

Khandepar villagers fear flooding, demand immediate action on illegal retaining wall

Team Herald

PONDA: With the onset of the monsoon, villagers of Curti-Khandepar are spending sleepless nights in fear of major flooding. Their concern stems from the construction of an illegal 100-metre-long, four-metre-high concrete retaining wall in a low-lying catchment area of the Khandepar River, coupled with extensive land-filling allegedly carried out to develop residential plots.

Locals allege that despite repeated complaints, the panchayat has failed to

take action against the wall and the dumping of over 500 truckloads of mud, which they claim is likely to flow into nearby fields and homes, leading to dangerous flooding during heavy rains.

"This retaining wall and land-filling are putting our homes and lives at risk," said villagers Sitaram Gaude and Namdev Gaude. "In the past, floods in 1982 and 2021 caused the collapse of several houses. We fear a similar or worse disaster this year."

The villagers are particularly angry that landowner against whom the complaints have been lodged, is

reportedly demanding the identities of those who have objected to the construction. Although the panchayat called a joint meeting, the landowner allegedly failed to attend.

Earlier, the panchayat, led by Sarpanch Nilkant Naik, and Secretary, conducted a site inspection on May 29. They noted several illegal developments in the area, including rock-cutting on the riverbank, construction of an unapproved road, and the retaining wall with associated land-filling near survey no. 176/1. However, nearly a month has passed

since the inspection, and no demolition has taken place.

"The retaining wall lies in the flood catchment zone and is in violation of CRZ norms," said another resident, adding that a massive protective boulder, which once helped divert floodwaters, has also been removed.

During a recent gram sabha, villagers passed a resolution opposing the granting of construction permissions in the disputed area and demanded that the panchayat take urgent steps to safeguard their lives and property.

Sarpanch Nilkant

Naik confirmed that the panchayat received complaints about the illegal retaining wall and land-filling. "We issued a notice, but the landowner disputed the authenticity of the complainants and asked for their identities. When we called both parties for a meeting, only the villagers turned up. The landowner remained absent," he said.

Naik added that the panchayat has resolved not to issue any construction permissions in survey no. 176/1 and will write to all relevant authorities seeking immediate action.



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shorttakes

Three foreign nationals arrested in Pernem for illegal stay

PERNEM: Pernem Police have arrested three foreign nationals — two from Europe and one from Africa — for allegedly residing in Goa without valid travel documents. Those arrested include 47-year-old Sergei Zaitsev from Russia and 36-year-old Yauheni Kozel from Belarus, who were found illegally staying at Murmuse, Tuem. In a separate case, Mandrem Police apprehended 25-year-old Nakimera Muhammad, a Ugandan national, residing without valid documentation near Sweet Lake, Khalchawada, Arambol. All three individuals were found to be in violation of Section 7(1)(3) of the Foreigners Order, 1948. Zaitsev and Kozel were additionally charged under Sections 14(a) and 14(b) of the Foreigners Act, 1946, while Muhammad was booked under Section 14 of the same Act. Offences have been registered in both cases, and further investigation is underway. PSI Tukaram Chodankar of Pernem Police Station is leading the probe.

12-year-old cyclist injured in car collision at Gavthanwada junction

MARGAO: A 12-year-old cyclist from Conculim sustained head injuries after being knocked down by a car at the four-road junction in Gavthanwada. According to Conculim Police, a case has been registered under Sections 281 and 125(a) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, based on a complaint lodged by Head Constable Apa Satpalkar on behalf of the State. The accused, Andrea Margarida D'Souza, 36, of Chinchinim, was allegedly drove her car from Panzorconi towards Savorcotto in a rash and negligent manner. Upon reaching the junction, she reportedly lost control of the vehicle and struck the minor cyclist who was crossing the road. The boy fell along with his bicycle and sustained head injuries. Further investigation is underway.

Decomposed body of 35-year-old woman found in Margao flat

MARGAO: Margao Police have discovered the decomposed body of a 35-year-old woman, Cynera D'Silva, in her flat at Sitara Enclave, Margao. The body was referred to the South Goa District Hospital, and a post-mortem report is awaited to ascertain the cause of death. The police were alerted by the Police Control Room (PCR) after reports of a foul smell emanating from the flat. Upon visiting the premises, officers found the woman's body lying inside in a decomposed state. Preliminary enquiries revealed that D'Silva had been residing alone in the flat. No suicide note or documents were found at the scene. Police conducted a scene of Unnatural Death (UD) panchanama, and the body has been preserved for medico-legal formalities. PSI Sanjay Velip of Margao Town Police Station is investigating the case.

