

Residents near Guv's house without water for 7 months

They suspect that the lack of water supply is due to illegal tapping and granting of new water connections to large projects along the main PWD water line that feeds their

Team Herald

PANJIM: Residents of La Marvel Colony in Dona Paula, Panjim, have been grappling with a severe water shortage, with little to no supply over the past seven months.

Despite repeated appeals to the Chief Engineer of the PWD, Chief Minister, MLA Jennifer Monserrate, and CCP Mayor Rohit Monserrate, residents say no action has been taken and no explanation provided.

Residents suspect that the lack of water supply is due to illegal tapping and the granting of new water connections to large residential and commercial projects along the main PWD water line that feeds their colony. This, they believe, has severely affected the pressure and volume of water reaching their homes.

With the onset of summer, residents fear their hardship will only worsen and have urged authorities to act immediately.

In a statement, the La Marvel Residents Welfare

Due to inadequate pressure, it takes nearly an hour of the two-hour water supply window for La Marvel Colony to start receiving water after it's released from the Taleigao Overhead Reservoir. This leaves us with little to no time to collect enough water for our daily needs—if we receive any at all

— Ajoy Barretto, President, Residents Welfare Association

Association said, "Living close to the official residence of the Hon'ble Governor of Goa does not guarantee a tax-paying citizen the right to receive daily PWD water. While the Governor enjoys a dedicated water supply line, the residents of La Marvel Colony do not. Developed in 1966-67, and home to many senior citizens, our colony is facing severe water scarcity—having gone 8 to 10 days at a stretch without water, for the past seven months—right in the state's capital, Panjim."

Ajoy Barretto, President of the Residents Welfare Association, added, "We have repeatedly brought to the attention of authorities that the issue lies in the inadequate water pressure, which prevents the supply

from reaching deeper into the colony on a daily basis. It takes nearly an hour of the two-hour water supply window for La Marvel to start receiving water after it's released from the Taleigao Overhead Reservoir. This leaves us with little to no time to collect enough water for our daily needs—if we receive any at all."

Barretto further said residents strongly suspect illegal tapping of the main water line and diversion of supply to newly approved residential complexes to be at the root of the problem. Despite repeated appeals to the PWD Assistant Engineer, PWD Chief Engineer, the CCP Commissioner, the local MLA, and the Chief Minister, residents say they are yet to receive a re-

sponse or any relief.

In December 2024, the Residents Welfare Association filed a complaint with the PWD Assistant Engineer (Division III, Sub-Division I, Panjim), stating that the disruption had begun in April 2024.

"Now, there is mostly no supply at all—or just a trickle—for months. This prolonged shortage is causing serious hardship, especially for those living on the higher slopes of La Marvel Colony," the association noted.

When contacted, PWD Works Division III, Sub-Division I Assistant Engineer Sarita Shirodkar said, "We are working on the low-pressure problem at La Marvel. Most consumers are receiving adequate water except those in higher-altitude areas, such as blocks 8C and 8D. Even there, we have been able to release supply by adjusting valves. Trial pits have already been excavated near Jetty Road to explore the feasibility of laying a separate pipeline

Fisherman's body washed ashore near Goa Shipyard

Team Herald

VASCO: The body of a 19-year-old fisherman Efreem Topno was washed ashore near the Goa Shipyard, Vaddem-Vasco on Saturday.

Inquiries revealed that Topno was employed as a labourer on a fishing trawler owned by Oswin Barreto from Baina, Vasco and had reportedly fallen from the vessel during a deep-sea fishing trip.

According to the Vasco Police, the incident came to light when they received a phone call from an unknown person informing them about a body floating in the sea near the Goa Shipyard Ltd. Upon reaching the spot, the police noticed that the body had drifted ashore.

The Vasco police conducted the inquest panchanama and sent the body to the Hospicio South Goa District Hospital, Margao for post-mortem examination.

The Vasco Police have registered a case of unnatural death under Section 194 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). PSI Prissy Carvalho is conducting further investigations under the guidance of Vasco PI Kapil Nayak and overall guidance of Mormugao DySP Gurudas Kadam.

Plastic waste gives Margao railway station an ugly look

Team Herald

MARGAO: The recent facelift of the Konkarn Railway station at Margao, though a welcome development, has been overshadowed by a pressing issue of garbage menace.

Despite the upgrades to the station's infrastructure, a significant problem has emerged with the accumulation of garbage, especially around newly developed areas where food stalls operate.

The contractor responsible for the cleanliness of the station had been penalised for negligence and instructed to clean the area immediately

Baban Bhagat

— Senior Konkarn Railway official

A visit to the Margao railway station revealed a troubling sight, with heaps of garbage scattered across the premises, particularly in the vicinity of these food outlets.

