

# Goa News Articles

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### **Goa: Cutbona Fishing Jetty to soon get a 50-seater bathroom facility**

<https://www.knocksense.com/goa/cutbona-fishing-jetty-in-go-to-soon-get-a-50-seater-bathroom-facility>

"The fisheries department of Porvorim, the de facto executive and legislative capital of Goa, will soon be getting a 50-seater bathroom facility costing ₹95 lakhs. This toilet cum bathroom facility will be constructed at the new fishing jetty at Cutbona in Goa's Velim. The Fisheries Minister Nilkanth Halarnkar confirmed that the proposal for the same has been submitted for approval. M/s Sulabh International Social Service Organisation is assisting the department in the endeavour.

The department has also mentioned the construction of a sewage treatment plant (STP), at the Cutbona complex through Goa's sewerage infrastructural development corporation, proposed at ₹75 lakhs. The project is currently in the nascent stages of construction.

Besides two bio-toilets, a 12-seater toilet facility has also been installed with the STP, costing ₹34 lakh. "The same shall be put in operation shortly," the minister stated.

Two attendants have been made responsible for maintaining the jetty. The sanitisation is being taken care of by a high-pressure pump to wash fish-waste off the jetty. The work on the Cutbona Fish Landing Centre includes the upgradation of the fish landing centre and construction of a training wall at Mobor, Halarnkar added. A 13-seater functional bathroom facility has been operational since 2003 at the Cutbona Jetty in Goa but is not sufficient. Through the new projects, the government is aiming to boost deep sea fishing and, in turn, Goa tourism."

### **Manipur: For those dependent on Loktak Lake, sustainable development is an elusive goal**

<https://www.newsclick.in/For-those-dependent-Loktak-Lake-sustainable-development-elusive-goal>

"Loktak Lake is at the base of the identity of the fisherfolk community that has resided for years in the lake and preserved its existence. Attempts of the government to commercialise the fragile ecosystem under the purported goal of development threatens the loss of livelihood and identities.

Loktak Lake in Manipur is the largest freshwater lake in all of North-East India, known for its distinctive floating islands, popularly known as "phumdis" by the local people. The lake spans an area of 286 square kilometres. It is also home to the world's only floating national park housing the endangered Sangai deer. About 12 lakh people in the state are estimated to be indirectly or

directly dependent for their livelihoods on the lake.

The Loktak Development Authority ('LDA') is a statutory body which has been entrusted with the responsibility of administering the lake. On August 3, 2016, the LDA forcibly evicted fishermen families by claiming that their houses were government property. Acquisition of their land was a consequence of the state government's plan to open a parking lot for tourists.

This wasn't a singular incident of contestation between the fisherfolk community and the government. Conflict has long marred the history of the lake. The construction of the Loktak Multipurpose Hydroelectric Project in 1971 led to the submergence of agricultural land and large-scale socio-economic displacement, which threatened the survival of the valley. The government has failed to rehabilitate the indigenous population ever since the completion of the project in 1984. Huge profits earned have not generated any accountability towards the safeguarding of traditional ownership, enjoyment and possession of property.

Following directions from the Supreme Court in 2017, the Manipur High Court started proceedings to conserve the Loktak ecosystem and sought suggestions from LDA. The LDA responded, seeking approval to solicit tenders for eco-tourism projects in the lake. The state's Director of Tourism stated that once approved, Manipur will witness the greatest development of the Loktak Lake with world class amenities to attract tourism.

The survival of Loktak today rests on political grandeur and the fragile power play of political parties within the state. At the centre of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's political campaign in the recent elections was the proposal for a plan named 'Loktak Manipur: An integrated Plan use (2020-2025) by Westland International South Asia and the LDA'. Activists and fisherfolk of the Loktak community have staged protests against the proposal, which could prove to be ecologically and socially disruptive for the lake. The eco-tourism project seeks to generate revenue at the cost of the sustainable livelihood of the lake and its people.

In 2020, the High Court of Manipur granted permission to the Manipur government to proceed with the implementation of the plan. Pursuant to this, the Chief Minister N. Biren Singh sought an intervention from the central government to secure funding for the project from the World Bank. On February 25 this year, the high court directed the authorities of LDA to ensure that no construction or developmental activity could take place without prior permission of the court.

The current predicament stems from the government's position of viewing the rights of the fisherfolk of Manipur and their presence within the lake's eco-system as a "growing menace" for the state's plan to commercialise the historic status of Loktak to benefit its exchequer.

In July, the government has ordered the removal of all allegedly unauthorised activities within 15 days for the purported ecological conservation of the lake. Traditional fisheries, huts, houses and homestays have all received notices demanding eviction. The current predicament stems from the government's position of viewing the rights of the fisherfolk of Manipur and their presence within the lake's eco-system as a "growing menace" for the state's plan to commercialise the historic status of Loktak to benefit its exchequer.

The status quo at the moment concerns the challenge indigenous fishermen community of Loktak have levelled to the government's developmental projects, which directly threatens the livelihood of 140 families living in the Champu Khangpok floating village. Oinam Rajen, the secretary of All Loktak Lake Area Fishermen Union Manipur, has asked an important question: "[H]ow long will the state continue to violate our fundamental right to access the territory of our life?"

### **What are the implications of the conflation of public purpose with commercialisation?**

The Manipur Loktak Lake (Protection) Act, 2006 governs the administration of the lake and reposit such powers with the state government. The LDA constituted under the Act has been granted powers under Section 17 to grant approval for "commercial utilization" of any lake resources and permitting any activity which may be conducive to efficient administration of the lake. The wide-ranging power granted to the state government to acquire land to facilitate commercialization of the lake is similar to the powers granted to the Union Government under the LARR Act, which mandates compulsory sale of land to the government when justified under the "public purpose" enumerated under its Section 2(1)(b). The central legislation has also additionally defined "public purpose" to include land acquired for PPPs and industrial corridors, among others.

The Supreme Court, in *Sooraram Pratap Reddy & Ors. versus District Collector, Ranga Reddy District & Ors.* (2008), noted that "any purpose wherein even a fraction of the community may be interested or by which it is benefitted" could justify the land acquisition powers of the State. The excessively wide nature of judicial understanding of public purpose has led to unchecked commercialisation of natural resources. Section 17 of the 2006 Act is a reflection of the same trend.

Commodification of nature is clearly visible in the presence of extractive tourism industries. The acquisition of land by the Andhra Pradesh government to make Hyderabad a "Business-cum-Tourism Centre for the state" has been held to be a public purpose in *Sooraram Pratap Reddy. In Fomento Resorts & Hotels & Anr. versus Miguel Martins & Ors.* (2009), the Supreme Court held that since tourism is an important industrial activity, it generates ancillary benefits to the state and hence, qualifies as public purpose.

But the development of the tourism sector today has seen a marked shift towards greater adoption of PPPs and benefits of the SEZ policy. Tourism is seen as a coherent whole where there is no classification made between different kinds of tourism projects; ones which are open to access of public and ones which are cloistered by the privileged. While there is a case to be made that access to roads and sanitation facilities are covered under the ambit of tourism, there is no reason for land to be acquired for luxury resorts in the name of “public purpose”.

The judiciary’s token response to most of the challenges to such commercialisation has been simply not to engage with determining whether the State’s claim to further ‘public interest’ is bona fide or not. The Supreme Court’s observation in *Bajirao T. Kote (Dead) By LRs. & Anr. versus State of Maharashtra & Ors.* (1994) is noteworthy here: “it is primarily for the State Government to decide whether there exists public purpose or not, and it is not for this court or the high courts to evaluate the evidence and come to its own conclusion whether or not there is public purpose.” Similar kind of reasoning has resonated in a number of other court judgements.

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The lack of judicial scrutiny due to the “hands-off” approach by courts has culminated in judicial sanction to any act of land acquisition of the government which could be justified in the name of ‘public welfare’, even though it lacks genuine ‘public utility’. In *Indrajit C. Parekh of Ahmedabad versus State of Gujarat & Ors.* (1975), compulsory land acquisition by the State, which had only resulted in the addition of a single rupee towards the state exchequer, was held to be sufficient to grant it the status of “public purpose”.

In light of such judicial trends, it is imperative for courts to:

Firstly, adopt a conscious attempt to limit the sphere of what constitutes ‘public purpose’ by according due importance to the cost which is to be incurred by local communities and persons in lieu of the purported ‘public purpose’ to be fulfilled. The Supreme Court recognized the importance of such an analysis in *Dev Sharan versus State of Uttar Pradesh* (2011) by pointing out that the State’s desire to acquire land for promoting a public purpose benefitting a particular section of the society at the cost of the interest of the larger part of the society, especially indigenous populations, defeats the very purpose of public purpose.

Secondly, ‘public purpose’ should be recognized to be limited to only State-sponsored projects. The provisions for acquisition of land for private companies and PPPs must be deleted instead of being diluted as the government has sought to do in the LARR Amendment Act, 2015. As the

Supreme Court has observed in *Sulochana Chandrakant Galande versus Pune Municipal Transport & Ors.* (2010), once the land is acquired, a person becomes non-persona grata to the extent that they are restrained from claiming restoration of land and only have a vested right to compensation. Thereby, the government must be restrained to claim only the bare minimum required for any State-sponsored project to prevent its potential misuse.

### **How to ensure the safeguarding of the voice of the marginalised in this process?**

Under the LAAR Act, once a property or land has been decided to be acquired; an invitation is sent out to record objections. The assessment of objections is facilitated by the conduct of the Social Impact Assessment ('SIA'), which decides whether or not a particular area of land can be permitted to be acquired. The assessment is carried out "in consultation" with the gram sabha or any other equivalent body in the area. The nature and significance of public interest, along with the socio-economic impact on local communities, is studied as well as the possibility of better alternatives. An "expert group" further constituted by the Union Government examines the findings of the SIA and decides whether there is a bona fide public purpose which could potentially justify the acquisition of the land.

The houses, home stays and land owned by people of Loktak are not just private property, but markers of ethnicity and identity. Camouflaging its destruction under the veneer of development and protection of ecology does not hide the violence displayed by the State in its land acquisition plans.

Similarly, Section 34 of the 2006 Act provides absolute power to the state-constituted LDA to undertake schemes for the development of the lake. The composition of the LDA fails to provide for the participation of the indigenous community in this crucial decision-making process, which is vital to the future of the lake and its ecosystem. (See Section 7). This is a clear disregard of the principles in the Ramsar Convention on the Conservation of Wetlands, which mandate participation, consultation and consent of local communities. Even the procedure under the LARR Act is not democratised as there is no statutory requirement for the expert committee constituted by the state to include representation from indigenous population being displaced. (Again, see Section 7) The government is additionally not legally bound by the decision of the committee, as it can reject the same by recording its reasons in writing...."

### **Goa: Cutbona, Betul fishermen upset over delay**

<https://www.heralddgoa.in/Goa/Cutbona-Betul-fishermen-upset-over-delay/194175>

"The traditional fishing community of Cutbona and Betul have expressed their dismay with the Fisheries Department as work on the breakwater facility at the mouth of River Sal has not yet started. The local fishermen, who have been complaining about the hardships they have



had to face for the last five years, had recently protested over the delay on the State government's side in starting the work on this facility.

The breakwater facility system, as explained by Vinay Tari, president of Cutbona Fisheries Co-operative Society, will address the challenges the fishermen face in accessing the hostile navigational channel into the sea. He added this facility would help both the mechanised and non-mechanised boat owners as it would provide them with safer conditions to carry out their fishing work.

Betul-based fishermen pointed out that the breakwater facility would also help boats return back safely. They said they feel let down as they had earlier hoped that the facility would be completed within months but it now appears that the work itself won't begin any time soon.

It may be recalled that the traditional fishermen as well as the trawler owners had held a meeting in Cutbona with the Benaulim AAP MLA Venzy Viegas and Velim MLA Cruz Silva. While Chief Minister Pramod Sawant had given verbal assurance to Viegas that work would start soon, Silva was supposed to take a delegation of fishermen and trawler owners to meet the Chief Minister on this issue after Ganesh Chaturthi."

#### **Goa: Fishermen on tenterhooks, raise livelihood concerns**

<https://www.thegoan.net/goa-news/fishermen-on-tenterhooks-raise-livelihood-concerns/88835.html>

Even as the government's draft-Jetty policy made news for the wrong reasons on Tuesday, fishermen from Benaulim has raised many an eyebrow over the policy, but for a different reason -- whether the Jetty policy would usurp the rights of the traditional fishermen in pursuing their traditional occupation. Months after the proposed floating jetty by Drishti was shot down by the local stakeholders including the fishermen and a starred resort, the government's draft-jetty policy has indeed raised a host of questions amongst the traditional fishing community.

In fact, the fishermen have been trying to figure out whether the government has proposed the draft jetty policy after the endeavour from the private enterprise evoked strong opposition from the local fishing community.

Traditional fisherman Pele Fernandes has cautioned the government against imposing unwanted jetty projects against the wishes of the local stakeholders. "I do not know with what intention the draft-jetty policy is being kept in public domain. But, I know how the government through a private party had proposed to set up a floating jetty off Benaulim beach. These projects are not in the interest of the local stakeholders, including the fishing communities", he said.

“I want to convey a message to the government that they will not succeed if the Jetty policy is to bring the floating jetty through the backdoor and with official support. We will oppose the floating jetty tooth and nail”. That Drishti had proposed a floating jetty off Benaulim beach had become evident when members of the Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) descended at the Benaulim beach for an inspection without taking the local stakeholders into confidence.

The inspection was opposed by the traditional fishermen led by Pele as well as the starred resort, who conveyed to the GCZMA team that the local stakeholders are not in favour of the floating jetty. “We had told the inspection team that the floating jetty off the beach will affect the fishing community from pulling the rampon and other fishing activities. We have also maintained that our brothers eking a livelihood on tourist taxis will be displaced from the livelihood if the tourists come to Benaulim via the boats from the airport”, Pele said.

Incidentally, the GCZMA team was convinced over the arguments advanced by the fishermen and the stakeholders and had told the project proponent to take the local stakeholders into confidence before taking the proposal forward.

#### **Goa: Govt’s demarcation exercise leaves Colva traditional fishermen worried**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/Govt%E2%80%99s-demarcation-exercise-leaves-Colva-traditional-fishermen-worried-/193971>

"The recent demarcation exercise by the Directorate of Settlement and Land Survey (DSLRL) and Tourism Department to identify and remove illegal encroachments on the beaches has left the traditional fishing community of Colva worried. The fishermen fear that they would lose key facilities on the beach that are crucial to their livelihood and how their fishing business operates. The fishing community uses around 150-200 huts on the beach, which is on Tourism Department land, to store their canoes and fishing nets.

“The huts have been here before the Tourism Department acquired the land. We are ready to take the land from the Tourism Department. Maybe it can be placed under the Fisheries Department. Even former Chief Minister (late) Manohar Parrikar had come here and ensured that our huts were protected. The Tourism Department never had any problem with us before,” said Alice Fernandes, a senior fisherwoman.

While the Directorate of Settlement and Land Survey (DSLRL) and Tourism Department began their demarcation exercise to identify and remove illegal encroachments, another inspection was held last week by the District Collectorate to check if two huts were violating CRZ rules.



As per the DSLR order, the survey is aimed at preserving the land across the entire Colva Beach stretch that belongs to the Tourism Department via the subsequent removal of the encroachments. The inspection by the District Collectorate was based on complaints filed before the Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA).

“Generations of families of fishermen have used these huts for decades now and these are not being used for any commercial activity but to assist our work as fishermen. We store our canoes and nets here, which are close to the sea. Do they expect us to take our boats to our houses,” asked Colva panch and local fisherman Domingos Rodrigues.

While the complaint with the GCZMA is against Rodrigues, who owns two huts at the beach, the local fishermen have claimed that their huts have been on the beach prior to 1991 and are thus protected under the CRZ rules.

“The rights of the traditional community along the coast should come first. Who sustained our coast before unsustainable tourism? It is our fishermen and traditional communities. Wake up Goa,” said Judith Almeida, Secretary of the Colva Civic and Consumer Forum, which has been fighting against CRZ violations in Colva. Almeida, who has backed the fishing community, pointed out the Tourism Department and Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GCZMA) have been under the scanner of the courts for alleged violations at the beach front.

Given that the fishermen dry their fish near these huts and there is a foul smell emanating in the area, the concerned citizens have raised doubts if the fishermen are being targeted at the behest of hotels nearby and by those who are eyeing the beach space for commercial interests. Other activists lamented that on the other hand, there are other commercial establishments that have allegedly encroached upon Tourism Department land but have escaped any inspection or action by the department for years.”

### **Goa: Absence of ‘adequate cold storage facilities prevents fishing growth’**

<https://www.heralddgoa.in/Goa/Absence-of-%E2%80%98adequate-cold-storage-facilities-prevents-fishing-growth%E2%80%99/193920>

"Despite fishing being a major sector in Goa, the absence of adequate cold storage facilities near fishing jetties have been a major obstacle in the way of growth in the industry. While this is the case at the Cutbona jetty in South Goa and the Malim jetty in north Goa, trawler owners have pointed out that this has been a major problem as it prevents them from preserving the large quantity of fish they bring in for a longer period and also causes major financial losses.