Midnight fire guts closed flat in Ponda; major loss reported

PONDA: A major fire broke out at midnight in a closed double-bedroom flat at Kurtarkarnagari, Shantinagar, Ponda, causing extensive damage to property. The flat, located on the fifth floor of the building, belongs to Smruti Bhandodkar, who was not present at the time of the incident. According to sources, the owner had gone to a relative's house for the night. The fire, suspected to have been caused by a short circuit, broke out in her absence, destroying household items, clothes, furniture, and electronic appliances. As the fire occurred during the night, it initially went unnoticed. It was only early in the morning that residents saw black smoke billowing from the flat and immediately alerted the Ponda Fire Brigade. Fire personnel arrived promptly, cleared the smoke, and managed to douse the flames. Fortunately, no casualties were reported, but the incident created panic among the building's residents. An investigation is underway to determine the exact cause of the fire.

Fire services clear fallen trees in Rumdamol, Colva; restores traffic flow in Salcete

MARGAO: A tree fell on a Swift car at Rumdamol Housing Board, Margao, on Thursday, prompting a prompt response from fire services. Margao Station Fire Officer (SFO) Gil Souza stated that fire personnel rushed to the site with a fire tender upon receiving the alert. Souza said the duty crew safely removed the fallen tree without causing any damage to the vehicle. The operation, led by Sub Officer R S Khutkar and the crew, was completed within an hour, and property worth Rs 1 lakh was saved, he added. In a second incident, a tree fell on a building (Keegal Empire) near Colva Police Station in Salcete. Sub Officer A K Velip and his team responded swiftly, cutting and clearing the branches to restore traffic movement in the area.

power shutdown

BICHOLIM: On June 28, from 9 am to 2 pm. Affected areas are Pilgao village, Bagwada, Tarwada, Sesa mining Dhabdhabha, Vargao, New wada, Kamat Dock, Mathwada, Sarmanas, Saptakoteshwar and surrounding areas.

Storm blows off roof of civil supplies godown in Curti

Structure damaged just five years after construction; locals urge urgent repairs

Team Herald

PONDA: The roof of the Civil Supplies Department godown at Curti was blown off during a spell of stormy wind recently, leaving the facility exposed to heavy rainfall and raising concerns over the structural integrity of its walls.

Parts of the metal roofing were torn open by strong winds, resulting in significant water seepage inside the premises. The godown, constructed just five years ago, now faces the risk of further damage if not promptly repaired.

Local residents have called on the concerned



authorities to undertake urgent repairs to prevent additional deterioration, particularly with the monsoon season underway.

The incident has sparked

criticism regarding the lack of timely maintenance and preparedness of public infrastructure, especially in light of frequent weather-related damage during the rains.

All ferries to get dual engines after near miss, assures RND Min

Team Herald

PANJIM: A day after a serious mishap was narrowly averted when a large, empty barge collided with a stalled ferry midstream, River Navigation Department (RND) Minister Subhash Phal Dessai announced that all ferries in Goa will soon be fitted with dual engines to improve safety standards.

Addressing the media at Mantralaya in Porvorim, Phal Dessai stated, "Going forward, all ferries will be equipped with dual engines. This redundancy will ensure that if one engine fails, the second will keep the ferry functional and prevent such situations."

While acknowledging the gravity of the incident, the minister sought to reassure the public regarding the overall safety of Goa's ferry services. "All our ferries have valid fitness certificates and a designated operational lifespan of fifteen years," he said. "Nonetheless, we must remain vigilant and careful while travelling on board."

The latest incident occurred on June 25, when the Tolto-Daumim ferry, operated by the RND, broke down midstream.

Saligao rises against S Goa garbage influx

Residents threaten to block trucks over foul stench, accuse authorities of breaching original plant agreement

Team Herald

CALANGUTE: Saligao MLA Kedar Naik, joined by panchayat members and local representatives, has issued a strong ultimatum to the Goa Solid Waste Management Corporation (GSWMC) demanding an immediate halt to the transportation of garbage from South Goa to the Saligao Garbage Treatment Plant (GTP).

Submitting a memorandum to the GSWMC on Monday, Naik gave the authorities ten days to act, warning that if garbage trucks from South Goa are not stopped, residents and local leaders will physically block the vehicles on the roads. "When the GTP was set up, it was meant only for Bardez, which is why the people of Saligao agreed to host it. Then the scope expanded to all of North Goa and the capacity was increased to 300 tonnes. Now, they are bringing in waste from Ponda and Margao. This is unacceptable. We don't want Saligao to become the garbage dump of the entire state," Naik stated.

He added that the constant movement of garbage trucks through Saligao, Sangolda, and Pilerne has worsened the situation, with residents from Saligao, Calangute, and Candolim complaining of a persistent foul stench emanating from the plant. "They are supposed to ensure there is no leachate or odour, but every time we complain, action is taken for a few days and then the problem recurs. There must be a lasting solution," he asserted.

