, Olencio Simoes, General Secretary of Goencho Ekvott (GE), stated that they were insufficient and the locals needed time to respond to the same, which will be done at the next court hearing scheduled for April 15.

He added that SWR had submitted their replies based on the Cadastral Plan but that the Cadastral Plan of Velsao is missing from records, and so on what basis did SWR make these claims? Moreover, why was the Cadastral Plan not attached with their replies?

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to end the long-standing dispute.

It is to be noted that the SWR has claimed ownership of land on either side of the tracks, which the landowners are contesting.

GE Founder Orville Dourado Rodrigues then lambasted SWR for the horrors they are facing due to the ongoing work. He also questioned what will happen during the monsoon given that the old waterways and drainage system

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have been destroyed and the shower on Tuesday exposed the dangers that lie ahead where it would be the locals only who would have to bear the brunt with water likely to enter their houses as the railways have raised the height of the area in front of their houses so much so that it is as high as their compound walls and gates.

He added that these are ancestral heritage homes. Locals in Primeiro Vaddo explained how the railways have literally cordoned off the only entry point of their houses and the locals have to exit through the neighbour's property. Villagers said that they could not take their vehicles out from their compounds and the cars that were parked

in front of their houses on the public access were also lifted and shifted by the railways without citing any rule to do so.

Others in Issorcim spoke about how hundreds of trees in a valley were damaged when railways dumped truckloads of mud from the top while remaining trees were felled indiscriminately.

Locals from Mollo questioned how railways got their names registered in the Form 1 and 14 survey ownership documents when the matter was and is still being contested in court, and the speed at which that work was done at a time when the confrontation at Mollo between the railways and locals was at its peak.

# House gutted in cylinder blast at Dramapur



Fire Department personnel try to bring the blaze under control at Dramapur

Team Herald

**MARGAO:** A house at St Miguel Waddo in Dramapur, around 6 km from Margao, was completely gutted in a fire following a cylinder blast, causing extensive damage. No casualties were reported, fire department officials confirmed.

According to Margao Fire Station Officer (FSO) Gil Souza, the fire department received an alert, and a team was immediately dispatched to the site. A single fire tender was used to bring the blaze under control, but by then, all household belongings had been destroyed.

FSO Souza stated that a 75-year-old woman resided in the house but was not present when the

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fire broke out. She was informed of the incident and rushed back to find her home completely gutted.

While the exact estimated loss is yet to be determined, an investigation is underway. Local residents and authorities, including police personnel, rushed to the scene upon hearing the news.

# Youth Cong urges cops to act on crime in Cortalim

Team Herald

**VASCO:** Alarmed by the increasing crime rate in Cortalim, the Goa Pradesh Youth Congress (GPYC) submitted a memorandum to the Verna Police on Monday, demanding urgent measures to curb criminal activities.

GPYC Working President Mahesh Nadar, along with party members, met police officials and raised concerns over the rise in violent incidents, including murders and assaults.

"The recent attack on two individuals, Anil Muthamaji and Jhusaya Mandal, in which Muthamaji lost his life, has left residents in fear. In the past, even a panch member was attacked. Such incidents are becoming more frequent and must be dealt with immediately," Nadar stated.

"Cortalim has seen a worrying spike in criminal activity. There is an urgent need for law enforcement to step up patrols and keep a close watch on suspicious movements. Residents must feel safe in their own neighbourhoods," Nadar added.

## power shutdown

**BICHOLIM:** On March 28, from 9 am to 2 pm at Tip Colony, Bypass Mulgao, Tambadrasta and surrounding areas.

**PONDA:** On March 28, from 9 am to 2 pm at Sesa Apartment and surrounding areas, on March 29, from 9 am to 2 pm at Silvanagar and surrounding areas.

**BICHOLIM:** On March 29, from 9 am to 2 pm at Tambadrasta, Vinaynagar, Salkar Colony, Shirodwadi, Mulgao and surrounding areas.

## Conduct next hearing on Curti-Khandepar panch by March 28: High Court

Team Herald

**PONDA:** The disqualification of Curti-Khandepar panch member Bhika Kerkar initially by the Ponda Block Development Officer (BDO) for violating the Panchayat Raj Act, reached the High Court of Bombay at Goa after the District and Sessions Court stayed the disqualification order.

The High Court has now

directed the Sessions Court to conduct the next hearing by March 28 and dispose of the petition by April 15.

After disposing of the petition by April 15, the BDO has been directed to conduct the democratic election for vacant posts of sarpanch and deputy after serving proper seven days notices to the Panch members concerned of the Curti Khandepar Panchayat.