Around eight years ago, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABADR) had allocated Rs 1,000 crore as direct finance for such projects in the country but only ice

factories were set up and trawler owners point out that the size of these factories is another bottleneck given the mismatch in the number of trawlers and the resources available at such ice factories. Trawler owners lament that the wholesale fish traders who import fish into the State face an advantage over them due to this and that the government has let them down in this aspect.

""We are demanding a fish storage facility at Cutbona Fish Jetty but unfortunately nothing has been done in this regard. Many promises were made by politicians but we still depend on ice plants. Because of unavailability of fish storage facilities many times boat owners face huge loss," said Patrick D'Silva, former President of the Cutbona Boat Owners Development Union Society.

Patrick also said that the reason behind the depleting fish production in Goa is due to the problems with the infrastructure at the jetty. Members of the Trawler owner Society at the Malim jetty also pointed out that their demand for a cold storage facility has not been executed despite repeated demands raised for it."

### **Goa: Give first preference to local fish catch in wholesale market**

<https://www.thegoan.net/goa-news/give-first-preference-to-local-fish-catch-in-wholesale-market-stakeholders-to-pda/88440.html>

"Reminding the SGPDA that the wholesale fish market was developed for the benefit of Goan fishermen to market their fish, local fishing stakeholders including traditional fishermen and mechanised boat owners under the banner of South Goa Fishermen Federation of Wholesale Fish Market has urged the PDA to protect the rights and interest of the fishing community of Goa. In a joint memorandum submitted to the SGPDA, the Federation has urged the authority administrators to follow Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for Vocal for Local, reminding that the states of Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, etc accord preference to the local fishermen and their catch in the market.

Submitting a list of demands to the SGPDA for consideration, the Federation has called for a stop and a ban on resale of fish at the SGPDA market and surrounding areas. The PDA has been urged to make available the construction plan of the SGPDA market which is under construction and hold a presentation and explanation for the benefit of the fishermen on priority. The Federation has called for installation and repairs of illumination at the SGPDA market and surrounding area.

The PDA has been urged to remove the Parked/ Abandoned/ Non-Operative vehicles in the vicinity of the SGPDA market, especially on the opposite road side of the SGPDA market so that the space can be made available for parking of vehicles of the buyers / takers of the fish. "There shall be an entry point and exit point through which the movement of the vehicles must be strictly monitored. It has been observed that some persons are charging/ collecting fees in the name of ground/ area charges. A proper legal action may be initiated against such culprits," the memorandum demanded.

Given that the SGPDA had introduced payment of sopo fees on hourly basis, the Federation has called for collection of sopo fees per vehicle basis instead of time taken. That's not all. A suggestion has been made that the fees/ sopo may be collected either at the entry point or at the exit point. A further suggestion has been made that no person or representative of the contractor shall be allowed to collect the fees /sopo inside the market.

Demanding that vehicles of outside/ traders should not be allowed to park in the SGPDA market or in the vicinity of the SGPDA market, the memorandum demanded that local vehicles shall be given preference to enter inside the SGPDA market on first come first basis. While calling for the upkeep and maintenance of the market on a daily basis by cleaning/ clearing the ground as well as the drains, the memorandum further urged the PDA to install CCTV for smooth functioning, proper management and collection of revenue.

The Federation has further urged the PDA to bring the areas outside the wholesale fish market, including the parking space adjacent to the road under the control of the SGPDA from the Municipality in order to ensure smooth functioning till the completion of the wholesale fish market. Sources informed that the SGPDA is expected to call the local fishing stakeholders for discussions post-Ganesh festivities, probably next week to work out a solution to the issues plaguing the wholesale fish market."

**Goa: Traditional fishermen pin hopes on govt in protecting their interests, getting amenities**

<https://www.freepressjournal.in/goa/goa-traditional-fishermen-pin-hopes-on-govt-in-protecting-their-interests-getting-amenities>

"When Governor P S Sreedharan Pillai descended at the Hawaii beach, Benaulim, he came across a fishing place, bustling with fishing activities, akin to his native state Kerala. Local fishermen have now pinned their hopes on the Governor to protect them from rising sea waters during cyclones and tsunamis and provide amenities to pursue their traditional fishing activities.

With the Director of Fisheries floating a Expression of Interest (EoI) inviting prospective bidders to revive the defunct Benaulim pilot prawn hatchery, the traditional fishermen believe

the move is intended to lease out the prime sea facing land to the rich, both Goans and outsiders at the cost of the local fishing stakeholders. Making a strong case for earmarking minimum 5,000 sq mtrs of the total 50,000 sq mtrs of hatchery land for the local fishermen, traditional fisherman Pele Fernandes drew attention of the governor how the fishermen are operating at Benaulim without any dedicated land to anchor their boats and facilities to store and preserve fish.

“We are left with no option than to anchor our fishing boats on the beach for want of land. Our plea for land admeasuring 5,000 sq mtrs at the Fisheries Department-owned hatchery land has been pending for a long time,” he said. Justifying his plea for the land, Pele played a video recorded during the start of the fishing season how solar prawns amounting to lakhs of rupees had to be destroyed for want of storage facility at Benaulim.

“I lost around three tonnes of solar prawns. Many other fishermen also lost the prized catch for want of storage amenity,” Pele said, while making a fervent plea to the governor to intervene and get the government acceded to their demand. Touched by the plea made by Pele and other fishermen, the governor said he would draw the government’s attention to their request.”

### **Goa: Fisheries dept says noose tightened around fishermen indulging in LED fishing and other banned practices**

<http://digitalgoa.com/fisheries-dept-says-noose-tightened-around-fishermen-indulging-in-led-fishing-and-other-banned-practices/>

"Fisheries Dept today held a meeting of fishermen associations, trawler owners, marine police, coast guards etc over the issue of LED fishing, bull trawling etc as per the directions of the High Court. Fisheries Dept director said that they have tightened the noose around those indulging in such banned practices. As per the dept guidelines, no boat can go for fishing in the sea without inspection by Fisheries Dept, said Fisheries Director.

“Fishing vessels have been asked to take Fishing license, and fishing passes and then only fill the diesel for going out into the sea for fishing,” she further added. Since the High Court order, case has been registered against one vessel owner for LED fishing, the director informed.

Alleging that 400 of the 800 odd fishing boats were indulging in the banned practices detrimental to marine ecosystem, Goa Foundation had filed a petition before the High Court. Briefing media about the meeting, Goa Foundation Director Claude Alvares said that 24×7 helpline number has been set up by the fisheries dept on 0832-2425263 to receive complains about LED fishing and other banned practices.

He also pointed out that all the 12 boats procured by Marine Police after 9/11 attack, for coastal surveillance are damaged. To repair the boats Rs 1.5 crore will be needed and to buy new boats,

Rs 5 crore will be required, Marine police informed during the meeting."

### **Philippines fisheries bureau says fisheries modernization goal is to reduce import reliance**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2022/08/24/470425/bfar-says-fisheries-modernization-goal-is-to-reduce-import-reliance/>

"The Philippines Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) described its 2022 fisheries modernization plan as a catch-up program designed to minimize the need for importing fish this year.

According to the BFAR, the plan hopes to address the projected annual deficit in the supply of fish, a key source of protein for the population, of 44,000 metric tons this year.

"This is more than 1% short of what is needed to attain full sufficiency... the bureau recommends focusing on innovation, modernization and intensification," it added.

The BFAR said the program will improve the design and expand the use of Fish Aggregating Devices in strategic fishing areas; mechanize irrigation, and provide pond aeration to fish farms, and establish a cold chain in island municipalities to reduce post-harvest losses.

"Through the establishment of more fish aggregating devices... and production of more seedstocks for the aquaculture sector, this catch-up plan seeks to unlock the hidden potential of... the fishery sector as a whole in ensuring fish sufficiency," BFAR Director Nestor D. Domenden said.

According to Mr. Domenden, the National Fish Broodstock Development Program will expand the supply of milkfish (bangus) as well as other high-value species such as siganids, snapper, pompano, grouper, and sea bass."

### **Goa: Ask Centre to allow LED fishing**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/ask-centre-to-allow-led-fishing-in-go/articleshow/93602238.cms>

"After the state government started acting against trawlers using LED for fishing, various fishing associations on Tuesday met fisheries minister Nilkanth Halarnkar to convince him that LEDs are used for fishing in other countries. The associations said that this method does not have any adverse impact on the fish population beyond particular nautical miles.

Halarnkar said that the fishing associations urged him to take up the issue with the Union government to allow them to use LED lamps beyond the permitted nautical miles.

“The central government has banned the use of LED lamps for fishing and we cannot supersede the same. They requested me to send their proposal to the central government,” Halarnkar said. The fisheries minister also said that the fishing season has commenced and small boats have started venturing into the sea. He also said that boats which use purse-seine nets (does not touch the seabed and can have low levels of accidental catch of unwanted species) still haven’t ventured into the sea. “They will venture when they think it is a good time to earn a good profit,” Halarnkar said.

Last week, he had said that the state government would check “each and every boat” leaving jetties to ensure that they are not carrying any LED lamps. “In case any LEDs are found in trawlers anchored at jetties, a first information report (FIR) will be registered against them,” Halarnkar had said."

### **Goa: Minister meets fishing associations, promises to upgrade jetties**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/Minister-meets-fishing-associations-promises-to-upgrade-jetties/193008>

"Concerns about the slow start to the fishing season were raised at a meeting held at the office of Fisheries Minister Nilkanth Halarnkar on Tuesday evening. Various leaders of fishing associations from across Goa, including Panjim, Vasco and Betul, were present for the meeting. Halarnkar conceded that the fishing season that began on August 1 had not gotten off to a great start. “Only some small boats that have five to seven labourers have managed to go out, but the big purse seine trawlers that stay out at sea for eight to ten days are yet to go out in full force,” said Halarnkar.

The minister also said the government is focused on expediting work on improving the infrastructure at jetties across Goa and that there were some delays in the past in obtaining CRZ permissions, which have been cleared now. The Minister urged the youth to take up crab farming activity, for which he said the Centre is offering subsidies. “This could be a way for unemployed youth to earn a side income.

Speaking about the issues raised by the fishing associations that met him, Halarnkar said that whatever equipment they want to put on their boats has to be in line with the law. He said there were discussions on the limitations of putting generators on the boat. The Minister further added that the trawler owners were speaking about what they should be allowed to do after the 15 nautical miles in the ocean. He said the State government is firm on implementing the ban on LED lights as that is a central law. The Goa Fishing Boat Owners President Jose Phillip D’Souza said it was important that the fishing community had an opportunity to meet the Minister in



person."

### **Goa: Submits coastal plan 2011 to Centre for nod, notification**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/goa-submits-coastal-plan-2011-to-centre-for-nod-notification/articleshow/93465505.cms>

"The state government has submitted the draft coastal zone management plan (CZMP) 2011 with corrections to the Union environment ministry for final approval and notification, state environment director Dashrath Redkar said on Tuesday.

"We are expecting them to call us for discussion before approving the plan for notification," he told TOI.

The 2011 plan provides for protection to local fishermen and their houses that existed before the 1991 notification. "The state government will ensure their protection. The notification will in no way impact local fishing activity," a senior official said. In April, the Union government had agreed in-principle to the state's three demands that were creating hurdles in the finalisation of the coastal zone management plan - removal of the depiction of port limits, notification of CZMP on 1:4,000 scale, and removal of structures from the plan.

The Union government asked the state to make necessary corrections in the CZM and send it for notification. National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), Chennai (NCSCM), which is preparing the CZM, in a letter to the state government had said that it is not the authority to remove structures from the cadastral data provided by Goa coastal zone management authority (GCZMA), and that NCSCM is also not able to identify the structures to be removed from the cadastral map.

The process of preparing the CZMP 2019 slowed down due to the monsoon session of the Goa legislative assembly. Redkar said that they would now call for presentations on the plan. The environment department had decided to invite the National Centre for Earth Science Studies, Kerala, to give a presentation on its preparation, as per the CRZ notification 2019. The state had approached six other agencies for preparing the plan. They include the Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad, Institute for Remote Sensing Anna University, Chennai, Institute of Wetland Management and Ecology Design, Kolkata, National Hydrographic, Dehradun, National Institute of Oceanography, Goa, and the NCSCM.

Four of these did not respond to the state government, two submitted their quotes, and one said that it is not in a position to take up the work. In October 2021, wary of repeated delays by Goa in finalising its CZMP, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) had set December 31, 2021, as the final deadline for the state. Goa finally submitted its final draft of the CZMP to the Union environment ministry just a couple of days before the December 31, 2021 deadline set for the

state by NGT."

### **Goa: Canacona fish vendors vent ire over unhygienic market**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/canacona-fish-vendors-vent-ire-over-unhygienic-market/articleshow/93379748.cms>

"The fish market at Chaudi, Canacona, is bearing the brunt of administrative neglect. The premises has not been cleaned for nearly eight months now, due to which it is in an unhygienic condition, say vendors and buyers. Fisherwomen who operated from the premises have complained of a maggot infestation, making the market unfit to be occupied. As a result, they say, they are compelled to sell fish in the open space outside. Some have also resorted to selling fish on NH-66 at Nagorcem, Ponsulem and Sheller. The space restriction in turn leads to chaotic movement of shoppers and vehicles. 'The place is infested with maggots. How can one even sit on these platforms inside the fish market?' one fisherwoman said, pointing to the maggots crawling on the platforms.

Earlier, braving the situation, some fisherwomen tried selling fish from inside the market. However, buyers refused to enter the premises and resorted to buying fish from the vendors sitting outside. "The atmosphere is pathetic and unhygienic in and around the fish market," one buyer said.

While the Covid-19 pandemic shutdown has played its part in the sorry tale of neglect, Canacona municipality councillor Dhiraj Naik Gaonkar blamed it on the non-functioning of the civic body. Further, he said that the planned razing of the current premises for the proposed new fish market building, doesn't seem like a reasonable excuse for not cleaning the existing premises.

Meanwhile, the civic body's chairperson, Simon Rebello, said that the staff concerned have been directed to clean the fish market and maintain it. The proposed new fish market will be built at an estimated cost of Rs 3.6 crore and will be able to accommodate nearly 200 fish vendors. Administrative approval has already been granted for the state-of-the-art project and the existing premises will be demolished to accommodate the new one."

### **Goa: Sand bar at mouth of river Sal hampers smooth navigation of fishing vessels**

<https://www.freepressjournal.in/goa/goa-sand-bar-at-mouth-of-river-sal-hampers-smooth-navigation-of-fishing-vessels>

"The Fisheries Department is back in the spotlight again over the hostile navigation channel at the mouth of river Sal, as a sand bar in the river has come in the way of the smooth movement of fishing vessels operating from the Cutbona jetty. For, the National Green Tribunal

(NGT) in November last year had given a nod for the construction of the training wall at the river Sal mouth, but on a rider that the Fisheries Department obtain an Environment Clearance (EC) before the execution of the breakwater project.

It's more than eight months now since the NGT had disposed of a petition filed by Cavelossim-based NGO Cavelossim Villagers Forum through its president Advocate Irish Passainha challenging the construction of the training wall at the river Sal mouth without the EC, with a direction to the Fisheries Department to first obtain the EC before taking up the training wall construction work.

When The Goan called up a Fisheries Officer to find out the status vis-à-vis the training wall at the mouth of river Sal, the officer pointed out that the department has already applied for the EC from the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA). "No sooner the SEIAA gives the EC, the Fisheries Department will re-tender the work on the construction of the training wall at the river Sal mouth," the official maintained. What's important to note is that while the construction of the training wall at the river Sal mouth has the backing of Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, the two MLAs Venzy Veigas and Cruz Silva, besides the boat owners as well as fishermen, the fate of the retaining wall hangs in balance as work on the project depends on the Environment Clearance (EC) from the SEIAA.

On the ground, however, the absence of the training wall and the breakwater facility has hampered the smooth navigation of the fishing vessels at the river Sal mouth. The hostile conditions have indeed stopped many a fishing vessel from Cutbona from venturing out in the sea as the boats had to literally depend on the high tide. While the Captain of Ports was willing to step in to remove the sand bar formed inside the river Sal, the proposal has met with opposition from the traditional fishermen from Betul, Bapsora and Rangalli.

Cavelossim Villagers Forum President Adv Irish Passainha has said the Forum was forced to knock the doors of the National Green Tribunal since the Fisheries Department had started work on the training wall without EC from the Ministry of Forests & Environment or the State Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA).

He said the government had proposed to build a 483 metre training wall at the mouth of the river Sal, extending into the Arabian Sea, but without the mandatory EC. Irish pointed out that training walls have had severe negative impact on the environment including accretion of sand on the up-drifts side with a consequent erosion of sand on the down drift side. "There have always been chronic sand erosions wherever training walls are constructed. Such projects need a detailed environment impact assessment study before they are implemented," he said."

