

## Steel lobby driving Mhadei water diversion: Activists

### Agitators say water being redirected even as taps in Goa run dry, call for all resistance forums to join hands

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Save Mhadei Save Goa Front on Thursday alleged that the waters of the Mhadei River were being diverted for the steel lobby and that the Karnataka government's claims about shortage of drinking water was a farce. Activists also called for all the different resistance forums to come together and fight against the water diversion.

Historian and activist Prajal Sakhardande, a member of the Save Mhadei Save Goa Front, stated, "The stand of the Karnataka government has been exposed. On one side, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah goes to the Prime Minister repeatedly and says that drinking water is very important for Hubli-Dharwad districts. But what about Kankumbi area? Is not the Karnataka CM responsible for these people of his own state?"

According to advocate Hrudaynath Shirodkar, the sugarcane lobby has now been replaced by the steel lobby. "People of Karnataka themselves have exposed as farce the argument that water is being diverted for drinking purposes. The steel lobby has purchased the governments, which is why



A section of the Mhadei River

Mhadei is being killed to ensure that interests of the lobby are protected."

Sakhardande sounded a warning about what lies ahead, pointing out that once the water dries up, both environment and farming would likely be destroyed. "They have already built the dam at Kalsa. Now they are concentrating at Bhandura. People of Kanapur are with us and they are appealing that water should not be diverted. This is a crisis situation. The government of Goa should take cognisance of this," he said.

Activist Mahesh Mhambrey spoke about the suffering of

Goans due to the shortage of water. "Former CM, late Manohar Parrikar, had once made a statement that water will be given for 12 hours. Now, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant says that water will be given for four hours. But they are unable to provide water for even that time. Not only Goa, but entire Western Ghats is in danger."

Shirodkar said that the time had come for all the resistance fronts - like Save Goa Save Mhadei Front, Goa Bachao Abhiyan and Kanapur Bachao Samiti - to come together and fight against the diversion of Mhadei waters.

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— Prajal Sakhardande, historian and activist

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— Hrudaynath Shirodkar, advocate

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— Mahesh Mhambrey, activist

## WHEN SKIES BREAK LOOSE



Commuters cross a road amid strong winds and rainfall, in Ranchi, on Thursday. At least four persons were injured in lightning strikes in Jharkhand, as rain accompanied with hailstorms lashed most parts of the state, officials said

## Bethora govt school awaits playground a decade after building came up in its place



The dilapidated old building adjacent to the new school building, which parents want demolished to make space for a playground

SANTOSH NAIK

PONDA: It has been over a decade since the playground space at Bethora Government School was used to construct a new school building. However, students continue to wait for a proper playground even today.

According to locals, in 2014, a new building was constructed on land originally reserved for a playground. Since then, students have had to travel nearly a kilometre to access an alternate ground for sports and physical education activities.

Now, parents and locals are urging authorities to demolish the old school building, which lies adjacent to the new one. They argue that the abandoned struc-

ture, which is in a dilapidated condition, not only serves no purpose but also poses a safety risk. Its demolition, they say, would create ample space for the long-overdue playground.

Bethora-Norankal-Conshem-Kodar Sarpanch Madu Khandeparkar confirmed that discussions are underway with concerned authorities to expedite the demolition process.

PTA member Ankush Cuncolienkar stated that, in view of safety concerns, the parent-teacher association had earlier approached the Directorate of Education to press for the demolition of the old building. It is learnt that the required permissions are already in place, but no action has been taken so far.

## Thieves break into 4 shops in Panjim, 3 suspects held in Kolhapur

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Panjim Police on Thursday arrested three men in connection with a series of thefts that took place late Wednesday night, targeting four shops in the city. The burglars stole cash amounting to Rs 1.6 lakh and mobile phones before fleeing.

Following swift action based on complaints received on Thursday morning, police traced the suspects to Kolhapur, Maharashtra, where they were intercepted while attempting to board a bus.

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## Allahabad HC blames rape victim, grants bail to accused

AGENCY, NEW DELHI: Weeks after an Allahabad High Court judge observed that grabbing breasts or snapping a pyjama string do not constitute rape or attempt to rape, his colleague has granted bail to a rape accused, noting that the victim 'invited trouble and was also responsible for the same'.

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## HC notice to power dept officials over cable-cutting

Team Herald

PANJIM: A telecom service provider and another petitioner have approached the High Court of Bombay at Goa, challenging a notice issued by the Electricity Department demanding Rs 3 crore for alleged unauthorised use of infrastructure.

The notice, dated February 17, 2025, was issued by Executive Engineer Kashinath Shetye and directed M/s Edgcom Telecommunications Private Limited and the other petitioner to pay Rs 3 crore plus 18% GST as rental charges for using electricity poles to mount optic fibre cables over the past five years. An additional Rs 80 lakh was also demanded as compensation for aerial cable installations, calculated at Rs 300 per pole.

