

Anjunkars confront Lobos over 'unauthorised' road widening

Seek answers from Calangute and Siolim legislators on the potential risks to their houses; demand to see the work order before allowing work to continue

Team Herald

PANJIM: Protesting against the "unauthorised" road widening work being undertaken in St Sebastian ward, Anjuna residents on Sunday confronted Calangute MLA Michael Lobo and his wife Siolim MLA Delilah Lobo, seeking answers on the potential risks to their houses.

The panicked people sought to know whether their houses would be damaged as heavy earth moving machinery was pressed into service in the last few days demolishing several compounds.

Michael and Delilah tried to convince the locals that no houses would be touched and that only roadside illegal structures would be demolished since the Kumbharwado road was too narrow and accident-prone.

Locals strongly condemned the attitude of the



UNITED THEY STAND: Protestors refused to budge, opposed the road widening and demanded the contractor produce a work order

local panchayat whereby notices were served on May 8 specifying 15 days and demolition was carried out the very next day.

The Calangute MLA informed the crowd that this drive was strictly as per the High Court directives that all roadside structures need to be razed.

The protesters demanded to see the work order before allowing work to

continue, but the Lobos refused to halt it, promising to present the order on Monday. Michael Lobo challenged protesters to obtain a stay order.

Protestors numbering around 300 refused to budge and opposed the road widening.

Tension rent the air when Michael asked the protesters to get a stay order else the work would



ERWIN FONSECA

continue. Attempts were made to stop the JCB from carrying out the work. However, the work resumed later, leaving the locals agitated. They demanded that the work be stopped immediately, but the Lobos insisted on carrying on with it.

Michael Lobo assured the protesters that the work order would be provided to them and clarified that

presently only 1 metre on either side is going to be widened and subsequently the entire road would be just 9 to 10 metre wide.

People questioned the demolition of the chapel compound and demanded to know why heritage structures were being destroyed on one side, while on the other a heritage festival was being organised.

Alert residents expose 'illegal' hill cutting in funnel zone at Dabolim

Threaten to take law into their hands if authorities fail to act

Team Herald

ASSAGAO: Residents identified and managed to stop an alleged illegal hill cutting activity within the sensitive funnel zone near Dabolim Airport on Sunday. Despite a prior stop-work notice issued by the Chicalim Panchayat, the excavation reportedly continued unchecked.

The locals contacted the police, leading to a halt in the work. The locals warned they may be forced to take law into their own hands if authorities fail to act.

Avinash Bhosle, a resident, said, "We have filed many complaints stating that what is going on is illegal. We also informed the panchayat which issued a stop work notice. Despite the notice, excavation is being carried out illegally."

Bhosle said, "You can understand the importance of a funnel zone. Our country is currently engaged in a war, but here, these people are interested in their own benefits. They are not concerned about the country. We have got information that the flag officer has



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not given permission for such activities. There is a High Court order stating that construction activity should not be allowed here. Who has given permission for carrying out excavations here?" Jayesh Phadte, another

resident said, "People make hue and cry if any structure is demolished. Why allow these structures to come up in the first place? You can see how close aircraft are flying here. Why allow buildings? Permission was given for cultivation and not for construction. A road has been constructed and I have filed a complaint against it."

Kiran Faldesai, another resident, said, "Such projects are getting permissions and small projects of Goans are being rejected. There is nobody to keep a watch on this. I request the authorities to take action against these sorts of activities."

Shree Lairai Saunthan asks Dhonds to get registered at the earliest

Team Herald

PANJIM: Following the recent stampede which claimed six lives and left several others injured, Shree Lairai Saunthan, Shirgao, has issued a notice, asking Dhonds to submit two passport-size photographs and identity proof to the temple committee for registration purposes at the earliest.

"The Dhonds of Shree Devi Lairai are requested herewith that they must submit their two passport size photographs and an ID proof to the temple committee for the purpose of registration as urgent as possible," the notice stated. It may be recalled that the deadly crowd surge—possibly the first of its kind in post-Liberation Goa—

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-A notice from Shree Lairai Saunthan, Shirgao

occurred on the second day of the five-day festival that commenced on May 3. Among the deceased were two women and a 16-year-old boy, all of whom were considered 'dhonds', or special devotees of the goddess. Several injured are still undergoing treatment in the hospitals.

Panchayat bypolls: Assonora, Tivim wards record impressive voter turnout; Counting today

Team Herald

PANJIM: The panchayat bypolls in Assonora's Ward VII and Tivim Ward I recorded an impressive 86.13% and 76.79% voter turnout at 5 pm, on Sunday.