**Goa: Government begins crackdown on trawlers fishing with LED lights**

<https://theprint.in/india/goa-govt-begins-crackdown-on-trawlers-fishing-with-led-lights/1067868/>

"Boat owners from Cutbona Jetty are furious with the State government for failing to resolve the issue of the sand bar at the mouth of the River Sal, which is preventing trawlers from venturing out into the sea even as the fishing season resumed three days ago.

The boat owners took up this issue with the Captain of Ports and Velim MLA Cruz Silva while criticizing the Fisheries Department for not having taken up this issue sooner.

The CoP James Braganza stated that dredging work will be started at the earliest to open up the navigational channel that is blocking the sand bar. He added that machinery for the dredging could be sent either by sea or road and that the work should begin soon. Silva also said that suction pumps could be used to address this sand bar issue as a temporary measure to allow the boats that are stuck at the jetty to venture out.

Presently, only about ten to fifteen boats are able to head out into the sea and they can do so only during a particular time, during high tide, and when the weather conditions are favourable as well. There were also boats that tried to cross over into the sea but had to return to the jetty, keeping in mind the safety of their crew and the craft. The boat owners are hoping this issue will get resolved in two to three weeks, so they do not lose out on more of the bumper catches of fish expected soon after the fishing ban.

There was a prayer service held for the boat owners and crew, for the season ahead. Boat owners are also waiting on additional labourers to return from their native States as they are presently short on manpower."

**Goa: Stuck at jetty due to sand bar, Cutbona fishermen push for urgent dredging of River Sal**

<https://www.heralddgoa.in/Goa/Stuck-at-jetty-due-to-sand-bar-Cutbona-fishermen-push-for-urgent-dredging-of-River-Sal/192571>

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### **Goa: Margao's wholesale fish vendors want hourly fee scrapped**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/margaos-wholesale-fish-vendors-want-hourly-fee-scrapped/articleshow/93307661.cms>

"Traditional fish operators on Tuesday appealed to the South Goa Planning and Development Authority (SGPDA) to do away with the hourly fees being charged to vendors. The SGPDA asked the stakeholders to come up with a proposal. Chairperson and Vasco MLA Daji Salkar said the decision to charge small vehicles Rs 300 per hour and bigger vehicles Rs 500 an hour to conduct their operations at the wholesale market was taken in 2020.

Salkar said that as a special case SGPDA can give a discount on the hourly rates but cannot entirely drop the fee because the vehicles will remain at the market the entire day leading to congestion. The new wholesale fish market is under construction and fish operators are functioning from a small space.

Olencio Simoes representing the traditional fishing community said that the hourly fees starting from Rs 300 are too high and requested that the hourly restrictions be removed. "Which market across Maharashtra and Karnataka charge locals such fees?" he asked. The fishing community also travels from Betul he said, adding that they will find it difficult to make a profit by paying such high fees. Fatorda MLA Vijai Sardesai said that the SGPDA asked the fishing community to set an upper limit on the time they can spend in the wholesale market before they exit and make way for others, but there was no consensus on the issue. Other issues discussed at the meeting were temporary repairs required for the Usgao market, tendering of the wholesale fish market and getting more income from the retail market. Salkar said stakeholders at the retail market will be taken into confidence and they will be provided better maintenance for a higher

fee."

### **Pride Fish project has goal of upping Japanese consumption of local seafood**

<https://www.seafoodsource.com/news/supply-trade/pride-fish-project-trying-to-increase-japanese-consumption-of-local-seafood>

"As Japan's average seafood consumption continues to wane, the country is continuing to engage in efforts to increase awareness of local fish.

The country's per capita seafood consumption peaked in 2001, and has been steadily declining as younger Japanese people gravitate toward meat and more Western-style cuisine. As a result, younger people are becoming less familiar with local fish options. Compounding the issue, the decline in consumption is resulting in closures local fish shops, which used to be a hub of information about seasonality and cooking methods of local fish.

A 2011 consumer survey on fish consumption in Japan revealed many people wanted to eat more seafood for health reasons, but found meat dishes to be more delicious. Japan's Fishery Agency has tied the downturn in fish consumption to a lack of knowledge about preparing seasonal fish dishes, as consumer data shows people still appear willing to eat seafood fish out-of-home, when prepared by a professional in a commercial kitchen.

In response, Japan's Fisheries Agency has certified easy-to-cook processed fish products as ""Fast Fish"" since 2012. At the same time, the agency has created the ""Pride Fish Project"" as a sister project to Fast Fish to showcase local species that take more effort.

Through the program, each prefectural Japan Fisheries Cooperative group annually will featured fish, shellfish, and seaweed species for spring, summer, autumn, and winter over the next three years. This list is designed to become a resource for those who want to eat local fish and to tout the species as a local specialty for tourism purposes.

To be eligible for the program, no specific amount of landings or sales value is required, so local fish and farmed fish that have not yet received national attention are eligible."

### **Goa: Ban ends, but trawlers face manpower crunch for Ops**

<https://www.thegoan.net/goa-news/ban-ends-but-trawlers-face-manpower-crunch-for-ops/87203.html>

"The seasonal two-month ban may have ended but fishing operations of mechanised trawlers may not kick off full throttle on Monday as the labour force, mostly migrant, has still not returned in numbers. Only a handful of boats are ready to venture out into the sea on Monday, officials of the fishermen's cooperative manning the jetty at Malim have said.



""Four to five of the smaller boats will sail on Monday from Malim. The labourers have not yet come,"" said Sitaram Parab, who is one of the directors of the Mandovi Fishermen's Marketing Co-operative Society, which manages the Malim jetty. Parab said boats at Malim also face navigational issues due to the sand bar formations off Miramar and the Aguada Bay and have to carefully set sail during high tide.

He said, only a few boats are prepared and will set sail to begin operations on Monday, the first day after the long two-month ban, to net and cash-in on the seasonal 'solar' shrimp. At Cutbona jetty, many a fishing vessel was getting ready to start the season, though many boat owners pointed out the migrant manpower is yet to hit the jetties.

Totally dependent on the workers hailing from the eastern coast of Odisha, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, boat owners said delay in the arrival of the workforce could delay the start of the new season. Boat owners say more than 50 per cent of the migrant workers have reported at the fishing jetties.

Sources said compared to vessels for fishing, the purse seine boats required huge manpower -- 30-35 workers per vessel. 'Unless, all the required manpower hits the jetties, it will not be possible for all the big vessels to venture out', informed a boat owner.

He, however, said that small fishing boats, which are manned by a couple of workers, are expected to sail on Monday, marking the beginning of the new fishing season. Boat owners also have another hurdle to cross. Their boats have to be inspected by fisheries officials and other agencies such as the Goa Coastal Police and Coast Guard mandated by a recent directive of the Bombay High Court.

Fishing officials, however, were not seen at the Cutbona fishing jetty on Sunday, raising questions whether the officials will start checking the vessels on Day-1 of the fishing season on Monday. Meanwhile, boat owner and former Cutbona Boat Owners Union President Savio D'Silva informed that no fisheries official was seen at the jetty on Sunday. He said since the fishing ban ends at midnight, the vessels will leave Cutbona past midnight, wondering when the fisheries officials will check the boats before allowing them into the sea.

"The Cutbona fishing is being managed by the Fisheries department. They have to execute the High Court directions. We boat owners have no problem with the High Court directions since we do not use LED lights for fishing or resort to bull trawling", he said. He added: "Since the vessels will venture out for fishing at midnight, it is for the Fisheries officials to take a call when to check the vessels"."

## **Goa: Herald-inspired petition on LED fishing violation is leading to Court-inspired solutions**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/Heraldinspired-petition-on-LED-fishing-violation-is-leading-to-Courtinspired-solutions/192307>

"Finally, it took Goa's eco-warrior Claude Alvares to wage a battle against the menace of LED fishing which was robbing our small fishermen of their catch and livelihoods. And Herald's sustained reportage on the issue across print, digital and TV acted as an important catalyst in taking the battle for justice for our sons of the soil who work for us in our rivers and sea, who are facing depleted fish stocks. They have no money to even repair their boats and nets.

The High Court of Bombay at Goa on Wednesday asked the Directorate of Fisheries and the Goa Coastal Police to inspect trawlers at the respective jetties to ensure that the crew does not carry generators and LED (light) fishing used for bull trawling while venturing into the sea for fishing.

The Court's instructions came while hearing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by Goa Foundation, an NGO, seeking a total and effective ban on the use of LED light (light fishing) in Goa's territorial waters and in the waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ ) of the country. In the PIL, the petitioner has also mentioned reports published by Herald in June this year highlighting the dismal state of affairs of the patrol boats of the Goa Coastal Police. Alvares told Herald that these intensive reports were also relied upon and gave strength to the petition.

The Court has also asked the Goa Coastal Police to conduct random checks to prohibit LED (light) fishing when the fishing season commences from August 1 this year. The Division Bench comprising Justice Mahesh Sonak and Justice R N Laddha also asked the Department of Fisheries to pursue with the Government of India to procure additional patrol boats for patrolling. Earlier the government advocate told the court that the department had five patrol boats but only two were in operation.

Arguing on behalf of the petitioner, Adv Norma Alvares sought the inspection of all the mechanised vessels going out for fishing from August 1. She told the court that trawlers were carrying generators and using them for purpose of LED lights. She said that trawlers do not need generators as the vessel motors are equipped with alternatives to run normal lights and normal fishing gears.

Adv Alvares said nearly 50 per cent of the 800-odd trawlers were using LED lights when they go out for fishing and expressed concern over the depletion of marine resources. During the hearing, the Fisheries Department assured the court that they will convene a meeting of all stakeholders including the petitioner so that further suggestions can be discussed and examined

as to how bull trawling can be effectively stopped as per the law.

Assistant Solicitor General Pravin Faldesai said the Court had not specifically passed any order although in the past it had asked the Fisheries Department and the Indian Coast Guard to keep a strict watch and to take some deterrent steps to stop bull trawling. Adv Faldesai said the Indian Coast Guard is conducting inspection of trawlers in high seas.

“Today more than arguments it was a matter of discussion. Court discussed the matter with us and suggestion was to hold a meeting of all stakeholders as to how this problem can be solved,” Adv Faldesai said adding, “The major issue is that why generator is required on the fishing trawler when its lights can run on engines.” Besides Department of Fisheries and Indian Coast Guard, all fishing cooperative societies in charge of jetties have been made respondents.

On May 10, 2016, the Department of Fisheries has issued an order prohibiting fishing using LED lights in the State while, the Union government issued order on November 10, 2017 prohibiting LED light fishing in the entire Indian EEZ beyond territorial waters. The Court has posted the matter for further hearing on September 12."

#### **Goa: Stakeholders worried about state of affairs at wholesale fish market**

<https://www.freepressjournal.in/goa/goa-stakeholders-worried-about-state-of-affairs-at-wholesale-fish-market>

"With just five days to go for the new fishing season to commence on August 1, fishing stakeholders appear a worried lot over the state of affairs at Goa's lone wholesale fish market in Margao, but for a different reason. For, spread across an area admeasuring 10,000 square metres, the space presently used for the fish trade inside the wholesale fish market is now reduced to half.

Reason? The Goa State Infrastructure Development Corporation (GSIDC) has taken into its possession almost over half the portion of the market land to build a modern wholesale fish market, with provision for cold storage and other amenities. Resultantly, the fishing stakeholders, including the fish traders have been facing a paucity of land inside the market for vehicular parking, with fish vehicles spilling over on the wholesale fish market road.

Inquiries by The Goan revealed that the wholesale fish market, presently operating on less than 5,000 square metres of land, is playing host to around 50-80 fish transporting vehicles during the off-season. The ground reality suggests that the market is plunged into chaos and traffic blues on the available space.

With the new fishing season set to start on August 1, vehicles transporting fish into the wholesale

fish market are set to increase manifold. Besides fish-laden vehicles coming from across the border, bringing fish from the neighbouring states of Maharashtra and Karnataka and as far away from Kerala, hundreds of pickups from the state jetties are set to hit the wholesale fish market when the season starts next month.

President of Margao Wholesale Fish Market Association Maulana Ibrahim has feared for the worst at the wholesale fish market when the fishing season starts on August 1. "As it is, the wholesale fish market is in a sorry state. The market is stinking. The area where the wholesale fish trade is taking place is not fit for the fish business. The fish traders are conducting the business in the muck," Ibrahim said.

He added: "If the present status of the market cannot accommodate the fish-laden vehicles during the off-season, just imagine the situation when the season starts on August 1. The PDA has to come out with a solution before the market and the road is choked with vehicles."

Former president of Cutbona Boat Owners Union Savio D'Silva pointed out that SGPDA will have to come out with a solution before the new fishing season begins on August 1. "Boat owners bringing fish from the jetties, including the Cutbona and Vasco, should get the space inside the wholesale fish market when they come with their fish catch," he said.

Commenting on the sopo controversies erupting at the wholesale fish market, D'Silva pointed out that South Goa Planning and Development Authority (SGPDA) official Paul Gomes, who is looking after the wholesale fish market, conceded that hard days lie in store for the fishing activity at the market after the commencement of the new fishing season. "The SGPDA is now operating the wholesale fish market from less than half the market space. We had to struggle to accommodate the fish trucks during the lean season," he said."

### **Goa: Traditional fishermen along Salcete coast net huge catch of solar prawns**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/traditional-fishermen-along-salcete-coast-net-huge-catch-of-solar-prawns/articleshow/93120765.cms>

"Traditional fishermen along the Salcete coastline are a happy lot as they have netted a bumper catch of prawns. Huge quantities were directly sold to fish traders after satisfying local markets. Villagers flocked to the beach to buy fish and prawns directly at source. Each canoe owner caught a tonne of the seasonal shrimp on an average. Solar prawns surface for a short period of time — seven to 10 days — in the Arabian Sea. There are roughly around 120 canoes fishing along the Salcete coastal belt.

While the men brought in the catch, their women were busy selling it to villagers and local fish vendors to be sold in villages. Many vendors were seen in various villages selling shrimps and fish bought at the beach. Traditional fishermen were sceptical about the police raiding them given that some canoes had been seized at Velsao beach last week and their catch confiscated. Fishermen, who did not want to be named, said they approached fisheries minister Nilkanth Harlankar to explain their plight. They told the minister that this is the only time they can earn some money and that within a week's time mechanised fishing will commence and trawler owners with better equipment and speed will romp home with large catches leaving them with nothing."

### **Goa: Fish exports rise by 50% in 2021-22**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/in-2021-22-fisheries-export-rose-by-over-50/articleshow/93096370.cms>

"There was an over 50% increase in fisheries exports from Goa in 2021-22 compared to the previous year minister for fisheries Nilkanth Halarnkar said in reply to a starred question tabled by Santa Cruz MLA Rodolfo Fernandes on fish exports. Goa has exported 36,057 tonne of fish bringing in Rs 730 crore during the financial year 2021-22. In 2020-21, the state exported 16,549 tonne of fish, which brought in a revenue of Rs 435.25 lakh.

The USA and China were also major buyers with 1,569 tonne shipped to the USA and 2,593 tonne to China. Compared to this, exports to South East Asia stood at 9,055 tonne in 2020-21. However, besides South East Asia, Goa also saw large orders from the European Union (EU) and the Middle East besides China that year

Frozen fish accounts for the highest quantity of seafood exported to various nations yearly. In 2021-22, 28,104 tonne of frozen fish were exported compared to 7,909 tonne the previous financial year. Other types of seafood exported are shrimps, frozen cuttlefish and frozen squid, among others.

While fish exports to the Middle East and the European Union dropped, exports to Japan, South East Asia and the USA increased steadily last year. Fish export details are monitored by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA). Earlier Goa used to have its own MPEDA office in Panaji.

Halarnkar said in the legislative assembly question (LAQ) that the export details are being monitored by MPEDA, Mangalore in Karnataka which functions under the department of commerce, government of India."

### **Goa: Cutbona jetty to soon get toilet facility worth Rs 1 crore**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/cutbona-jetty-to-soon-get-toilet-facility-worth-rs-1-crore/articleshow/93038587.cms>

"The fisheries department is in the process of constructing a 50-seater toilet cum bathroom facility at the new fishing jetty at Cutbona at the cost of nearly Rs 1 crore. The proposal is submitted to the government for approval, stated fisheries minister Nilkanth Halarnkar at the legislative assembly. Through M/s Sulabh International Social Service Organisation, Porvorim, the toilets are being built at the cost of Rs 95 lakh.

The department has also proposed to construct an STP through sewerage infrastructural development corporation of Goa at the cost of Rs 75 lakh - work for which is at the tendering stage. The department has already constructed a 13-seater Sulabh toilet at the complex at the cost of Rs 15 lakh, which has been in operational conditions since August 2003. However, a 12-seater toilet block along with STP has also been installed at Cutbona fisheries complex at the cost of Rs 34 lakh. "The same shall be put in operation shortly," Halarnkar told the House.