The issue of garbage at the station has raised concerns among local residents and commuters. Many observed that while the station's physical appearance had been enhanced, the cleanliness of the area was being compromised by the negligence of those operating



Heaps of plastic scattered all around

within the station, particularly food vendors.

The garbage was not only unsightly but also posed a health hazard; detracting from the station's modern look and making it appear neglected. The issue was promptly brought to the attention of the Konkarn Railway authorities, who acted swiftly.

According to reports, when the garbage problem was highlighted, the Konkarn Railway officials immediately took action. They summoned the contractor responsible for maintaining cleanliness at the station and penalised him for his failure to ensure the area was kept clean.

Additionally, the authorities directed that the station be cleaned immediately to prevent further deterioration of the station's environment.

However, the concerns

of the residents of Margao and nearby areas remained significant.

Peter Coutinho, a resident of Navelim, was particularly vocal about the issue. He pointed out that while the recent improvements to the station's infrastructure were commendable, the lack of cleanliness was detracting from the station's overall appeal. Coutinho expressed that the current state of the station resembled "a second Sonsodo"—a reference to a notorious garbage dump in the region.

Ramesh Shirodkar, another Margao resident, said "Railway stations like Margao, which handle a significant volume of visitors, must maintain high standards of cleanliness. The station's reputation, both locally and nationally, was at risk due to the ongoing garbage problem".

Candolim villagers slam govt for ignoring hill cutting

Team Herald

CALANGUTE: Locals at the Candolim village panchayat gram sabha on Sunday called for an immediate halt to the destruction of hills in the area, urging that the landscape be preserved for future generations. The meeting was briefly adjourned following a heated exchange between some villagers and an activist.

Candolim resident Vincent Fernandes said while the panchayat has supported the Save Sinquerim Hill movement, similar concern should be shown for the Candolim-Orda-Saipem belt.

"It's good that the panchayat is opposing development on Sinquerim hill. But why isn't the same interest shown for Candolim and Orda hills? If you look at Saipem hill behind Lloyd's restaurant, it looks like mining activity is taking place. The panchayat must step in," Fernandes said, pointing to a proliferation of illegal houses on the slopes.

Damien Teles of the Calangute Constituency Forum (CCF) said hill-cutting was rampant in Orda, and alleged that even his property had been encroached upon.

"Over 200 illegal houses have come up on the Orda hill slopes. This was acknowledged by the high court, yet the violations

continue unchecked," Teles claimed.

Villagers also expressed concern over Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) violations, claiming that entire sand dunes were being flattened in no-development zones while authorities ignored complaints. Teles also raised the issue of the foundation stone being laid for a mini sewage treatment plant (STP) on the bundh along the Nerul-Sinquerim river, despite an ongoing case in the National Green Tribunal.

Defending the decision, sarpanch Blaize Fernandes said the plant is necessary because sewage is currently being discharged into fields and nullahs.

"At present, sewage is taken by tanker to the Tonca-Caranzalem plant in Panjim, which accepts only one tanker a day from Candolim. Our proposed STP will handle 10 tanker loads daily. We don't want to go the Calangute way with underground pipelines—that's been a disaster," he said.

Several tourism-related issues were also raised. Water sports operator Vincent Fernandes alleged that police are collecting hafta from illegal operators on the beach.

"Touts and pimps are looting tourists, and Candolim's name is being tarnished. If nothing is done, tourism here will continue to decline," he warned.

LIFE ON THE STREETS

JOSEPH FERNANDES



Cows seen eating plastic as they forage for food by the roadside. It was also observed that the authorities concerned have failed to collect garbage in a timely manner near Prabodhani High School in Porvorim.

IMD predicts hot, humid conditions till April 9

Team Herald

PANJIM: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Goa on Sunday predicted that hot and humid conditions will prevail at isolated pockets of North and South Goa with a likelihood of thundershowers at isolated places during evening and night hours on April 7, 8 and 9.

"Hot and humid conditions are very likely at isolated pockets over North and South Goa districts. Light thundershowers are likely to occur at isolated places during

evening and night hours over North Goa and South Goa districts of the state. Mainly sunny weather is very likely to occur over North Goa and South Goa districts of the state," the IMD said.

Meanwhile, very light to light rainfall occurred at isolated places over the state of Goa during the last 24 hours recorded at 12.30 pm of April 6, 2025, with highest maximum temperature of 34.9°C recorded at Panjim and lowest minimum temperature of 21.0° c at Dabolim.

Bandora locals urge completion of underpass before monsoon

Team Herald

PONDA: With the monsoon fast approaching, residents of Bandora have urged National Highway (NH) authorities to expedite the ongoing construction of the underpass near the KTC bus stand. The underpass, located on the four-lane highway, is seen as crucial to easing local traffic congestion and reducing accident risks at Safa Masjid and Bandora junctions.