In response, GSWMC officials assured that concrete measures would be implemented within ten days to address the residents' concerns. They reiterated their commitment to sustainable waste management while being mindful of community health and environmental impact. Also present during the submission of the memorandum were Reis Magos ZP member Sandeep Bhandodkar, Saligao Sarpanch Lucas Remedios, Pilerne Sarpanch Reshma Bhandodkar and other local representatives.

Vasco Saptah on July 30

Preparations begin with prayers at Shree Damodar Sansthaan in Zambaulim

Team Herald

VASCO: Preparations for the 126th annual Shree Damodar Bhajani Saptah began on Thursday with a traditional prayer ceremony at the Shree Damodar Sansthaan, Zambaulim.

Members of the Shree Damodar Bhajani Saptah Samiti, led by President Narendra Gurav and Saptah Central Committee President Prashant Joshi, along with prominent citizens from Vasco, offered prayers at the Sansthaan, marking the formal commencement of this year's festival arrangements.

Gurav stated that this year's Shree Damodar Bhajani Saptah, scheduled for July 30, is expected to be celebrated on a grand scale. He added that prayers were

offered for the health, prosperity, and well-being of all Vasco residents. Samiti Secretary Santosh Khorjuvankar noted that the festival draws devotees not only from across Goa but also from neighbouring states. "We are making elaborate arrangements to ensure that this year's Saptah is celebrated on a large scale, while strictly following the standard operating procedures (SOPs) issued by the government. Safety will be prioritised, and measures will be in place to prevent overcrowding," he said.

Naik confirmed that the panchayat received complaints about the illegal retaining wall and land-filling. "We issued a notice, but the landowner disputed the authenticity of the complainants and asked for their identities. When we called both parties for a meeting, only the villagers turned up. The landowner remained absent," he said.

Khandola sarpanch ousted in no-confidence vote

Team Herald

PONDA: In a significant political development, Vishant Naik, the Sarpanch of Bethki-Khandola Panchayat, was voted out on Thursday after a no-confidence motion was passed against him. The move is being seen as a setback to local MLA Govind Gaude, who had backed the ruling panel.

The motion was passed with five votes in favour and none against during a

meeting of the nine-member panchayat held at the Panchayat office on Thursday morning. Present for the vote were panchayat members Manoj Kumar Naik Gawkar, Dilip Naik, Uday Naik, Shradha Phadte and Nikita Phadte. Ponda Block Development Office (BDO) officials Somnath Tari and Gokuldas Kudalkar were also in attendance.

It is understood that the ruling panel was supported by Priol MLA Govind Gaude.

However, following his recent removal from the Cabinet, dissent within the panel grew, leading to the successful passage of the no-confidence motion against the Sarpanch.

Additionally, a no-confidence notice has also been served against Deputy Sarpanch Sanjivani Talekar. The motion is expected to be taken up for discussion shortly and is also likely to be passed, further deepening the setback for Gaude's local political influence.

APPOINTMENTS

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WALK-IN-INTERVIEW
Appointment on contract basis

In accordance with approval from revenue department vide letter no. 26/04/05/2024-RD(PF)/2291 dated 17/06/2025, there will be Walk-in-interview on 15-07-2025 from 10.30 a.m onwards for the appointment of following staff purely on contract basis for NAKSHA Project under DILRMP in the Directorate of Settlement & Land Records, Panaji - Goa, for a period of 4 months.

Sr. No.	Name of the Post	Number of vacancies	Consolidated Pay	Educational Qualification
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(1)	Field Surveyor	20	32000/-	Essential: i) SSC or equivalent with mathematic as one of the subjects ii) Diploma in Civil Engineering with surveying as one of the subject, iii) Knowledge of operating GNSS instruments iv) 15 years of residence certificate v) Knowledge of Konkani Desirables: I) Knowledge of GIS. ii) Knowledge of Marathi
2.	Multi Tasking Staff (MTS)	20	20000/-	Essential: i) SSC or equivalent ii) Knowledge of Konkani & Marathi

The interested candidates may remain present in the Office of the Directorate of Settlement & Land Records, Swami Vivekanand Road, Collectorate Building, Panaji - Goa on the above given date and time along with application, recent passport size photograph, Original Documents and one set of self attested photocopies of the testimonials /birth certificate, ID proof, residence certificate etc. Age limit will be 45 years as on date of advertisement. The candidates selected will have no right for any extension of contract No TA/DA shall be admissible for attending the interview. Eligible candidates may apply giving the above details. Only those candidates possessing the above essential qualifications should appear for Walk-in-Interview. All the candidates should write their mobile number on the application forms. The Department reserves the right to terminate the services of any employee before the completion of his/her contract period without assigning any reason.

Sd/- (Chandrakant B. Shetkar)
Director
Settlement & Land Records Panaji-Goa

DI/ADVT/733/2025