Two bio-toilets have also been installed at the fisheries complex in order to maintain sanitary hygiene and two attendants have been deployed for maintenance of the jetty through Goa human resource development corporation, Porvorim. A high-pressure pump is used to continuously wash the jetty so as to maintain the jetty free from fish waste. Halarnkar also stated that work on the Cutbona Fish Landing Centre comprises two major components – construction or upgradation of the Cutbona fish landing centre and construction of a training wall at Mobor. The work has been submitted to State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) for Environment Clearance."

### **Goa: Traditional fishermen demand land to anchor boats ahead of new fishing season**

<https://www.freepressjournal.in/goa/goa-traditional-fishermen-demand-land-to-anchor-boats-ahead-of-new-fishing-season>

"Huge waves triggered by sea conditions battered the Benaulim coast on Sunday, as the traditional fishermen from Benaulim offered a Litany at the Holy Cross ahead of the new fishing season. The sea water nearly touched the land mass where the traditional fishermen anchor their traditional fishing canoes, bringing to the fore the same old question – why is the government not opening up the Fisheries Department acquired land admeasuring 53,000 square metres for the traditional fishermen?

Presently, the fishermen anchor their canoes on the land abutting the shore owned by the landlords for want of dedicated area for the traditional fishing activities. The fishermen minced no words when they made a fervent plea to the Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, Fisheries



Minister Nilkhant Harlarnkar and all the MLAs to intervene and save the traditional fishing activity in Benaulim.

“We no longer take the risk of anchoring our vessels on the shore during the monsoons fearing of the vessels getting washed into the sea. Last year, our fishermen lost two vessels when they were anchored on the shore.” Says traditional fisherman, Pele Fernandes.

Against this backdrop, Pele and other fishermen said they are left with no option than to anchor the vessels on the private land owned by the landlords with their permission. He questioned why the fishermen have to knock the doors of the landlord when land admeasuring 53,000 sq mtrs is available and lying idle in the fisheries complex. “The Fisheries Department had acquired the land for the shrimp hatchery as a pilot project. It’s now over a decade and half since the hatchery has been lying in the dumps for want of production. It is in the fitness of things that the government should earmark a minimum 5,000 sq mtrs of the hatchery acquired land to anchor canoes during monsoons,” he said.

Pele added, “The traditional fishermen have no dedicated land to mend fishing nets, keep nets for drying and dry fish. The government should support the traditional fishermen in the ongoing Assembly session and protect the traditional activity.”

Benaulim MLA Venzy Viegas, who was invited for the Litany by the Benaulim fishermen reminded that the traditional fishermen under the banner of Niz Ramponkaranchi Ekvott had submitted a proposal to the government to take the local fishermen as stakeholders in the plan mooted by the Fisheries Department to develop the hatchery land. “We had asked for land inside the hatchery project to anchor around 100 canoes, space to dry fish and mend nets and other amenities such as a washroom, community hall for the fishermen, etc,” he said.

The MLA pointed out he has raised the issue in the ongoing Assembly session with a plea to support the traditional fishing occupation. “Let the investor who accepts the offer of the Fisheries Department take the traditional fishermen as the stakeholders give a share of the project to the fishermen. Children of the fishermen are educated and working abroad. They will certainly invest money in the project,” he said.

The MLA has warned that the traditional fishermen will not allow the setting up of any project if the government does not protect the interest of the local stakeholders, including the traditional fishermen."

**Goa: Subsidise supply of fish, control escalating prices**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/subsidise-supply-of-fish-control-escalating->

[prices/articleshow/92885006.cms](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/strong-potential-in-marine-agri-exports/articleshow/92885006.cms)

"Expressing concern over the skyrocketing fish prices, legislators on Tuesday demanded that the state government must subsidise fish supply or form a fisheries corporation to regulate prices. Responding to the concerns raised in the house, chief minister Pramod Sawant said that instead of subsidising fish supply, the government intends to increase the production of fish, which will help regulate the fish prices.

"The government was supposed to set up a fisheries corporation to buy fish from other states and then sell it in Goa at subsidised rates to locals. The government is doing this with vegetables. Vegetables are perishable and fish is also perishable. Just by increasing fish production does not mean that the rate will be controlled because the fish will be exported," said Fatorda MLA Vijai Sardesai.

Curtorim Independent MLA Aleixo Reginaldo Lourenco, who was the first to raise the issue, said that Goans need affordable fish. Lourenco said that traders from other states come to Goa and sell fish at a higher rate. "Fish comes from trawlers and by trucks from other states. The government has a role to play here to make sure that fish is affordable. The minister can enforce, the government has the authority to decide," said Lourenco.

Fisheries minister Nilkant Halarnkar expressed the state government's inability to regulate the price of fish. "We cannot fix the rate for fish. It depends on quality and supply. We are also trying to keep a check. The traders have a wholesale rate. The department has a scheme to set up cold storage facilities. There are subsidies. We will consider all the suggestions and see how we can work out some solution," said Halarnkar."

**Goa: Strong potential in marine, agri exports**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/strong-potential-in-marine-agri-exports/articleshow/92709204.cms>

"Shifting away from the iron ore mining industry after decades, Goa's exports now focus on the pharmaceutical sector and marine industry, but in order for the latter to become a prime exporter, the sector needs infrastructural improvements. Goa Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) has recommended market linkages that will enable farmers and food processing units to contribute to Goan agri-export. GCCCI had organised a stakeholders' consultation along with the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) and state government to see how export hubs can be created in each district.

While speaking about Goa's Agri-Export policy, director general of GCCCI, Sanjay Amonkar pointed out that the policy needs to address the allied sectors such as fisheries and animal

husbandry in the policy as there is huge potential in marine exports. “The consultation suggested that the marine sector needs many infrastructural improvements as it is one of the prime exporting sector of Goa,” said GCCI in a statement.

“There was also a request for state of the art lab testing facilities, phyto-sanitary measures to be established in Goa which will save time and cost of exports as currently testing has to be done from outside the state.” At the meeting, GCCI once again pressed for a local DGFT office or support from local government in setting up a Directorate of Exports headed by an IAS officer. As the director for exports, the IAS officer should be given the authority to solve issues of exporters, developing market linkages and hand-holding aspiring exporters.

Directorate of Industries, Trade & Commerce functional manager Himanshu Patnekar gave a detailed presentation on export initiatives by the through notified export strategy for the state developed in collaboration with Federation of Indian Export Organisations. The strategy revolves around facilitation towards policy, infrastructure, common facility, ease of doing business and investment promotion. He also mentioned some of the initiatives such as notifying the Balli container yard as an inland container depot, EU Aviation Security Validated Regulated Agents certification for Goa International Airport and export inspection agency lab to setup at Verna industrial estate. GCCI also congratulated the state government for completing a successful hundred days and thanked chief minister Pramod Sawant hearing out the industry’s requirements and providing an opportunity to give suggestions to improve governance under Ease of doing business."

#### **Goa: ‘State has one of best checks for formalin**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Kochi/rising-aquafeed-cost-a-matter-of-concern/article65585789.ece>

"The second edition of the India Genetically Improved Farmed Tilapia (GIFT) Summit 2022 here on Thursday discussed a range of issues, including increasing the country’s share in GIFT exports and high seed and feed prices. The summit was organised under the aegis of the Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture (RGCA) under the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA).

MPEDA Chairman K.N. Raghavan said the summit was part of the golden jubilee and silver jubilee celebrations of the MPEDA and the RGCA respectively. He added that there were interactions among aquaculture farmers and scientists from the MPEDA and other institutions during the summit.

Following an appeal from farmers, the price of GIFT seeds from MPEDA’s multi-species hatchery on Vallarpadam island was reduced from ₹6 to ₹3.50. Mr. Raghavan said MPEDA was

also aware that aquaculture feed cost was high, which was a matter of concern when it came to encouraging more people to take up fish farming.

Speakers at the summit pointed out how GIFT had become a fish of choice in markets such as the United States and European nations like Spain, the Netherlands, Germany, and Belgium. GIFT has been described as “aquatic chicken” for its quality and nutritional value. When compared to shrimp and fish like salmon, GIFT is much cheaper, which has made it popular in U.S. restaurants.

Cheriachan Mundoth, a tilapia farmer, said the high feed price and marketing difficulties posed a challenge to aqua farmers. However, he added that there had been a revival in the market of late. Tilapia used to be looked down upon in the past. “But those who have tasted GIFT are now more willing to buy the fish for its quality and taste,” he added.

RGCA sources said the centre had been a quality seed supplier for fish such as sea bass, pearl spot, tilapia, and tiger shrimp. It is also the first multi-species hatchery in India that has helped thousands of aqua farmers with seed supplies."

Goa: Don't dilute fishermen's rights <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/gfp-dont-dilute-fishermens-rights/articleshow/92289793.cms> "Goa Forward Party (GFP) president Vijai Sardesai on Friday accused the government of “diluting the rights” of the Goan fishing community with the modifications done to the mariculture policy, and demanded that they be restored.

“The (modifications to the) policy systematically take away the rights of traditional Goan fishing community and hand them over to non-Goans along with employment opportunities and schemes which are rightfully that of Goans,” Sardesai said in a press statement.

Pointing to the modifications to the Goa State Mariculture Policy 2020, Sardesai said: “The policy intended to promote and regulate cage fishing in Goa. The eligibility criteria at the time of notifying the policy in 2020 was that the applicant for the offshore aquaculture licence must, according to clause 8(a) of the policy, be a resident of the state of Goa. After keeping the policy in abeyance for two years, the government decided to modify this clause policy by allowing any citizen of India to be eligible for the aquaculture licence.” “The stakeholders, including ramponkars, are unhappy with this scheme. They fear they will be stopped from fishing or sailing through the waters around the offshore aquaculture fishing areas,” Sardesai said."

**Goa: Centre's 'Blue Revolution' scheme sees poor response in the state**

<https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/centre-s-blue-revolution->

[scheme-sees-poor-response-in-go-a-minister-122062000548\\_1.html](#)

"Goa Fisheries Minister Nilkant Halarnkar on Monday said Central government-sponsored schemes for fishermen had evoked a poor response in the state.

Addressing a press conference here, he said his department had received funds amounting to Rs 144.18 lakh in 2017-18 under the 'Blue Revolution' scheme for the component 'Open Sea Cage Culture' from the Union Ministry of Fisheries. ""Since then, only one beneficiary has come forward to set up 20 cages in Betul in South Goa and Rs 16.315 lakh has been released to the beneficiary as financial aid. A fund of Rs 127.865 lakh remained unutilized with the state fisheries department,"" Halarnkar said.

The state fisheries department had earlier notified the Goa State Mariculture Policy 2020 to promote open sea cage culture but has failed to find interested applicants, he admitted. ""There is a need to amend the policy and change the eligibility criteria to attract beneficiaries from the local community,"" he said."

**Goa: Fearing a 'fish famine', the government takes steps to increase production**

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=970357>

"Fearing that a fish famine could pose a serious threat to the availability of the staple food of the coastal state, the Goa government apart from notifying the ""Goa State Mariculture Policy 2020"" to carry out open sea cage fish culture, has also urged the NIO to suggest adoption of modern methods for production of fish. Some 2475 boats and 897 trawlers are registered with the fisheries department for fishing activities.

According to the fisheries department statistics, while 23,147 tonnes of sardine were caught in 2018, this dropped to 6771 tonnes in 2020. In 2019, it was 10,618 tonnes. The same is the case with mackerel, another staple fish. While in 2018, 35,699 tonnes of mackerel were caught, in 2020 the figure dropped to 25,325 tonnes. Apart from using mackerel for curry and frying, mackerel pickle is also prepared in many houses in Goa. To cater to the fish needs of the populace, it is also imported from other states, which is also purchased by the fish processing units. To deal with the fish famine situation, the government apart from taking action against illegal fishing has focused on resolving issues pertaining to this business.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has urged the scientists and students of the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) to suggest ways to increase fish productivity by adopting modern methods. The NIO has played a vital role in increasing the production of green mussels in Goa, training for which was given to stakeholders.

According to marine experts, pollution near Goa's river mouths and in the waters off the state's coastline as well as over-fishing using banned practices like bull trawling and LED fishing, could lead to a fish famine in the state. The Opposition benches, during the last term of the BJP government in the state, were vociferous in the Assembly in demanding action against illegal fishing. The fishermen from Goa are also demanding action against illegal practices used to catch fish in the sea.

Goa Fisheries Minister Nilkanth Halarnkar, had earlier said the Central government has sanctioned Rs 400 crore for setting up cage fishing infrastructure to boost the coastal state's catch of fish. The state is known for its seafood, which is sought after by the eight million plus tourists who visit Goa every year.

The overkill of fish for export and to cater to the hospitality industry in the tourism-oriented state as well as rising sea temperatures has resulted in a fish famine of sorts in the waters off Goa, driving the prices of locally consumed staple fishes through the roof.

Ibrahim Maulana, president of the Margao wholesale fish market in South Goa and the only wholesale fish market in the state, said that illegal fishing should be stopped. "'On Saturday we got around 50 tonne of fish from Andhra Pradesh,'" Maulana said. According to sources, fish in Goa is brought from Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and also from Maharashtra."

#### **Goa: State seeks home ministry's assistance on verification of marine fishermen**

<http://www.uniindia.com/goa-seeks-home-ministry-s-assistance-on-verification-of-marine-fishermen/west/news/2755324.html>

"Goa has sought assistance from the union home ministry on the issue of verification of marine fishermen, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said on Saturday. In a tweet, the chief minister said he has also requested the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to keep the portal open to upload the details of additional fishermen who would come during the next fishing season.

Stating that Goa being a coastal state was more vulnerable to crime like smuggling from sea and other routes, Dr Sawant, who attended the 25th Western Zonal Council Meeting as its Vice Chairman in Diu, said he also sought assistance from Union Government for better equipment for coastal patrol, mobile forensic labs and cyber labs in the coastal state."

#### **Goa: No water at new shed irks Vasco fish vendors**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/no-water-at-new-shed-irks-vasco-fish-vendors/articleshow/92190194.cms>

"Women fish vendors at the new Vasco fish market shed have complained about lack of water



supply at the shed, waterlogging and dangerous overhanging branches. They have demanded that the Mormugao Municipal Council (MMC) act swiftly and provide them proper facilities. The vendors recently shifted to the temporary shed to make way for a new fish market complex at the location of their old shed.

They had written to the MMC chief officer, with a copy to Vasco MLA Krishna Salkar, requesting for cleanliness, water supply, and proper toilet facility at the new shed, besides also requesting that the overhead branches posing a risk to their lives be trimmed.

woman fish vendor said that they need to clean the market in the evening before leaving, but there is no provision for water supply. Further, the toilet facility too lacks proper water supply, which is an inconvenience to them, she said. Another vendor said that, on Sunday, a branch fell on the head of one woman sitting outside the shed. "Such incidents should not happen and precautions need to be taken," she said.

### **Goa: Vendors finally move out of Vasco old fish market**

<https://www.freepressjournal.in/goa/goa-vendors-finally-move-out-of-vasco-old-fish-market>

"After putting up resistance for 15 years, vendors in the Vasco fish market finally moved out of the premises to enable the demolition of the structure and the subsequent construction of a new fish market.

Vasco MLA Krishna Salkar, Mormugao Municipal Council (MMC) Chairperson Damodar Kaskar, MMC Vice Chairperson Amay Chopdekar, Councillors Nandadeep Raut, Girish Borker, Leo Rodrigues, Vasco BJP Mandal President Deepak Naik fish vendors and various leaders met on Wednesday morning and finally agreed to move out of the fish market. Speaking to reporters, Salkar said fish vendors would be shifted to a temporary shed made available by MMC, while work to remove the roof of the existing market would be taken up immediately.

"The process to demolish the fish market structure will begin by Thursday and a new state-of-the-art fish market will be completed within 18 months," informed Salkar. "We are grateful to leader of the fish vendors Adv Fr Michael Fernandes and others who facilitated this outcome," said Salkar. "This new market will benefit Vascokars and fish vendors as well and we will take up the project and complete the project within 18 months."

MMC Chairperson Damodar Kaskar said the contractor has been directed to expedite works and complete the project within 18 months. Meanwhile, former MMC chairperson Nandadeep Raut said he was vindicated in his decision to transfer MMC funds to GSUDA for the three projects comprising the MMC building renovation works, Vasco fish market project and the old powerhouse project at Baina.

“As chairperson, I had transferred around Rs 23 crore that MMC had got from the 14 Finance Commission to the GSUDA for the three key projects required for Vasco. At the time, I had face stiff opposition from 14 of the 25 councillors, with some even threatening to go to court or approach the DMA to reverse the funds.” “Some had even questioned the need for a new fish market when we already had an existing one. Going by developments on Wednesday, I have been vindicated,” said Raut.”

### **Goa: Notifies ‘Mariculture policy’ for production of fish**

<https://daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=967290>

"Amid fears of a fish famine expressed by experts, the Goa government has notified ""Goa State Mariculture Policy 2020"" to carry out open sea cage fish culture in the territorial waters of the state of Goa. Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Wednesday had urged the scientists and students of the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) to suggest to the government to increase fish productivity by adopting modern ways. NIO has played a vital role to increase production of green mussels in Goa, training of which was given to stakeholders.

