

Rest of Goa on the boil over Velingkar's derogatory remarks on Goencho Saib

Residents demand that ex-RSS chief be arrested and externed from the State till the decennial Exposition of the sacred relics of St Francis Xavier is over

Team Herald

PANJIM: Protests broke out in various parts of North Goa district over former RSS chief Subhash Velingkar's remarks on St Francis Xavier.

A large crowd gathered at Anjuna Police Station and demanded the immediate arrest of Velingkar for making derogatory and malicious remarks against St Francis Xavier. They alleged that Velingkar was posting hate speeches against the Christian faith and thereby hurting the religious sentiments.

The protesters submitted a memorandum to Anjuna PI Suraj Gawas, who told them that a FIR had already been registered against Velingkar under Section 299 of BNS. But the protesters were in no mood to listen to the police and reiterated their demand that Velingkar be placed under arrest immediately.

Some of the protesters also attempted to block

DON'T CROSS THE LINE



SAGUN GAWADE

ARREST VELINGKAR NOW: The fire of protest fuelled by Subhas Velingkar's comments spread to Panjim, Taleigao and Caranzalem. People wanted no compromise in taking Velingkar to task.

the streets and burnt the effigy of Velingkar outside the police station.

Meanwhile, the parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Valpoi, filed a police complaint

against Velingkar for his derogatory statement against St Francis Xavier.

They demanded that Velingkar be arrested and be externed from Goa till the decennial Exposition of the

sacred relics of St Francis Xavier is over, as there was every possibility of him trying to create disturbance during the Exposition.

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Church appeals for peace, harmony

Team Herald

PANJIM: Appealing to the people to maintain peace and harmony, the Church body - Council for Social Justice and Peace (CSJP) has urged the government to take strict action as per law against Subhash Velingkar for trying to disrupt the communal harmony in Goa by deliberately and mischievously pitting one community against the other.

CSJP executive secretary Fr Savio Fernandes said, "The Catholic community of Goa condemns the insulting and derogatory statements made by Subhash Velingkar against St Francis Xavier, which have deeply hurt the religious sentiments not only of the Catholics, who venerate St Francis Xavier as a saint, but also of so many people belonging to other faith communities and who revere our Saint for having received numerous favours in their lives after praying to him."

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EVERY MINUTE, EVERY HOUR, THERE WAS ANGER & PAIN AGAINST VELINGKAR

9.30 am: Hundreds visit Margao and Fatorda Police Stations to file complaints against Subhash Velingkar's comments. Vent their ire as their demand to arrest him remains unfulfilled

12 pm: Reach Old Market Circle road in Margao and block road opposite South Goa Collectorate

1.30 pm: Deputy Collector and SDPO Salcete try to pacify protesters, request them to clear the road. Protesters refuse to budge

2.23 pm: A posse of policemen summoned to maintain law and order near KTC bus stand and Old Market Circle areas. Protesters refuse to move

2.59 pm: South SP Sunita Sawant requests protesters clear the roads. Protesters demand arrest, refuse to move. SP seeks time till 6 pm

3 pm: Protesters recite prayers invoking St Francis Xavier and seek divine intercession at the Old Market Circle

4.04 pm: Environment Minister Aleixo Sequeira assures that the government has already taken action in the matter. Terms Veling-

kar's DNA test statement as sheer madness

4.53 pm: Banners with photos of CM Pramod Sawant, TCP Minister Vishwajit Rane, Panchayat Minister Mauvin Godinho and Calangute Michael Lobo stamped on by protesters, venting their ire against BJP government for raising religious issues to divert attention from Goa's pressing issues

6.05 pm: SP Sawant tells protesters that teams have been sent in search of Velingkar. Requests them to disperse, but protesters refuse to move

6:51 pm: Arguments on Velingkar's anticipatory bail plea scheduled on Monday, Oct 7, before Sessions Court, Panjim. Interim relief rejected

7.10 pm: Protesters shift from Collectorate to Old Market Circle

9.58 pm: Protests called off for the day

10:20 pm: Protesters attempt to stop traffic despite strike called off. Police resorted to brief lathi charge to disperse crowd. Protesters cleared from Old Market Circle