In their petition, Edgcom has contended that the executive engineer lacked the jurisdiction to issue such notices. Senior advocates Subodh Kantak and Abhijit Gosavi, representing the petitioners, argued that Shetye, in his capacity as a nodal officer for land acquisition and property management, was not authorised to enforce payments or issue legal directives of this nature.

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## Under Mopa's shadow, tales of loss and despair abound

### Villagers of Warkhand-Nagzar complain that they haven't received compensation for land as tenants

AUGUSTO RODRIGUES

MOPA: The Goa government may have garnered Rs 31.51 crore as its revenue share from Mopa Airport in just three months from December 2024 to February 2025, but villagers of Warkhand-Nagzar near the airport say they feel short-changed and allege that they have not received fair compensation for land acquired for the airport project.

One villager, speaking on the condition of anonymity, expressed deep frustration. "I have knocked on all doors, and none of the promises were kept," he said, and his story was echoed by others in the area.

Residents like Dashrat Vital

“I should have received half the compensation as a tenant (land in Survey Numbers 84 and 76), and the other half should have gone to the landlord. But I've got nothing”

— Dashrat Vital Aroskar, villager

Aroskar say they were hopeful when the airport was first announced. However, Aroskar, who claims tenancy rights to land under Survey Numbers 84 and 76, says he has received no payment.

"I should have received half the compensation as a tenant, and the other half should have gone to the landlord. But I've

“My son goes to the government primary school. The bigger school has shut down. Now, children have to go to Pernem to study. The airport changed our village, but it's too soon to say if it's for the better, especially for our children”

— Kunta Parab, villager

got nothing," he said, while clearing fallen cashew fruits from the roadside.

Aroskar's disappointment is shared by others in the village. "There is no money, no jobs for our people. My educated son is sitting at home, tired of begging for work," he added.

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## HEAT IS ON: Here's how students can cope

Team Herald

PANJIM: Despite a heated and prolonged debate over the wisdom of reopening schools in April — and much opposition from parents and experts — the government has gone ahead with its decision. For many frail and vulnerable students, the month is truly living up to its reputation as the "cruellest month", as they return to classrooms in the midst of sweltering heat.

Concerned parents are raising alarm bells, many expressing frustration and despair over the lack of clear answers. Their primary worry: the toll the heat may take on their children's well-being.

Medical experts warn that extreme heat can cause a range of debilitating effects.

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### WHAT HEAT CAN DO TO BODY & MIND



**PHYSICAL IMPACT**  
■ Dehydration — fatigue, headaches, burning urination  
■ Urinary tract infections & kidney stones from lack of fluids and bathroom breaks  
■ Electrolyte loss and heat stroke risk  
■ Increased risk of Hepatitis A, Cholera, Typhoid

**MENTAL IMPACT**  
■ Irritability & mood swings  
■ Sleep loss & low appetite  
■ Mental fatigue that affects thinking, learning & creativity

“Do they get plenty of water? Is the school equipped to handle a situation if a child falls sick due to the heat?”

— Brian, Chimbel

“How can I expect my child to focus on studies when she's sweating profusely?”

PARENTSPEAK

— Saby Gerard

### NUTRITION TIPS FOR CHILDREN IN SUMMER

**DOS:**  
■ Keep them hydrated  
■ Provide coconut water, homemade lemon water, buttermilk, fruit-infused water and aam panna (drink made from unripe mangoes)  
■ Include water-rich fruits like watermelon, muskmelon, oranges, grapes, and cucumber  
■ Serve light, cooling meals  
■ Choose meals like moong dal khichdi, curd rice, poha

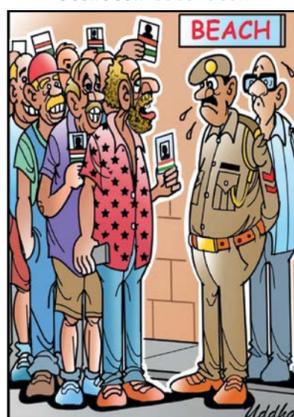
with cucumber  
■ Include curd, raita or lassi to support gut health and immunity  
■ Go for seasonal fruits & veggies  
■ Include mangoes, lychee, jackfruit, cucumbers, and gourds—rich in vitamins and antioxidants  
■ Offer healthy summer snacks  
■ Choose makhana, homemade chaat, roasted chana and similar nutritious options

**DON'TS:**  
■ Limit sugary & packaged drinks  
■ Avoid colas and packaged juices. Opt for homemade sherbets, fruit smoothies, or milkshakes instead  
■ Avoid over-eating cold foods  
■ Too many cold drinks or ice creams may lead to sore throat and indigestion

(Courtesy: Dr Joline Fernandes, Nutritional Therapist)

MAX. TEMP 34.9 °C  
MIN. TEMP 25.8 °C

idharudhar



Lost passport, expired visa, but we've got Aadhaar!

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