According to marine experts pollution near Goa's river mouths and in the waters off the state's coastline as well as over-fishing using banned practices like bull trawling and LED fishing, leads to fish famine in the state. The fishermen from Goa are demanding action against illegal practices used to catch fish in the sea. Goa Fisheries Minister Nilkanth Halarnkar, earlier had said the Central government has sanctioned Rs 400 crore for setting up of cage fishing infrastructure to boost the coastal state's fishing catch output. The Central grant is aimed at aiding cage fishing culture in Goa in order to boost fish catch in Goa."

### **Goa: Govt promises formalin-free fish this season**

<https://www.freepressjournal.in/goa/goa-govt-promises-formalin-free-fish-this-season>

"Fisheries Minister Nilkant Halarnkar on Monday said government will take all steps to provide formalin-free fish to people of Goa while warning to take strict action against those who try to circumvent the annual 61-day fishing ban in the State. Halarnkar informed that the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) department was keeping a strict watch on use of formalin in fish.

Our department officials will be moving around in various markets and if they find anything amiss they will report to the FDA. We have taken care to ensure that Goans are not fed with formalin-laced fish,” Halarnkar said. The fisheries minister was speaking to journalists at the side lines of an event to celebrate the coronation day of the Maratha warrior king Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in Mapusa. The Chairperson of Mapusa Municipal Council Shubhangi

Vaigankar was also present.

Continuing, Halarnkar said that the government will come down heavily against those who ignore the fishing ban which has come into effect from June 1. He said so far six boats have been caught for ignoring the ban and fines were imposed on them. "There is round the clock vigilance to keep a check on illegal fishing. The present fish you see in the market is all frozen fish. Fishing boats are not allowed to venture into the sea due to the fishing ban," he said.

Halarnkar, who is also a minister for animal husbandry, reiterated plans to start an ambulance service for cattle in lines of the 108 emergency ambulance service. "We are starting a movement to take care of cattle that are unwell. The ambulance will have a doctor and will be provided with a hydraulic system to lift heavy animals," he said. He said that the service was being started on an experimental basis to treat cattle and if all goes well other animals could also be included in the scheme later.

He further disclosed plans of renovating the veterinary hospital in Mapusa and to set up new ones in Mulgao and Sanguem. He said the veterinary hospitals will be equipped with all necessary equipment."

#### **Goa: GRE slams Govt for failing to implement fishing ban**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/GRE-slams-Govt-for-failing-to-implement-fishing-ban/190170>

"Goenchea Ramponkaranchi Ekvott (GRE) President Agnelo Rodrigues slammed Fisheries Director Dr Sharmila Monterio for failure to implement the monsoon fishing ban order, which commenced from June 1 and will run till July 31. He stated, "The GRE since inception i.e since 1978, has been demanding for a monsoon ban for proper spawning of marine species due to the decline of fishing resources. But the Fisheries Department today has completely failed us, as it has repeatedly failed to implement and act on its own order be it LED light fishing, Malpe bull trawling and now even the monsoon ban."

Rodrigues also demanded that Fisheries Minister Nilkanth Halarnkar appoints a full-time Fisheries Director and warned that a day will come that the fishermen will be displaced and The Fisheries department will become a ghost department. "The GRE demands that the Fisheries Minister immediately intervene and suspend all the licences of those who have violated the fishing ban, failing which the GRE members across Goa will be forced to take law in hand," Rodrigues said.

Meanwhile, in a joint raid conducted by the Coastal Police and Fisheries Department, three trawlers were seized, which were found in the sea with fish. The trawlers were seized along with

the fish catch. The trawler owners claimed that their vessels were stranded in the sea due to breakdown. Savio Fernandes, resident of Comba, Margao had filed a complaint in this regard before the Directorate of Fisheries and had urged immediate action against the law violators.

""The boat entered Cutbona jetty on May 31 after fishing at high sea and had unloaded his fish catch at the jetty allotted to South Goa Mechanised Boat Owners Co-op society on the same day. Thereafter on June 1, the same boat once again ventured out at sea," Fernandes informed the authorities. Fisheries Minister Nilkanth Halarnkar said that coastal police will work along with the Fisheries department to keep a check on violations of fishing ban, use of LED lights etc. Major jetties will be under CCTV surveillance, he added."

**Goa: Rising inflation, fuel price hike, unfavourable weather conditions and pandemic-induced problems have left a large dent on the fisheries industry this season**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/tumultuous-fishing-season-ends-subdued-start-likely-in-sept/articleshow/91900310.cms>

"Rising inflation, fuel price hike, unfavourable weather conditions and pandemic-induced problems have left a large dent on the fisheries industry this season. Despite the ample availability of fish in the sea, several factors influenced fishing activity and sale of the piscine creatures, making it a rough season for the fishing community.

"Not only fuel prices, but prices of ration, spare parts, oil and fishing nets have also increased in the past year. There has been an overall inflation in fisheries as a result," said a fishing boat owner from Malim jetty.

The greatest challenge, however, was that of the uncertainty of the weather. Even in the days leading up to the last week of the month of May, the weather was not conducive for fishing vessels to venture into the sea, leaving them anchored for nearly 10 days.

Yet another challenge was of the difficulty of assembling crew members and jetty work force.

With Cyclone Tauktae having hit Goa in mid-May last year, the rough seas had led to early closure of fishing operations in 2021, and the fishing crew had started returning to their respective native places days prior to the fishing ban itself. Following the lifting of the fishing ban on July 31, the workers from Jharkhand, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and other states took weeks to return to Goa owing to the aftermath of the second Covid-19 wave.

Later, in January, the rise in cases of the Omicron variant of the coronavirus hurt the fisheries market as the prices came crashing down.

“There was ample of catch in the winter months, yet not enough buyers. The fish market was almost empty as people observed isolation. We were forced to give away fish and shrimp at dirt-cheap prices to the few that visited the market, and barely made a profit during the time,” fish vendor Sachin Nayak said.

Following the ban, the new season is likely to see a subdued start or even a delay, as the dates of the fishing ban-end coincide with the lunar month of Shravan wherein abstinence from fish and meat is observed by the Hindu community.

Soon after, is the festival of Ganesh Chaturthi which also sees vegetarianism being widely observed in the community. This is likely to delay the full swing restart of fishing operations in Goa.

“The season usually starts by August 15-20 by the time all the workforce arrives in Goa from other states. Since Ganesh Chaturthi is on August 31, there is no point in starting the season for only eight to ten days. The next season is not likely to fully start before the first week of September, as a result,” said president of the All Goa Purse Seine Boat Owners’ Association, Harshad Dhond.

The state government declares a 61-day fishing holiday from June 1, when mechanised vessels are prohibited from fishing to facilitate fish breeding. These restrictions do not apply to traditional fishermen, who use motorised or non-motorised small boats.

“We want the ban to increase to 90 days to further facilitate the fish breeding. In the lean period, fishermen must be given compensation for the fish workers to sustain themselves,” said Olencio Simoes, traditional fisherman and general secretary of the Goenchea Ramponkarancho Ekvott.”

### **Goa: Tarballs resurface to sully beaches, no solution in sight**

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/tarballs-resurface-to-sully-goas-beaches-no-solution-in-sight-101653504268997.html>

"The menace of tar balls -- oily globules of tar thrown up by the sea -- have returned to sully Goa's beaches proving a major headache for beach goers who are left with oil sticking to their feet and covering those bathing in the sea with an acidic stench. The phenomenon has left tourism stakeholders worried that persistent tar balls will drive tourists away from the beaches.

According to Drishti Marine, the lifeguarding agency manning Goa's beaches, tarballs streaks have been noticed across beaches of both North and South Goa. The agency has issued a directive to tourists asking beachgoers to be watchful before venturing into the sea.

“Beach tar sighted across Baga, Calangute (North Goa), Bogmallo to Rajbagh (South Goa). Please be careful when walking, especially if barefoot,” the agency said.

Tarballs are an annual affair in Goa that arrive usually at the time of the churning of the sea -- prior to the monsoons in the month of May and after the monsoons during the months of September-October. A tarball is a semi-solid blob of crude-oil, and it is formed due to weathering of crude-oil in the ocean.

The tarball pollution in Goa was first reported in the 1970s, its negative effects have been widely reported in recent decades. More than sully the beaches, according to the National Institute of Oceanography “tarballs pollute marine environments, including pelagic, benthic and beach regions. Some tarballs may originate from natural oil sources present in the ocean.”

“Tarballs contain hydrocarbons, including polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, which pose significant environmental risks,” a study by NIO in 2015 said.

This has left fishermen and tourism stakeholders worried about damaged nets, fish caught being rendered unsafe to eat and dead fish washing ashore.

For long, scientists have scratched their heads over the origin of the tar balls until in 2013 when a major fingerprinting study on the hydrocarbons that made up the tarballs that washed ashore in the prior years found that it was made up from oil flushed into the ocean by passing oil takers that traverse the Arabian between the Middle East and SouthEast Asia as part of deballasting processes of their oil tanks.

“It is possible that the tankers that are going to the Middle East with SEACO are likely to clean the tanks in the Arabian Sea. The resulting oil undergoes a weathering process, leading to tarball formation. With the arrival of SW monsoon, all the floating tar balls start moving towards the west coast of India, and eventually deposit on the nearby beaches consistent with the circulation pattern,” the study suggested.

A subsequent study by NIO in 2016 which backtracked sea surface currents using computer modelling provided further insight into the origin of the tar balls found that while the tar balls that arrive after the monsoons between September and October was from the passing tankers, but that which washes ashore in May has its origin in the oil spills around the Bombay High oil fields.

Goa’s environment minister Nilesh Cabral has promised to write to the Centre for a solution, saying that the matter was outside the jurisdiction of the state government. Yet despite knowing the source and the potential damage the fugitive oil can cause, there has been little action.

“We have written to the environment ministry earlier as well (last year) and this year we will also write to the union home ministry and the director general of shipping to track down those who are causing pollution in the high seas and take action against them. It is not just Goa, it is the entire west coast that is encountering the problem. Instructions have been sent,” chief minister Pramod Sawant said."

### **Goa: Fishermen will face same fate like Kerala if Sagarmala project not scrapped**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/Fishermen-will-face-same-fate-like-Kerala-if-Sagarmala-Project-not-scrapped-NFF-/189856>

"The National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF) on Sunday cautioned that fishermen from Goa would face situation like Kerala if the Sagarmala Project is not scrapped.

The forum demanded that the government should immediately stop port expansion plans in Kerala.

NFF General Secretary Olencio Simoes said that NFF ended its third State “Machhimar Sangharsh Yatra” at Kerala, where the team visited affected Valiyathura village in Thiruvananthapuram, where nearly 400 families have been displaced because of sea erosion due to dredging of Vizhinjan seaport.

Simoes demanded that the Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways should immediately stop port expansion plans in Kerala.

“During the yatra, the NFF team highlighted that Goa's fishermen and coastal dwellers would meet the same fate if the Goa government doesn't scrap Sagarmala plans in the State,” he said.

The NFF general secretary also demanded that the Union government should pass the Coastal Rights Bill in order to protect the livelihood of people engaged in or depending on fishing activities.

Meanwhile, the fourth “Machhimar Sangharsh Yatra will be held in Goa on June 16 and 17. NFF Chairperson Leo Colaco, Vice Chairperson K Yellayya and other Union members will visit highly affected areas where fishermen have been deprived of their rights and livelihood."

### **Goa: Vasco fishing body wants extension of jetty, relief on VAT**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/vasco-fishing-body-wants-extension-of-jetty-relief-on-vat/articleshow/91673468.cms>



"The maintenance of fishing jetties in Goa may be done annually during the off-season, however, this time, the Vasco Fishing Association has demanded that their jetty be not just repaired but also be extended to 100m. They have submitted a proposal to fisheries minister Nilkanth Halarnkar to extend the jetty for the convenience of the 200 boats that operate from there. "The Vasco fishing jetty is in dire need of attention. We have 200 boats that dock at the 60m area," the association members said.

"Those will be soon taken up. There are only a few days left for the fishing ban comes into force, so necessary inspections and repair works can be taken up. However, extension of the jetty will invite CRZ and NGT violations."

The boat operators also demanded that the state government provide relief on VAT on the diesel as well. "The government sanctioned VAT on diesel comes to about Rs 6. With diesel prices rising, the operation of fishing vessels is becoming difficult," they said.

On this, the fisheries minister said, "As far as the VAT subsidy is concerned, I have assured them that there will be a discussion on the subject and accordingly we will take a decision."

The Vasco Fishing Association submitted a proposal to the fisheries minister to extend the jetty for the convenience of the 200 boats that operate from there."

#### **Goa: Will approach ICG to crack down on LED fishing**

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=959604>

"The unavailability of a suitable patrol boat to track down on fishermen using LED lights to carry out fishing in the deep seas off Goa, may force the state Fisheries Ministry to approach the state coastal police or the Indian Coast Guard to carry out raids, Fisheries Minister Nilkanth Halarnkar said on Wednesday.

"LED fishing normally occurs 12 nautical miles away. We have only one boat to conduct raids, but the boat cannot reach that far. So are proposing to buy two more boats," he told reporters here. "We are also considering contacting the coastal police or coast Guard to give them the right to carry out raids. We are also trying to ban LED fishing. There are a lot of complaints about it," Halarnkar also said.

#### **Goa: Houses of fishermen in Vasco must be regularized**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/houses-of-fishermen-in-vasco-must-be-regularised/articleshow/91190584.cms>

"Heated discussions marked Friday's Mormugao Municipal Council meeting. Among the civic issues discussed were illegal occupation of parking space by rent-a-bikes operators,

regularisation of houses of coastal communities from Khariawada and Baina areas and beautification of two childrens' parks. The councillors were unanimous in their opinion that houses of fishermen in the fishing villages such as Khariawada, Baina and other areas should be regularised.

Councillor Mathias Monteiro urged the state government to be considerate about safeguarding the interest of coastal communities including fishermen. He said that many coastal communities have been living by the beachside at Baina and Khariawada for many generations and that their houses existed before 1991. As per the CRZ 1991 notification, these houses must be regularised by the government.

The illegal occupation of most parking spaces in the Mormugao municipal area by rent-a-bike operators was also discussed and councillors said this must be sorted out urgently."

### **Goa: Stakeholders welcome non-depiction of port limits in CZMP**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/Stakeholders-welcome-nondepiction-of-port-limits-in-CZMP/189229>

"Stakeholders on Thursday welcomed the Government of India in-principle approval to the State's demand not to depict the port limits in the final Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) 2011, which is now in process of finalisation.

Showing the port limits in CZMP would be dangerous to fishermen, activists said. Also including the port limits would be the design of the coal lobby, they added. Activists and stakeholders have demanded that fishermen's houses which existed before 1991 be protected, that a fisheries management plan be drawn up and sand dunes should be shown in the CZMP 2011.

Environment Minister Nilesh Cabral had on Wednesday stated that the Centre had in-principle agreed to three major issues – removal of port limits and structures and notification based on 1:4000 scale.

Fishermen from Mormugao on Thursday demanded that the Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) desist from undertaking any activity at Kharewado, Vasco against the interest of fishing community. They demanded that the fishing community be taken into confidence if any activity is planned.

In a memorandum submitted to GCZMA, the fishermen said that on April 12, a team of officials including GCZMA officials visited Kharewado and held an inspection without informing the

elected representatives and the fishing community. They suspected that the Mormugao Port Trust or the Mormugao Port Authority is trying to carry out some inspection of a proposed jetty at Kharewado, where fishermen have been residing from times immemorial.

They alleged that the GCZMA has proposed a destructive project aimed to annihilate their fishing village to help the crony capitalists to bring coal into Goa. During the inspection the fishermen raised strong objections complaining that they were not taken confidence and alleged that GCZMA, which is supposed to protect the interests of the fishing community and other communities living along the coast as per the CRZ Notification 2011, was helping crony capitalists.

The fishermen also pointed out while hearing a petition against Marina project at Nauxi, the government had told the High Court of Bombay at Goa that no activity related to any project involving coastal management will be undertaken or allowed to be undertaken till the Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) of Goa is finalised and approved. Hence, the activity for which the team of officials had visited Kharewado is highly suspicious, surprising and in total contravention, they said.

They demanded that no clearance be given by the port authorities which will lead to the demolition of the houses and demanded that the government should intervene and resolve the matter amicably.

### **Goa: Centre nod to remove port limit depictions on coastal plan**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/centre-nod-to-remove-port-limit-depictions-on-coastal-plan-state/articleshow/91014443.cms>

"In a major relief to Goa residents living along the coast, the Union government has agreed in-principle to the state's three demands that were creating hurdles in the finalisation of the coastal zone management plan — removal of the depiction of port limits, notification of CZMP on 1:4,000 scale, and removal of structures from the plan.

Environment minister Nilesh Cabral held a meeting with the secretary of the Union environment ministry and representatives of the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), to finalise the CZMP for the state. Cabral told TOI that the Centre "in-principle has agreed to the three major issues" that were creating hurdles. "We will not push for finalisation of CZMP 2011," he said.