**DISQUALIFICATION**

## Mapusa Council seals 11 illegal shops at Ghateshwar Nagar

Team Herald

**MAPUSA:** The Mapusa Municipal Council sealed 11 illegal shops at the Ghateshwar Nagar, Khorlim, Mapusa, on Tuesday, in a move to curb unauthorised commercial activities.

The action was taken following complaints and investigations into the illegal construction of these shops. However, the move has sparked frustration among locals, who are voicing concerns about the lack of employment opportunities.

A local questioned, "We

don't get jobs, and when we try to earn a livelihood through small businesses, we are not allowed to do so. What is the government doing about this situation?"

Many residents feel that while the government regulations are necessary, there should also be a focus on creating employment opportunities and supporting local businesses.

The sealing of these shops has led to a debate on balancing development with economic opportunities for the local community.

## Cops quiz teacher for 'sending porn' to teenage boy

Team Herald

**PONDA:** A tuition teacher from Ponda, was interrogated by the police after the father of a 13-year-old boy found text messages from him on his son's phone, asking him to share pictures of his genitals.

The teacher allegedly befriended the boy on social media, obtained his number and shared pornographic material with him, before pressuring him to send nude photos, police sources said.

## International seminar on tiatr at St Xavier's College

Aims to promote academic discussions, research and critical appreciation of tiatr

Team Herald

**MARGAO:** The Tiatr Academy of Goa (TAG), in collaboration with St Xavier's College, Mapusa, is set to host an International Seminar on Tiatr titled "Echoes from the Past, Voices of Today" on March 28 at the seminar hall of St Xavier's College, Mapusa.

This seminar aims to promote academic discussions, research and critical appreciation of tiatr as both a cultural and literary form.

The day-long event will commence at 9 am and the seminar will be inaugurated by Auxiliary Bishop Fr Simião Purificação Fernandes.

Prof Kyoko Matsukawa, a renowned tiatr researcher from Japan will be the chief guest while the keynote ad-

dress will be delivered by Fausto D'Costa, an esteemed tiatr scholar from Goa.

The inaugural session will also be graced by TAG president Anthony Barbosa, vice president Marcos Gonsalves, Member Secretary and Suresh Divkar. Principal of St Xavier's College, Mapusa, Prof Filipe Rodrigues e Melo, and Administrator Rev Fr Antonio Salema will also be part of the inaugural function.

The seminar will be divided into two academic sessions. The first session, chaired by eminent tiatr scholar Tomazinho Cardozo, will focus on topics including Tiatr kantaram, societal reflections in tiatr works, the influence of European drama on tiatr, and a com-

parative analysis of the works of J A Fernandes and T B Cunha. Presentations will be made by Prof Cosma Fernandes, Dr Fr Luis Gomes, Prof Juao Costa and Prof Remy Dias.

The second session, chaired by well-known tiatr scholar Wilson Mazarelo, will explore evolving trends, folk values and a comparative study of competitive versus commercial tiatr. Presenters in this session include Associate Professor Dharma Chodankar, Assistant Professor Silvester Vaz, Assistant Professor Fr Roman Rodrigues, and Chiara Valosha Miranda.

The seminar will conclude with a valedictory session from 4 to 5 pm featuring chief Guest Prince Jacob, a celebrated tiatr.

### Attention! GST Taxpayers

Whose Aggregate Annual Turnover\* is upto a specified limit\* can opt for GST Composition Scheme for the FY 2025-2026 by 31st March, 2025

Eligible taxpayers who wish to avail the Composition Scheme can follow these steps on the GST portal ([www.gst.gov.in](http://www.gst.gov.in)):

- Log in to the Taxpayers' Interface
- Go to Services > Registration > Application to Opt for Composition Levy
- Fill the FORM GST CMP-02 and submit

**Those eligible taxpayers, who are already availing Composition Scheme, need not file FORM CMP-02 if they are eligible.**

Easy & Convenient Compliance

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Minimum Compliance Requirements

Auto Renewal and Easy to Opt-out

Available for supplier of Goods as well as Services

Less Bookkeeping

* Type of Suppliers		# Aggregate Annual Turnover during FY 2024-25
Supplier of Goods:	Taxpayers registered in 08 Specified States	upto ₹75 Lakh
	Taxpayers registered in other States	upto ₹150 Lakh
Supplier of Services		upto ₹50 Lakh

For more details, please refer to Section 10 of CGST Act, Rule 3-7 of CGST Rules and Notification No. 14/2019-Central Tax dated 07.03.2019

GST Composition Scheme: Big Benefits for Small Taxpayers

**Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs**

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