Locals say the absence of safe crossings since the widening of the Khande-

par-Safa Masjid stretch six years ago has forced commuters to take dangerous U-turns and cross the highway at great risk. The underpass is expected to resolve these long-standing safety issues.

"The underpass will eliminate the need for commuters to take illegal and risky U-turns just to reach the KTC bus stand or Chirputem. We've already seen too many near-misses and accidents here," said Naresh Naik, a resident of Ponda.

Naik added that while

around 90% of the underpass work is complete, delays in shifting underground gas and water pipelines have slowed progress. He appealed to authorities to prioritise the remaining work and ensure the project is completed before the rains set in.

Residents hope the underpass will not only improve internal traffic flow but also provide safer passage for pedestrians and buses, especially during the monsoon when visibility and road conditions worsen.

Varsity revises PG admission policy

Team Herald

PANJIM: In a move purportedly aimed at enhancing academic inclusivity, Goa University has revised its postgraduate (PG) admission policy for candidates from Other Universities (OU). The change aims to align with evolving student mobility trends and ensure equitable access to higher education.

Previously, OU candidates were limited to 10% of seats per PG programme, with a maximum of two seats. This cap was set when most programmes had an intake of 15-30 students. However, seat availability has surged in recent years, particularly after the implementation of the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) reservation in 2020-21, which increased seats by 30%.

For instance, the M.Sc. Chemistry programme now accommodates 100 students, up from 30 in the 1990s, yet the OU quota remained at two seats, effectively reducing their share to just 2%. The OU category includes Goan students who studied outside the state and wish to return for higher education. The revision improves their chances without affecting the existing reservation framework.

Diversity and inclusion, key factors in national accreditation systems such as NAAC and NIRF, were central to this decision.

MAX. TEMP 34.2 °C
MIN. TEMP 25.6 °C

idharudhar



Sir! Forget promotion & pay hike – can I get a body cam?

Rashtriya OBC Mahasangh wants caste-wise census for upliftment of community

Team Herald

PONDA: The Rashtriya OBC Mahasangh has urged Chief Minister Pramod Sawant to initiate an immediate caste-wise census to aid the socio-economic and educational upliftment of Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

Convenor of the Rashtriya OBC Mahasangh, Madu Naik, addressing the media alongside Dhoobi Samaj treasurer Vivekanand Verenkar and Render Samaj member Agnel Cabral, welcomed recent announcements by political leaders in support of OBC-related issues.

Naik praised Goa Forward (GF) MLA Vijay Sardesai for raising the concerns of OBC communities in the Assembly. He also extended appreciation to former BJP ministers Kiran Kandolkar and Dayanand Mandrekar for their public support. "We welcome the announcement

made by Kiran Kandolkar yesterday, in the presence of Vijay Sardesai and Dayanand Mandrekar; that if the Government does not conduct the caste census, then we will conduct it ourselves," said Naik.

Highlighting the impact of the absence of such a census, Naik stated, "OBCs are facing injustice. In the absence of caste census, they are not receiving the benefits of government schemes. Last time, the OBC Mahasangh put forward several demands, but no provisions were made for them in the budget."

He emphasised the need for a comprehensive survey covering the caste, economic status, hardships faced, educational qualifications, and overall poverty among OBCs. "Only then will the Government be in a position to implement genuine economic and educational upliftment for these communities," he added.

Annoyed by traffic bottlenecks, Malbhat locals demand police presence

Team Herald

MARGAO: Already notorious for traffic snarls, Margao is now seeing congestion worsen in busy pockets like Malbhat—particularly outside a nationalised bank, where a combination of parked vehicles, roadside vending, and lack of enforcement is choking movement.

During peak hours, the area in front of the bank becomes a bottleneck. A tender coconut vendor stationed right outside adds to the congestion, drawing customers and further narrowing the road. Vehicles are routinely parked on both sides, leaving minimal space for moving traffic.



The road sees a heavy flow of vehicles from both directions. With large trucks and tempos also using the stretch, traffic pressure builds up quickly. Crossing or entering the main road that leads into the city becomes a tedious task for commuters.

"Traffic congestion is inevitable when vehicle vol-

ume exceeds road capacity. Here, both sides are open to traffic and that causes a pile-up during busy hours. A lot of time is lost just trying to navigate this short stretch," said Simon D'Souza, a Margao resident.

He added that visitors to the bank frequently park right outside, while the coconut vendor continues

business undisturbed. "No traffic police are posted here, and the municipality seems indifferent to the daily chaos," he said.

Another local, M.A. Raiker, echoed similar concerns, pointing out that sidewalks are crowded with pedestrians, while goods are unloaded onto the road by commercial vehicles, worsening the congestion.

Despite daily traffic woes, residents say neither the police nor municipal authorities have intervened to streamline traffic or regulate roadside vending in the area. Locals are now calling for immediate deployment of traffic personnel and stricter enforcement to ease the situation.