Cabral said that chief minister Pramod Sawant also intervened and spoke to the Union environment minister to sort out the issues. "After the notification of CZMP 2011, we will commence work on the finalisation of CZMP 2019," he said.

In the meeting, the state government said that there is no record of structures constructed between 1974 and 1991 (the year of the first CRZ notification), and that it does not want to show all structures in CZMP. Cabral said that only archaeological heritage sites, structures like lighthouses, beacons, infrastructure pertaining to fisheries and ramps of the river navigation department will be depicted in the plan.

The Goa coastal zone management authority (GCZMA) and state government therefore recommend that only those structures as provided in the GCZMA's shape file, and that all other structures need not be depicted, to avoid legal complications. Recently, the National coastal zone management authority (NCZMA) turned down the state's request seeking some relaxations, and also suggested some alternative changes to the coastal plan.

During the meeting, the state government recommended that there should be no further increase in handling of coal at MPT beyond the capacities presently permitted by Goa state pollution control board. The state also recommended that the draft CZMP maps should depict mangroves' khazan land as "mangroves in khazan".

#### **Goa: Trials on for cheaper energy sources to power fishing boats**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/trials-on-for-cheaper-energy-sources-to-power-fishing-boats/articleshow/90868901.cms>

"Aiming to make operation more economically viable for the Goan fishing community, the state directorate of fisheries is exploring alternative energy sources which can be used aboard fishing vessels in place of diesel. Trials have been conducted to convert diesel-fuelled fishing boats to LPG-powered ones. Another trial will be held to explore solar power as an energy source for fishing vessels.

The trials were conducted by the department in collaboration with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) last week and on Thursday. "HPCL has assured us that each fishing vessel will be able to run on 2.5 kg of fuel per hour with the help of LPG powered engines. The trials have proved to be good. A lot of kits are available for use," Monteiro said. She further said that solar energy trials are also on the anvil. "Due to climate change, and in the face of fuel prices going up, we are looking at other cheaper and cleaner alternatives. A lot of such trials will therefore be taken up,"

#### **Goa: Margao wholesale fish market to get makeover**

<https://www.freepressjournal.in/goa/goa-margao-wholesale-fish-market-to-get-makeover>

"Can Fatordekars and the stakeholders alike hope for a turnaround from the filth and stench at Goa's lone wholesale fish market in the next one year?. A foundation stone laid by the

previous government on June 12, 2018 bears testimony to the neglect and state of affairs in the SGPDA wholesale fish market since the ground reality has remained unchanged for the last four years.

Hopes have finally been raised for a makeover in the market now. The Fisheries Department through the Goa State Infrastructure Development Corporation (GSIDC) is finally bracing up to build a modern wholesale fish market at the present location, with provision for a cold storage facility for the fishermen and a fish testing laboratory right in the SGPDA market. By tapping funds from the Centre to the tune of Rs 50 crore, which will fund the project on 60:40 basis, the GSIDC is taking up the work for the Fisheries Department.

In fact, officials in the know say the Fisheries Department, GSIDC and the SGPDA are believed to have inked a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) wherein the GSIDC will execute the project and hand the market to the Fisheries Department, which in turn is expected to allow the SGPDA to run it.

Senior GSIDC officials Sandeep Chodnekar told The Goan that the agency had floated a tender amounting to Rs 13 crore to execute work on the market building before the Assembly election. Though there was a delay in handing over the market to the GSIDC, delaying the execution of the work, Sandeep now says the SGPDA has now earmarked half of the market land to the agency for the development.

“The GSIDC has already started markings on the market land. The civil work will commence soon,” he said. He added: “We have drawn up plans to complete the construction of the market building as early as possible. The intervening monsoons may delay the construction work, but we have plans to complete as much work as possible before the onset of monsoons.”

Saying the GSIDC will take the market building construction in Phase-I of the project, he said the GSIDC will float the remaining tenders in phases. “The new wholesale fish market will have a cold storage facility, wherein fishermen will have a refrigeration facility right in the market. Besides, the market will have an FDA office for testing of fish brought and sold in the wholesale fish market,” he added.

On the discharge and treatment of the effluents discharged in the market, Sandeep pointed out that the BITS Pilani has already set up an Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) at the wholesale fish market.

“There is a proposal to set up a digester to dispose of the leftover fish so that it does not land up in the drains”, Chodnekar said, adding the market surface will be cemented to ensure that there’s

no water logging and the fish water is channelized to the ETP."

### **Goa: Fisheries minister highlights need for insurance cover for fishermen**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/halarnkar-highlights-need-for-insurance-cover-for-fishermen/articleshow/90854113.cms>

"Fishermen of Goa need insurance cover as they put their lives at risk by venturing into sea for days together, said fisheries minister Nilkanth Halarnkar. There is a difference between an agriculturist and a fisherman. A farmer goes to the farm in the morning, a fisherman goes to the sea. One cannot anticipate the nature of the weather while at sea," he said.

The newly-inducted minister shed light on the various issues that the fisheries sector is plagued with, and said that his department would look to curtail illegal fishing activities carried out along the Goa coastline by fishing vessels from neighbouring states.

"Small fishermen often complain about illegal fishing activity carried out using LED lights, as a result of which they do not get enough catch. We are also trying to restrict fishermen from Karnataka and Maharashtra from fishing in our waters," Halarnkar said.

On Centre's investment in Goa's fishing sector, Halarnkar said Rs 400 crore will give a boost to fishing activities. Former union minister for fisheries, Giriraj Singh had earlier announced an investment of Rs 400 crore to make Goa a fisheries hub of the country."

### **Goa: Granted Rs 400 crore to promote cage fishing culture**

<https://www.canindia.com/goa-granted-rs-400-crore-to-promote-cage-fishing-culture-minister/>

"Goa has been sanctioned Rs 400 crore by the Central government for setting up of cage fishing infrastructure to boost the coastal state's fishing catch output, Fisheries Minister Nilkanth Halarnkar said on Wednesday. He also said that the government was considering providing life insurance to registered fisherfolk in Goa, in order to cover the risks which come along with the sea-fishing profession.

"(Former Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Minister) Giriraj Singh had promised Rs 400 crore to Goa for it. I feel that it is sanctioned. We need to get it and distribute it to active fishermen. They will be trained and assisted on a trial basis on the lines of prawn farming," Halarnkar told reporters soon after taking charge of the Ministry on Wednesday.

The Central grant is aimed at aiding cage fishing culture in Goa in order to boost fish catch in Goa. The state has been suffering from a drop in fish catch over the last few years on account of

pollution of waters off the Goa coast and large-scale development activity.

The state Minister also said that his department would look to curtail illegal fishing in Goa's waters by fishermen from neighbouring states. "I will take feedback from the department and find ways to curb it. Small fishermen complain about (illegal) fishing by using lights, as a result they do not get much yield. We are also trying to restrict fishermen from Karwar (Karnataka) and Maharashtra fishing in our waters," Halarnkar said

He also said that sea-going fishermen would be covered under insurance. "Sea-going fishermen should have insurance, be it in Baga, Calangute, Colva. Their lives are risky. There is a difference between an agriculturist and a fisherman. A farmer goes to the farm in the morning, a fisherman goes to the sea. He is not aware of natural calamities," he said."

### **Goa: Rising fuel prices hit fishing industry**

<https://www.uniindia.com/story/Rising-fuel-prices-hit-fishing-industry-in-Goa>

"With fuel prices increasing almost daily and crossing Rs 100 in many cities, the fishing industry in Goa has been hit hard. The stakeholders are seeking relief from both the state and central governments to keep the business running. Speaking to UNI, Goa Purse Seine Boat Owners Association's Harshad Dhond said that the hike in fuel prices and other costs have forced 42-45 per cent of the boats to cease operations. If the situation does not improve, more boats may face the same fate, he warned. ""There is a lot of pressure due to diesel prices... The All India Fishermen Forum has met Union Minister for Fisheries Parshottam Rupala. They also met Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and told them that we are unable to run our business due to inflation." He said the rising fuel prices came at a time when the industry was trying to come out of the losses incurred due to two years of Covid-induced pandemic. "Due to the pandemic, exports are down and so is the purchasing capacity of the common man. We have been hit both ways. Supply and demand both have been hit. We request the government to do something, otherwise the sector will go to hell.

""The high fuel prices are having an impact on fish prices. Our cost has increased no bounds. I request the state as well as the central governments to do something immediately before its too late. Otherwise it will become economically unviable to run boats."" He pointed out that VAT reimbursement was pending for the last two years. "We got the reimbursement two years back and since then we have been waiting for it," he said. The President of the Goa Fishing Boat Owners Association, Jose Philip D'Souza, said: ""It's a big burden on the people of Goa... The government can at least waive off VAT on petrol and diesel. ""In the fishing industry, we need at least 1,500 litres of diesel. How we are going to survive?" National Fishworkers Forum General Secretary Olencio Simoes said the fishermen have stopped purchasing petrol or diesel in bulk as there is an increase of Rs 23 on bulk purchase. '



"We are purchasing fuel in retail but that is also creating trouble as it requires additional travel costs. We are facing a huge problem," he said. Simoes, however, said that Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has promised to look into their demand to remove excise duty and Value Added Tax (VAT) on fuel used in the fishing industry. He said in Gujarat and Maharashtra too the price rise has severely affected the industry. "The voyage cost is increasing drastically. We hope the Ministry will take action and the prices will come down. Otherwise, we will have to stage demonstrations. If this continues, then there will be a huge drop in export revenue," he said. He said small fishermen were spending Rs 5,000 per trip but were unable to recover even the cost."

### **Goa: As weather patterns change, fish gets almost 25% dearer**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/as-weather-patterns-change-fish-gets-almost-25-dearer/articleshow/90341108.cms>

"The prevailing cloudy conditions accompanied with greater wind speeds out at sea has made it difficult for fishermen to get a good catch. This has led to an almost 25% rise in fish prices.

"Boats have been returning with a smaller catch than usual. As a result even the number of fish trucks coming to Panaji have reduced. This has raised fish prices," fish vendor Sachin Naik said.

Kingfish is selling at Rs 800 per kg compared to Rs 600 two days ago, while other seafood items like sardines, mackerel, prawns, crabs have seen an increase of Rs 50. "People come to the Margao wholesale fish market but many return with a smaller purchase owing to the price rise," another fish vendor Deva Lamani said.

To tackle this shortage, vendors in the Panaji market have been sourcing fish from Malvan and Karwar. "We cannot anticipate the duration for which the high rates will prevail. Learning from previous trends of cyclonic conditions leading to dull fish catch, we have made our back up plan. However, despite that, there continues to be an overall shortage of fish," another vendor Weather conditions are only going to get worse as the year progresses. There needs to be a permanent solution to fish shortage by way of cage culture or prawn hatcheries. We cannot have inflation each time fishing boats face a challenge at sea," a Porvorim-based customer said

### **Goa: Fishermen write to MoEF panel, demand scrapping of marina**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/fishermen-write-to-moef-panel-demand-scrapping-of-marina/articleshow/90109492.cms>

"Ahead of the March 10 meeting of the Union environment ministry's expert appraisal committee, a fishermen's union from Goa has written to the committee demanding scrapping of

the AHOY Marina project planned at Nauxi. The fishermen have said that the project has been planned without considering the rights of the fishermen operating along this stretch of Goa's coast.

The committee at its meeting is set to consider extension of the terms of reference of the project, which had earlier been put on hold by the Goa government following opposition from locals. An extension in the terms of reference will amount to revival of the marina project, locals fear.

"The lease agreement that is based upon the ports land policy prepared by the Union ministry of shipping is based on unjust principles that ignore fishing activities in the Zuari," the All Goa Small-Scale Responsible Fisheries Union said.

Kargwal Constructions had signed a concession agreement with MPT for a 30-year lease to establish a marina in its waters. AHOY Marina will have a water spread area of 1 lakh sqm and land area of 50,000 sqm to establish the project. The fishermen said the project will destroy the livelihood of those operating on this stretch, adversely impact the local ecology and also affect the food security of locals.

The proposed marina is envisaged to accommodate 239 boats on the northern bank of the Mormugao bay on the opposite site of Mormugao Port Authority (MPA). "The MPA has not manufactured the Zuari to claim jurisdiction over it and to lease it whimsically to anyone of their choice by ignoring fishing communities actively carrying on livelihood practices," the association said."

### **Goa: Fishermen write to MoEF panel, demand scrapping of marina**

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### **Goa: Coastal plan delayed again as national body rejects relaxations plea**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/goa-coastal-plan-delayed-again-as-national-body-rejects-relaxations-plea/articleshow/90002214.cms>

"The National Green Tribunal (NGT) had set December 31, 2021, as the final extended deadline for Goa to complete its coastal zone management plan (CZMP). Two months after this deadline has expired, the finalisation of Goa's CZMP is set to be delayed even further. The National Coastal Zone Management Authority (NCZMA) has turned down the state's request seeking some relaxations for Goa, and has also suggested some alternative changes to the coastal plan. Goa will now require further time to incorporate these changes in the CZMP.

The Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA), for instance, had asked that port limits should not be depicted on the state's coastal plan. Instead of non-depiction, the national authority has now asked Goa to show major and minor ports in two different colours. Goa had also asked that only important structures like sites of archaeological importance in and around CRZ areas be marked on the CZMP.

The secretary for the Union environment ministry told GCZMA to put up in writing which structures are to be shown and which are to be deleted from the CZMP. Goa has been advised to submit this data by March 15, 2022, to the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM).

Earlier, the Goa authority had decided not to depict any port limits on the state CZMP after protests from several citizens' groups. The port limits of all major and minor ports were depicted in a single colour on the plan, which led to citizens alleging that the Mormugao Port Trust limits

are being extended to interior villages of Goa.

“The secretary, ministry of environment, forests and climate change (MOEF&CC) stated that the request for non-depiction of port limit on CZMP cannot be agreed upon. However, the major and minor ports can be depicted in different colour on the CZMP for identification,” Goa was told at the meeting held on February 22 under the chairmanship of IAS officer Arun Kumar Mishra. The GCZMA officials told the national authority that it had decided to seek the relaxation as port limits have not been depicted in the case of the states of Maharashtra, Kerala and Tamil Nadu on CZMP 2011.

“Both major and minor ports are depicted in a single colour, creating confusion in the mind of the general public, that all the areas depicted within the port limit are that of the major port. The area notified as major and minor ports is extensive in comparison to the total area of the state,” the GCZMA told the national authority. Also, the depiction of port limits is not a statutory requirement as per CRZ Notification 2011, the GCZMA said.

About marking of all structures on the coastal plan, the GCZMA said that Goa’s revenue maps only depict structures up to 1974 and there is no record of structures between 1974 and 1991. It was felt that this would create a disparity and therefore it was decided to not depict all and any structures on the CZMP. Now, as per the suggestion of the national authority, the GCZMA will be providing details to the NCSCM of only authorized structures on the seaward or river side to be depicted on the coastal plan. These structures will include sites of archeological importance, lighthouses, ramps, fishing jetties.”

### **Goa: Novel fishing exercise reveals rich fish biodiversity of Chicalim bay**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/novel-fishing-exercise-reveals-rich-fish-biodiversity-of-chicalim-bay/articleshow/90037850.cms>

"In an interesting exercise to showcase the fish biodiversity in Chicalim bay, participants caught and counted 47 fish species and 16 shrimp species. The fish count coupled with an interaction between fishermen and the scientists on Sunday was organised by the St Joseph Vaz College, Cortalim, in association with Central Coastal Agricultural Research Institute.

“During the interaction session we learnt that 47 different varieties of fish and 16 different types of shrimp were caught by the local fisherfolk, which the scientists will be documenting,” Bolmax said.

Later, chairman of the Chicalim biodiversity Management Committee Rui Araujo said that fish counting is a one-hour activity, which will be done every month for one year to document and note down the various fish species found in the Chicalim bay and Zuari river.

On Sunday, after the fisherfolk came with their catch, ICAR scientists Pravin Kumar and Shrikant explained details about the various species to the students who were a part of this activity. The activity was backed by the Goa State Biodiversity Board, Chicalim Biodiversity Management Committee and the Old Cross Fishing Canoe Owner' Cooperative Society. Chicalim bay is one of the last habitats for the brood stock of the highly prized delicacy but more endangered species of window pane oysters. Though the bivalve had re-emerged in good quantities in recent years, indiscriminate extraction has affected its brood stock again. The lockdown norms had come in handy to stop the haphazard fishing.

The revival in aquatic biodiversity seen after the stoppage of mining activities also yielded a bountiful tisreo (clam) and kalvam (oyster) crop in mud flats of Chicalim and Sancoale. The mud clam 'kalle khube', which are generally restricted to mangrove habitats, has also in recent years been extracted at low tide from the Chicalim bay.