Velingkar's statement instigated to divert attention from the all Goa anti-conversion movement, Goans feel

Many Goans feel that the utterly hurtful sentiments of Subhash Velingkar were made to divert attention from the anti-land conversion movement which is getting stronger by the day. It is a movement of Goa, for Goans and by Goans across religious lines. These are some of the strong voices:

All politicians are involved in these (land scams) and they are out to finish Goa- Xencor

Forty-nine lakh square metres of land have been converted, mainly by migrant builders. At Sancoale, the people are protesting against Bhutani. At Chopdem, people are protesting against those trying to destroy the hill. In Morjim, one Karnataka actor has destroyed the hill and has dug bore wells, depriving the people below of water. Now that there are huge protests

VOICES FROM THE STREET

against the Town and Country Planning Department and the Chief Town Planner, the climate is heated up. At this time religious issues are being raised against a Saint. We condemn this. This is to divert the attention of the people. All the politicians are involved in these (land scams) and they are out to finish Goa.

-Xencor Polgi, social activist

Poisonous snakes have been let out to divide Goa- Mariano

For the last 65 years niz Goenkar have been living peacefully like brothers and sisters -Hindus, Christians and Muslims. Those whom we elected to save Goa have let out poisonous snakes to divide Goa. Because the administration has totally failed, and they are unable to hide, they have let out these poisonous snakes. These snakes which are spreading venom are from

the same party. -Mariano Ferrao, social activist

Their motive is that Goans should not be united- Tanoj Till Goans have their land, they have their identity, otherwise all will be lost. I also believe in St Francis Xavier and I had a hunch that the way the agitations were going, they would do something. BJP has a cut in this. Their motive is that Goans should not be united and not live in peace.

-Tanoj Adwalpalkar

Let us Goans stay peacefully in Goa- Tara

The rich and mighty are just mad to come to Goa and you are opening up Goa for them. You will get crores of rupees. I think you (Velingkar) too want a share of Rs 300 crore. Let us Goans stay peacefully in Goa. If you have guts go after Chief Minister and TCP Minister who have destroyed our hills and forests.

-Tara Kerkar, social activist

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Velingkar must apologise, withdraw his statement: Civil society leaders

They also request protesters to diffuse the situation, not allow the perpetrators of 'rotten remarks' to divide society

Team Herald

PANJIM: Civil Society leaders on Saturday were firm that former RSS Goa prant sangh-chalch chief Subhash Velingkar has to apologise for his "horrendous" act of making such a derogatory statement regarding the patron saint of Goa, St Francis Xavier.

They also asked the protesters to "diffuse the tense situation across the State" and called upon the protesters not to derail the people's agitation against

Do not give politicians an excuse to exploit the situation. What Prof Velingkar has done is horrendous, he has to apologise and it is in his hands to diffuse the situation. The issue of land conversions will get derailed due to stupid statement of Prof Velingkar

-Dr Oscar Rebello

If there is a conflict in society then Velingkar will go down in history as the person who ignited this conflagration. I firmly request Velingkar to withdraw his statement on St Francis Xavier

-Claude Alvares, Goa Foundation director

the horrible destruction of Goa's environment, ecology, identity and land. Speaking to mediapersons at Azad Maidan, Panjim, Dr Oscar Rebello said, "Prof Velingkar made mean, spiteful and rotten statement and clearly the people of Goa are upset and absolutely furious about it. But the fear is that government dalals, who are involved in land conversions will infiltrate and deploy their people and tell them to pelt stones on temples or ghumtis and whole thing will erupt into Hindu-Catholic conflagration which neither the police nor the State will be able to control.

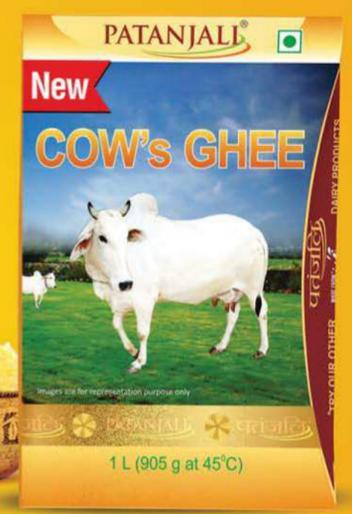
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