The Goa State Election Commission reported that the entire polling process, which commenced at 8 am, passed off peacefully.

The commission announced that the counting of votes will begin tomorrow, Monday, May 12, at 8 am in the Chamber of Mamlatdar Bardez taluka, Mapusa.

A total of seven candidates contested in the by-elections for the two panchayat wards. Assonora village panchayat's Ward

VII saw a triangular contest among Mita Miles Naik, Shankar Pandurang Naik, and Vijay Babai Banauliker. This by-election was called following to the unfortunate passing of Miles Naik.

In Tivim village panchayat's Ward I, Ghanashyam Pundalik Aroskar, Niraj Narayan Nagvekar, Ramchandran Chandrakant Salgaonkar, and Ravindra Shiva Aroskar contested. The byelection was called following the death of former sarpanch Arjun Aroskar.

The State government had previously declared today, Sunday, May 11, as a paid holiday for voters in Ward I of Tivim Village Panchayat and Ward VII of Assonora Village Panchayat, both located in

Bardez Taluka, in recognition of 'Polling Day'.

This paid holiday was applicable to a wide range of workers, including industrial workers, daily wage workers in government and State industrial departments, commercial and industrial workers in private establishments.

3 foreigners held for illegal stay

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Mandrem Police have arrested three foreigners for staying illegally in the State without valid documents.

According to police, the accused have been identified as Roman Lokutov and Valentina

Bokhan, both Russian nationals, and Dawid Wierzbowski from Poland.

The arrests were made during a drive to identify illegally staying foreigners in Mandrem. The police said with the objective of identifying potential hostile elements.

HOLY CROSS SPORTS CLUB

VODLEMOLL KAKODA

Lottery Result

1st Prize - 3916
2nd Prize - 3124
3rd Prize - 2140

Prizes should be collected within 30 days

Assagao restaurant GM held for duping owner of Rs 4.3 cr

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Anjuna Police arrested a general manager of a restaurant for allegedly cheating his owner of over Rs 4.3 crore.

According to police, Shivkaran Singh of Sukoon Hospitality lodged a complaint on May 6, stating that from August 2021 to February 2025, Gulshan Kumar Singh, who was employed as a general manager by him to manage his restaurant situated at Assagao Goa, misappropriated or converted to his own use an amount of Rs 1,88,35,553 cancelling, altering or deleting the bills which were issued at the time of payment to the customer. Gulshan Kumar Singh also allegedly failed to give the account or record of amount of Rs 2,38,68,184 which was transferred in his account.

Local roadside vendors still await promised market spaces

Without designated spaces to sell produce, women forced to squat along highways, face vagaries of nature, risk accidents

Team Herald

MARGAO: Years after assurances from the late Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar, the promise of establishing roadside markets for local vendors remains unfulfilled, leaving hundreds of small-scale farmers in Goa's hinterlands to sell their produce along busy roads under unsafe and challenging conditions.

These vendors, mostly women, travel several kilometres daily—often by unreliable public transport—carrying baskets of farm-fresh vegetables and fruits to urban centres like Margao. Without designated spaces to sell their produce, they are forced to sit along highways and streets, braving the scorching sun, monsoon rains, and the constant risk of traffic accidents.

"We are just being fooled by these assurances. Nothing happens on the ground, and our struggle continues," said Prashanti Gaonkar, a vendor from Balli, who has been travelling to Margao daily for over 30 years.

"Sitting by the roadside is a risky job. When big vehicles come speeding past, I hold my breath, praying nothing goes wrong."

Sukanti Gaonkar from Morpila, who has also been selling in Margao for two decades, said the danger worsens during school hours when roads are busy. "Customers stop their vehicles to buy from us, but that causes congestion and puts everyone at risk. Our lives are literally on the edge."

Many of these vendors cultivate their own produce in nearby villag-



es and rely solely on these sales for their livelihood. They believe that a designated market space would not only improve safety but also boost sales by offering better visibility and legitimacy.

"We were promised market spaces by our local leaders, but nothing has been done. It's just false promises every election," said Anuja Gaonkar, another roadside vendor.

Sources in the Agriculture Department told O Herald that while the concept of roadside markets was discussed, it cannot be implemented in its current form due to legal constraints. The specifics of these constraints were not disclosed, but the lack of regulatory clarity continues to stall any progress.

In the meantime, roadside vendors can still be seen dotting the highways from Quepem to Verna and Margao to Ponda—exposed to danger, yet determined to earn an honest living.

Until concrete action is taken, these local farmers will continue to risk their lives daily in pursuit of basic economic survival.

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MIN. TEMP 27.4 °C

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