### **Goa: Fishermen demand scrapping of Ports Bill**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/fishermen-demand-scrapping-of-ports-bill/articleshow/90038021.cms>

"Fishermen have demanded immediate scrapping of the Major Ports Authority Bill and have decided to submit a memorandum when the new state cabinet is formed. "The Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) will have detrimental effect on the fishing community of Goa. Prior to its implementation the authorities should have taken the opinions and objections of the people. The plan was supposed to be passed for the protection of the high tide. However unless there is village-wise clarity about each and every aspect of the plan, we cannot think of agreeing with it blindly," one of the fishermen said.

"The central government should've been mindful of issues pertaining to Goa, especially its fisherfolk community and the ancillary businesses associated with fisheries. No sooner will the new state government be formed, we will approach them with a memorandum to scrap this bill," a senior fisherman said.

In August last year the state government had asked the Centre to reconsider major ports laws that could impinge on state's powers. "The laws introduced by the Union ministry of shipping, particularly the draft Indian Ports Bill and the Major Ports Authorities Act, 2021 could dilute and impinge on the powers of the state government with respect to minor ports and enable their privatisation," the Goa government had said."

### **Goa: Rampant harvesting of juvenile clams raises sustainability fears**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/rampant-harvesting-of-juvenile-tisreo-raises->

[sustainability-fears/articleshow/89835888.cms](https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/Environmentalists-oppose-dredging-of-River-Sal/186951)

"Goa's shellfish species like tisreo (clams) are witnessing rejuvenation across the state. However, indiscriminate harvesting of the juvenile population has alarmed fish experts as it poses a threat to the species.

Some pockets of Tiswadi, Bardez, Ponda and other areas are witnessing a revival of tisreo. However, with small businesses and employment impacted by the Covid pandemic, neo fishermen are tapping this resource indiscriminately to make a few bucks.

A member of the Chicalim Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC), Cyril Fernandes, said that it was neo-fishermen who travel on two and four-wheelers, who think more of their profits and harvest undersized clams. "Locals who appreciate the dynamics of sustainable extraction avoid entering the river bed as the tisreo are undersized," he said. The ready market and unregulated extraction create havoc with shellfish biodiversity hotspots. "Insensitive extraction has destroyed the habitats that had witnessed bumper crops in the past," an activist said.

The management of the habitats for sustainable fishing poses a major problem. In Chicalim, the local BMC with the police held off extractors during the pandemic. But the resource was plundered due to problems in controlling bigger crowds and odd hours of fishing.

A more marketable size would benefit the fishermen and ecology. Proper regulation would ensure a win-win situation for stakeholders," Ingole said. Goa State Biodiversity Management Board is working on guidelines for some areas to regulate harvesting activity. "The stakeholders need to be sensitised and this we will tackle through our livelihood programme," member secretary Pradip Sarmokadam said.

"Sensitising them to make them aware of the loss of biodiversity has to be taken up like a campaign," G B Sreekanth, a fisheries scientist said."

**Goa: Environmentalists oppose dredging of River Sal**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/Environmentalists-oppose-dredging-of-River-Sal/186951>

"Giving comprehensible evidence of destruction to mangroves and ecosystems, environmentalists have strongly opposed the dredging of River Sal which they claimed is unscientific. However, the dredging work has been stopped since Monday.

On Tuesday, Roy Barretto along with few other environmentalists and traditional fishermen visited the site at Chinchinim along with the media persons, wherein the destruction of the ecosystem was witnessed, as a result of dredging with unscientific manner.

All the stakeholders, including other environmentalists will hold a meeting to deliberate on the

issue in the next couple of days.

It is pertinent to note that few days before a delegation of River Sal stakeholders, including traditional fishermen had submitted a memorandum to the Captain of Ports (CoP) and the Goa State Biodiversity Board to immediately stop the river dredging work. The delegation had claimed that the fishing community inhabiting the banks of River Sal is dependent on the river for their livelihood.

Barretto said, "They are dumping all the dredge material in the middle of the island. We can see the aerial roots. All this mud dumped will destroy the entire ecosystem." He further explained how the ecosystem has already been affected due to the dredging in an unscientific manner.

"This habitat is also a place where many otters used to take shelter. However, not this habitat is already destroyed. The dredge material cannot be dumped in such a way, and it is totally against the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) law," said Barretto.

CoP is passing the buck to Green Tribunal (NGT) in defence, but the NGT will never direct the concerned authorities to carry out dredging of the river by doing destructions.

Traditional fishermen have also demanded a strict action against the contractor. Barretto said the CoP has called a meeting with all the concerned authorities, but before that the environmentalists and traditional fishermen will be having their internal meeting to discuss the future course of action."

### **Goa: Talpona fishermen seek action against Karnataka counterparts**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/talpona-fishermen-seek-action-against-ktaka-counterparts/articleshow/89125094.cms>

"Talpona fishermen are awaiting action by the state authorities against bull trawling by their counterparts of Mhalpe, Karnataka despite highlighting the issue around 45 days ago. Following reports of bull trawling within 2-3 nautical miles of Goa's waters, a meeting was organised last week by Akhil Goa Kshatriya Pagi Community, former Canacona MLA Isidore Fernandes and fisheries department officials. Fernandes pulled up the fisheries department for not acting against Karnataka fishermen who are using bigger trawlers which is affecting the livelihood of local fishermen. This incident first occurred on November 25 last year. "When our poor Pagi community are suffering, how can we sit quiet?" the former MLA said, and assured the fishermen that their problems will be redressed within eight days. He said that the fisheries department should have intercepted the Karnataka fishermen trawlers who are violating the 12 nautical miles limit set for them for fishing. He also said that the patrolling boat is non-operational near the Talpona coastal police station for over a year now and assured to get it



repaired. Others who spoke and were present were Olencio Simoes, Janardhan Bhandari, Divakar Pagi, Ratnakar Dhuri, Anup Kurtarkar and others. During the incident in November last year, 25 high-speed big fishing boats were found fishing illegally in Goan territory near Talpona, and were intercepted by fisheries department personnel assisted by Coastal police under police Inspector Navlesh Desai. Five fishing nets worth Rs 3 lakh and some fish were attached by the authorities.

### **Goa: Weeds hampering fishing activities in Moira River, cry fishermen**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/Weeds-hampering-fishing-activities-in-Moira-River-cry-fishermen/185359>

"Fisherman community from Moira have raised their concern over the weeds that have grown in the river at Moira. Fishermen claimed that due to the growing of weeds in the river, they are unable to carry out the fishing activities. Fishermen said that from last several years this particular plantation is growing in the river. However, from the last two months, the fishing activities are completely stopped since the growth of weeds has increased. They said that while carrying out fishing activities, these particular vegetation gets entangled in the fishing nets resulting the nets get damaged. They also said that removing of this particular vegetation is the only option because it grows and spreads all over and if that happens then it will be difficult to carry out any activity in the river. A local fisherman Mark Miranda said, "These plants have created menace for the fishing community in Moira since the plantation have started growing and spreading all over. They get entangled in the nets and damage the nets. We request the concern authority to look into the matter before the situation goes out of control." Fisherman Nikhil Chodankar said,"I am a traditional fisherman. My father was also into this activity and this is our only source of earning. These plants need to be cleared since from the last two months, the fishing activities are completely stopped."

### **Community project helps Kenya aim for climate goals one mangrove tree at a time**

<https://news.mongabay.com/2022/01/community-project-helps-kenya-aim-for-climate-goals-one-mangrove-tree-at-a-time/>

"More than 20 years ago, along the lush southeastern coast of Kenya, the area known as Vanga Bay was home to a mangrove forest spanning 4,428 hectares (10,942 acres). But some 18 hectares (44 acres) of mangroves have been lost every year for the past 25 years, a total of 451 hectares (1,114 acres) during this period. Mangrove harvesting has been underway here since 1991 by local communities; according to the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute, approximately 87% of the Kwale county's households use mangrove wood as fuelwood and building material, The overharvesting of the trees destroys the mangrove forest's capacity to act as the first line of defense against ocean-related catastrophes. Studies show that mangrove forests offer multiple benefits related to both mitigating and adapting to climate change. They absorb

three to four times more carbon than tropical upland forests and reduce the debilitating effects of floods, and their complex root networks are known to serve as a buffer against strong waves, high winds and storm surges for coastal communities. In Vanga Bay, the loss of the forests is being keenly felt.

### **Goa: Ramponkars get special mention at Baga**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/ramponkars-get-special-mention-at-baga/articleshow/88742995.cms>

"Despite Baga and Calangute turning into a booming tourist destination, traditional fishermen who started tourism-related businesses have continued with their fishing activities, ports minister and Calangute MLA Michael Lobo said. He was speaking at the launch of 'Ramponkars Bhag', a tableau depicting traditional fishermen, at Baga, Calangute. "Baga is a traditional fishing village. Though it has changed over the years and fishermen have started various tourism businesses, they have continued with their fishing activities. Even today, people come to Baga from all over Bardez to buy fish in the evening. They have not forgotten their culture," he said. Calangute sarpanch Shawn Martins, who was also present, said tourism in Goa was born in Calangute. "When tourism started here, most of the people had boats and small houses. In the homes of the traditional fishermen, the 'ramponkars', they used to give rooms as well as food to the first tourists. This was how tourism was born. It is because of fishing and the hospitality of the people of Baga that more and more tourists come here," he said. The Ramponkars Bhag will showcase the ramponkars' culture to visitors, Martins said. "We had recently installed a statue of Ronaldo, and it has already become a popular spot among tourists for taking selfies. I'm sure this Ramponkars Bhag will also become famous," he said.

### **Goa: Much-loved 'khube' resurface in Chapora river after over 15 years**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/goa-much-loved-khube-resurface-in-chapora-river-after-over-15-years/articleshow/88700845.cms>

"Goa's marine biodiversity is witnessing a rejuvenation in the river ecosystems. After certain varieties of shellfish made a comeback in the Zuari and Mandovi rivers during the pandemic, the Chapora river is the latest in this list to throw up a pleasant surprise. Over the past two months, hundreds of people have been flocking to the Chapora river for 'khube', which locals say last surfaced 15 years ago. In an incredible sight, the entire river bay spanning Chapora, Badem and up to Guddem is swarmed with people who wade nearly 50 metres in knee-deep water from the riverbank taking advantage of the low tide. Armed with buckets, cloth and plastic bags and even metal claws, they scoop up the silt in the hope of finding the prized bivalves. The crowds, comprising entire families as well as the young and old, swell mostly on Sundays and holidays, spending nearly five hours in the water. For some, it's a family outing, for others, a first-time thrill. The months from October to January are usually considered a season to harvest

the clams. "This stretch used to be famous for khube, xinanneo and tisreo. The clams disappeared after the 2004 tsunami. Ever since the clams surfaced last year in October, people have been thronging here in bikes, cars and tempos from as far as Canacona. Some even collect a thousand clams in one sitting," said Rameshwar Namdeo Khorjuvekar, a fisherman at Chapora. There is a huge demand for this variety.

"These khube are tasty," said Ana Fernandes from Morjim. "Usually clams cost around Rs 100 for a small plate. However, these are selling for Rs 200, and get sold in no time." On the sudden resurgence of the clams, the chairman of the Chapora boat owners' fisheries cooperative society, Balbhim Malvankar, said, "We had released clam eggs in the river one and a half years ago after the fisheries department imparted training to us. We don't know whether this has yielded results or if it's God's gift." To give a scientific perspective, Baban Ingole, retired chief scientist, biological oceanography, National Institute of Oceanography, said, "It could be that during the past two years of lockdown, there has been comparatively less activity than the last 10 years in the river. There has also been less pollution as the tourism sector was shut, especially boating activities, which led to improved water conditions. Sand mining was rampant, and this is one of the main reasons for disturbing the traditional natural clam bed. The larvae need sufficient stability on the riverbed to grow."

### **Goa: State govt submits draft CZMP**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/State-govt-submits-draft-CZMP/184880>

"The State government has finally submitted the draft Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) to the National Coastal Zone Management Authority (NCZMA) with five recommendations including removal of the port limits and the structures in the final CZMP Notification of 2011 for Goa. The draft CZMP was submitted by the Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) last week after taking into account inputs received from the people during two district-level consultations held last year. The GCZMA has recommended removal of port limits and has sought non-depiction of structures in the final CZMP. It has also asked for removal of buffer zone for mangroves in the khazan land, to permit development activities in the fishing wards and to include all the recommendations made by the State government in the final CZMP Notification, 2011 for Goa. The State government had engaged the services of the Chennai-based National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), a central agency in preparing the CZMP. It is learnt that Goa is the last State to submit draft CZMP to the NCZMA for its concurrence. It may be recalled that the two public consultations held in both the districts on March 7 last year marked by chaos and confusion with the participants demanding village-level consultations to prepare the CZMP. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) later asked the Goa government to hold fresh consultations. The NGT Principal Bench, New Delhi had also dismissed the Goa government's plea for extension of time for CZMP preparation by six months. After the draft CZMP was kept open for public suggestions, the Department of Environment

received more than 4500 suggestions and objections and other comments from different village panchayats, NGOs, environmentalists, fishing communities and individuals.

### **Goa: Proposed nod for year-round shacks irks fishermen's forum**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/proposed-nod-for-year-round-shacks-irks-fishermens-forum/articleshow/88624293.cms>

"The National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF), along with traditional fishermen's associations have slammed the Union environment ministry and prime minister Narendra Modi for 'diluting CRZ norms' as per the latest amendment to the regulations proposed, allowing shack structures to remain on the beach throughout the year, among other things. They said that this amendment would destroy India's 7,516 km-long fragile coastline and destroy the economy and natural resources of Goa. "The Union ministry has further amended the CRZ notification on November 1, 2021, which will have a devastating impact on the coastal states of India and fragile and eco-sensitive coasts as this dilution is only to fulfil the Sagarmala programme, which plans to convert our coastline and riverline into an industrial hub," NFF general secretary Olencio Simoes said. He further said that prior experience of exploratory drilling operations has proved to be disastrous in all coastal areas wherever it has been carried out despite vehement opposition. But this too may be permitted if the latest notification is implemented. "After exploration, the wells are abandoned if they do not find any oil or natural gas resources.

There are numerous such wells left abandoned, after destroying the sea bed and fishery resources. Hence, this activity definitely has to undergo a CRZ clearance process. This provision was reflected by lawmakers earlier and hence, this cannot be amended," Simoes said. The removal of shacks as mandated and implemented by some state coastal zone management authorities also ensured minimal shoreline erosion during the monsoon as the beach could recover geomorphologically for a period of four months, between June to September, he said. "The new insertion will promote permanent structures which will destroy the recovery of marine wildlife, coastal flora and biodiversity. It would also lead to use of concrete and other haphazard local measures to protect such structures from the monsoons and as witnessed in escalating cyclones," Simoes said. Goencho Ekvott founder member Orville Dourado demanded that the state and central government withdraw the draft notification with immediate effect as these amendments will only further damage the ecosystem and displace the coastal communities from their existing livelihoods.

### **Goa: Public suggestions on draft coastal plan to be digitised, kept under surveillance**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/public-suggestions-on-draft-coastal-plan-to-be-digitised-kept-under-surveillance/articleshow/88553705.cms>

"To protect the data received as objections and suggestions from hundreds of citizens on

the draft Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP), the Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority has decided to digitise the information and keep it under lock and key and CCTV surveillance. “The authority decided that all the objections/suggestions and reports to be digitised and digitally locked and kept in proper custody in consultation with the IT department. Further, all digital copies be kept in safe custody under CCTV cameras with double lock system under proper charge of a responsible officer,” the GCZMA decided at its meeting held on December 10. The formulation of the CZMP for Goa saw widespread protests from villagers across the state. Most villagers objecting to the draft CZMP had said that the inputs sent by their respective panchayats had not been incorporated in the draft plan. The first public hearing held to receive objections and suggestions from the public was also faced with protests. The hearing process itself was then challenged before the National Green Tribunal (NGT).

This led to a fresh hearing being ordered by the tribunal and held on July 7 this year, where objections and suggestions were taken from the public through the physical and the virtual mode as also in writing. These inputs will now be digitised and stored under CCTV surveillance. The NGT has set December 31, 2021, as the deadline for Goa to complete its CZMP. The GCZMA had allotted the work to different state departments of carrying out ground truthing and verification of the various objections and suggestions received from the public. The inputs have already been sent to the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), Chennai, which is incorporating the inputs into Goa’s CZMP. “One of the comments of the fisheries department is that there are no reports/scientific studies in respect of fish breeding areas hence the authority recommends the NCSCM that such areas depicted as fish breeding areas in the draft CZMP may be depicted as fishing zones. This may be incorporated in the final draft CZMP,” the GCZMA has decided. Data on demarcation of mangroves, khazan lands and sand dunes has also been submitted to the NCSCM.

### **Goa: Need to ban bull trawling, LED fishing**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/need-to-ban-bull-trawling-led-fishing/articleshow/88511864.cms>

"The National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF) along with three traditional fishermen's organisations from Karnataka recently submitted a memorandum to the district collector, the joint director of fisheries and the local MLA of Karwar. They have demanded a ban on destructive fishing practices such as bull or pair trawling and the use of LED lights equipped with or without generators. In their memorandum, the groups stated that traditional fishermen's

associations from Morjim to Bhatkal have come together on one platform to demand strict action against the bull trawlers from Malphe and Goan LED trawlers. They said that trawlers from Malphe continuously enter territorial waters of Goa.

### **Goa: Centre approves Rs 38-cr model wholesale fish market at Margao**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/Centre-approves-Rs-38cr-model-wholesale-fish-market-at-Margao/183846>

"Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshottam Rupala on Saturday approved Goa government's Rs 38-crore model wholesale fish market at Margao and announced that two mobile veterinary treatment vans/ambulances for cattle will be started in Goa soon. Speaking to reporters after chairing the State-level meeting of fisheries, animal husbandry and veterinary services and dairying at ICAR, Old Goa, Rupala said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made an attempt to bring technology to the homes of cattle-breeders. As part of the plan, mobile ambulance facilities for cattle are being started across the country and a modern fish-market will be built at Margao, which will be a model for other States as well. One mobile van each will be started in both the districts of Goa." The Minister's announcement of introducing two mobile veterinary ambulances came after some farmers complained that they are finding it difficult to bring their large pets or sick animals to the clinic. Rupala said both the mobile veterinary ambulances equipped with all facilities will provide treatment to pets and domesticated animals at the doorstep of farmers. Rupala highlighted the various changes brought under the schemes of Government of India and emphasised thorough implementation of the revised and realigned schemes of the Department.

He said the State is the key stakeholder for implementation of the schemes. The minister said of the Rs 400 crore incentives announced for Goa, the Centre had already released Rs 40 crore for the State to revive the fishing industry. He also asked the Goa government to look into the possibility of starting cage culture by ensuring that the tourism is not affected on the coastal State. Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said the State government has already appointed 200 'Sagar Mitra' for 60 fishing villages in Goa. Till now 10 fishing villages are operation in the State, he added. Fisheries Minister Filipe Nery Rodrigues was also present for the press briefing.

### **Goa: Six vessels caught fishing in prohibited zone off Talpona**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/six-vessels-caught-fishing-in-prohibited-zone-off-talpona/articleshow/88245250.cms>

"Barely 15 days after fishing boats from Karnataka were intercepted off the Talpona coast, six more vessels — three from Karnataka and three from Maharashtra — were stopped by the state fisheries department after the vessels were allegedly found fishing within the prohibited zone. Last month, the fisheries department had detected over 20 high-speed boats from



Karnataka fishing in the state's territorial waters at Talpona in Canacona, and had seized fishing nets worth Rs 3 lakh. Coastal police functioning has been hit as their surveillance vessel has been non-operational for a year. Goa Kshatriya Pagi Samaj president Ashok Dhuri said that vessels from neighbouring states are often seen fishing illegally in Goan waters. "Local fishermen use small canoes, while high speed boats illegally fish here. Small canoes can't stop those big vessels. There can be an accident. Locals need protection, but the surveillance boat of the coastal police is out of order," Dhuri said. The bigger boats from other states indulge in bull fishing, while local fishermen use traditional fishing methods to earn their livelihood. Police inspector N Desai attached to Talpona coastal police said that the proposal for repairs of the boat has been sent to the government. However, to boost the security to the fishermen in the state's territorial waters, the state government has sanctioned a Rs 5.25 crore interceptor vessel for the coastal police.

### **Goa: Sewage water release into River Sal affecting aqua farms**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/Sewage-water-release-into-River-Sal-affecting-aqua-farms/183615>

"Due to no seriousness towards putting a break to the release of raw sewage water into River Sal, has now raised its ugly head, as several aqua farms located in Salcete are getting polluted resulting in severe impact on production of shrimps and other fish species. Shockingly, many have already shut down their farm operations and others are in serious thoughts to decide upon. Herald reveals that the government and the concerned authorities have even failed to study the ground reality in order to put in place a mechanism to stop the deliberate release of raw sewage by unknown into the River Sal. Even the Goa State Pollution Control Board and district authority failed to show some seriousness in the matter. Recently, Team Herald visited several farms involved in shrimp farming on the edge of River Sal for the last several years, and surprisingly every owner of the farm complained about the raw sewage flowing into the river and making entry into their farms, affecting the shrimp cultivation. The farmers have further expressed fear of losing their business within the next two years of time, if the release of sewage into the river doesn't stop immediately. It is pertinent to note that early Herald had also highlighted the issue of traditional fishermen engaged in the shellfish fishing activities, and they too had complained about the pollution of River Sal. Speaking to Herald Isac Da Costa, who is the aquafarmer for the last several decades, has expressed fear of losing the business.

All the sewage flowing into the River Sal has now started to create hazards in our farms. It is polluting our farms and as a result the cultivation of shrimps is affected very badly," he stated. He further said that shrimps need a good quality of water, as everything is fully dependent on it. "This is the first time we the farm owners are facing a tough time to deal with the issues related to water, and it has affected our earnings. Days are not far. All the farms located on the edge of River Sal will see pollution and nothing else," Isac said. Aurovil Furtado from Orlim is another



aqua farm owner facing a tough time to tackle the pollution in the farm as a result of sewage flowing into the River Sal. "Our farms are affected very much due to the pollution into the river. And day by day it is getting worse," he complained. He further said, "The government and the concerned authorities seem to be so careless that they are allowing the river to be polluted deliberately." "Our production of shrimps has been reduced drastically.

We are now afraid to invest. Many farmers are already facing hardships to bring the quality seeds from Chennai keeping in mind the bad quality of water in our farms, which is the result of pollution into the river," Aurovil said. There are nearly 15 aqua farm owners who are very much active in this business in Salcete. However, many have shut down their operations, as they cannot manage to suffer more losses. Anil Furtado from Carmona informed that he has noticed a black colour layer in the water in recent times. "It has become very difficult to carry on with the farming of shrimps and fish varieties due to the conditions of water getting polluted on a daily basis. We have also noticed seeds dying due to the sewage water entering the farm through the river," Anil said.

### **Goa: Govt negligence turns Benaulim prawn hatchery project into a ghost house**

<https://www.heralddgoa.in/Review/Govt-negligence-turns-Benaulim-prawn-hatchery-project-into-a-ghost-house-/183526>

"Almost 10 years have passed but all efforts towards the revival of prawn hatchery at Benaulim, which has occupied nearly 45,000 square meters of unused land, failed to take off. Surprisingly, it has been now revealed that people have to wait for the new government to take forward the reviving of the much discussed project, as the government has lost all hopes to finalise the project in the current term. After Herald visited the site and met all the concerned members related to the project reveals that the revival of prawns hatchery is not flexible in Goa, wherein even the Fisheries Minister Filipe Neri Rodgriues has given clear indications that this present government of BJP won't be able to give green signal for reviving of Benaulim hatchery as a shrimp and finfish facility. After the asking for the Expression of Interest, several companies from outside Goa, and from the State had shown keen interest in the project, which the government had aimed at reviving under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model. However, at the moment the file is pending before the PPP Cell, wherein the fisheries minister had put his remark that interest of both Goans and companies from outside the State should be taken into consideration before finalising the bids.

**Background** It is pertinent that the Benaulim prawn hatchery project was initiated under the Central government scheme. The pilot prawn hatchery was inaugurated by Dr Bal Ram Jakhar, then Union Minister for Agriculture in the presence of then Chief Minister Ravi Naik on June 10, 1992. However, nothing went well with the project and was it forced to shut down the operations of the hatchery in 2012. Another shocking fact of the project was that nearly 36 workers engaged at the project site were left abandoned. The workers were sitting idly at the site with no work for

the last several years. Government failed to pay their timely salaries then and now also. The demand to absorb them in other departments also went unheard for the last many years, leading to frustration amongst the workers. However, as informed by the sources many workers have died waiting for the positive response from the government. But recently, the numbers of workers have been reduced from 36 to 26, and many are transferred to sub-centres of the Fisheries Department. Present scenario of prawn hatchery It will be shocking to see the present scenario of the Benaulim Prawns Hatchery, as the site has become one of the concrete jungles with no activities. An office kept for the administrative works is the only structure that is safe for the human, and the rest of the structures have become shelter for the reptiles. As claimed by the locals and traditional fishermen community of the area, this site has become a nuisance, wherein illegal activities are witnessed all the time.

The structure built for the safety of the water pumps, the room to carry out repair works, the tanks and everything that was once used for activities of prawns hatchery has now become a ghost house. Many machines have become scrap due to no maintenance. No security at the gate has created easy access, leading to mess and nuisance. Speaking to Herald, Cruz Fernandes, a resident of Benaulim narrated the sad story of the prawn hatchery and said that the government has failed to take forward this project seriously. ""What is shocking is that the government has left the land unutilised for the last many years, as a result we are witnessing several untoward incidents in the area. The negligence from the government has even deprived the traditional fishing community to carry out their businesses"", he stated. Government's revival plans Taking into consideration the huge land and defunct project, the BJP government had plans to revive the Benaulim prawn hatchery into a full-fledged shrimp and finfish hatchery, and nursery to fill the gap between demand and supply. The revival plans had also aimed to attain self-sufficiency in production of fish juveniles, to boost aquaculture and increase shrimp production, besides to generate employment in the State. Speaking to Herald Filipe Neri Rodrigues, Minister for Fisheries said that the department had called for the Expression of Interest from interested developers to furnish a detailed report comprising proposed conceptual design, methodology, technology and any other good industry practices in vogue globally to make it a world class facility.

""We have not yet shortlisted any bidder for the work on the revival of the hatchery. The department has received a number of applications including Goans and outside agencies. I have asked the officials to take into consideration all the aspects before finalising the bids``, he informed. Amongst, the companies shown interest in executing the shrimp and finfish hatchery project are Kerala-based Enigin, Ananda Group (Andhra Pradesh), FHNNE, Bangalore, and CPF India Pvt. Ltd from Tamil Nadu. As informed by the sources of Fisheries Department, Enigin Kerala has proposed to set up zero discharged circulatory hatcheries, wherein Ananda Group has submitted a tentative design for a shrimp hatchery of 500 million PL and sea bass hatchery of 10 million juveniles. Besides, Goa based companies like Corlim Marine Export Pvt. Ltd, Krish Marketing, Benaulim based Niz Ramponnkarancho Ekvott, Trevor Fernandes and others from

Benaulim have also shown interest in the revival project of Benaulim prawn hatchery. However, at the moment the file is pending before the PPP Cell and yet to take a final call in order to finalise the bids. Views from aqua-culture farmers The government may have plans to review the Benaulim prawns hatchery as a shrimp and finfish facility but according to the farmers engaged in shrimp cultivation, it will be very difficult to make the Benaulim prawns hatchery viable and flexible.

As per views of the experts from aqua-culture, there are several factors that need to be taken into consideration while aiming to take forward the prawn hatchery, and more especially keeping in mind the small State of Goa, and the laws of the land. There are nearly 300 prawn hatcheries in the country and Goa has failed in its first attempt. The quality of seeds and price as compared to the other State will play a major role, if by chance the revival of Benaulim prawn hatchery takes off. ""We can witness nearly 60 to 70 hatcheries in one area, at a place like Chennai, where one can buy quality seeds, if not at one then other hatchery. Depending on only one hatchery is not viable for the farmers, and it will certainly affect the quality"", said Anil Furtado, who runs a farm in Carmona. At the moment no push and several other factors have resulted in shutting down aquaculture farms in Pernem, Cortalim, Cavelossim and many other places in Goa. According to the experts, Goa being a coastal State, everything is bound by the CRZ norms, besides, agriculture and tenancy laws which restrict the farms in other areas. Anil is of strong opinion that the revival of Benaulim prawn hatchery will not benefit the Goan farms in any way. ""Logistic wise it will be a good one but it won't be flexible"", he stated. Isac Da Costa, who runs a farm in Deussua, Chinchinim is of the opinion that prawn hatchery at Benaulim if revived should not be with the government.

""The PPP model can make the hatchery viable, and it will benefit the farmers involved in shrimp cultivation, but only one thing needs to be kept in mind and that is the good quality of seeds for profitable shrimps cultivation"", he stated. Aurovil Furtado, another farm owner from Orlim also said they need good quality of seeds. ""The government needs to give serious thought if it intends to revive the Benaulim prawn hatchery before commencing. Even if started on a PPP model, the views of the Goan farm owners and the requirements of the farms need to be taken into consideration"", he stated. He informed that at the moment the aqua-culture in Goa is not showing good signs. Several have shifted themselves from aqua-culture to other businesses because of losses suffered. Farming community needs space Several farmers from Benaulim and other coastal belts are of the opinion that the land acquired for the prawn hatchery should be utilised for the betterment of the farming community, instead of running after the project which is not viable.

""We have seen how the project lands up facing losses. It has created a mess. And hence, instead of keeping the land unused the government must give it to the fishing community in order to keep moving the fishing activities"", said Peter Fernandes from Benaulim. He claimed that fishermen are facing a tough time to search for the space to dry their fishing nets, and also to

store the equipment used for fishing. Even fishermen have no place to dry the fish. Savio Castelo, one of the land losers for Benaulim prawn hatchery urged the government to hand over the land back to the original owners so that it can be utilised. ""If the government is not serious towards the reviving of the hatchery, it is high time to give back the land to us. We can utilise it for other purposes or we all fishermen can come together and make best use of the land for fishing activities"", he urged. However, now the fate of the revival of the Benaulim prawn hatchery will depend on the future government to be formed after the upcoming elections. The present status and indication from the fisheries minister only points out that the finalisation of the bids to revive the project has failed to take off on time. And hence, the land measuring to nearly 10 hectares will be left unused, and will create more mess and nuisance, for another few years.

### **Goa and Karnataka: Traditional fishermen demand ban on bull trawling, LED light fishing**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/Goa-Karnataka-traditional-fishermen-demand-ban-on-bull-trawling-LED-light-fishing/183714>

"Various traditional fishermen associations from Goa and Karnataka have demanded a ban on illegal 'bull trawling' fishing carried out by Karnataka-based Malpe trawlers and also for a ban on 'LED light' fishing being carried out in Goa and Karnataka territorial waters. A warning was also issued to the State government that action would be taken against Goan boats found in Karnataka waters if they fail to stop such activities. The associations handed over a charter of demands to the Goa Fisheries Department on Wednesday and copies were sent to Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and Union Fisheries Minister Parshottam Rupala. The traditional fishermen associations were accompanied by the National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF) and Goenchea Raponkarancho Ekvott (GRE). Addressing media persons, NFF vice chairperson Olencio Simoes explained that from Bhatkal in Karnataka to Arambol in Goa, traditional fishermen have come on a common platform. "We have demanded strict action against destructive gears like bull or pair trawling and the use of LED lights equipped with or without generators," Simoes said and added that unchecked misuse of such gears has adversely hampered the livelihoods of the traditional fishermen of the two States.

Simoes also pointed out that these gears have been banned in the territorial waters and Indian Exclusive Zone (EEZ) since 2016 but violations continue. GRE president Agnelo Rodrigues slammed the State Fisheries Minister and Director for failing to execute the ban on such

destructive technology as a result of which, traditional fishermen from the two states have to return home empty handed. Rodrigues pointed out that trawlers from Malpe in Karnataka continuously enter the territorial waters of Goa as well as Karnataka using high speed engines and scoop all the fishing catch using illegal bull trawling methods. “It is an utter shame that even after the local fishermen have caught these illegal boats and brought this to the notice of the Fisheries Department, still these boats are conducting fishing without fear of law,” Rodrigues said. Devraj Sail, the President of the Karnataka-based MMSYMNS demanded strict action on Goans who allegedly use boats that have high powered engines that are above 500 HP and operate with alleged illegal gears in the territorial waters of Goa and Karnataka. “If the State of Goa fails to take action then we will be forced to take action against all Goan boats who are doing LED light fishing in Karnataka and also block the Goa-Karnataka border at Polem,” Devraj said.

**Goa: Yes, it’s true, many Khariwado trawler owners are giving up their fishing business**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/Yes-it%E2%80%99s-true-many-Khariwado-trawler-owners-are-giving-up-their-fishing-business/183572>

"Believe it or not but a majority of the fishermen community from Khariwado (trawler owners) feel that they won't ask their next generation to continue with their traditional fishing activity. A hard decision to make, but they have no choice. All this is because they are unable to operate on losses faced every year with many having moved on to start other ventures. There are still others who stare into the sea wondering what the future holds, difficult to choose between the devil of economic losses and the deep sea. “There were multiple reasons due to which, one by one, our members are quitting fishing each year. Many of our issues revolve around the fishing jetty. Across Goa, the fishing jetties are in good condition but here in Khariwado the situation is to the contrary. Each day our boats get damaged here and we have no crew and labour because of unique hardships faced by us here”, said Khariwado-based fisherman leader Simon Pereira. “The Khariwado fishing jetty is about 75 metres in length. We have about 180 fishing trawlers owned by members of the Goa fishing Boat Owners Association (GFBOA). Each trawler needs parking space of four to five metres.

At a time only about 15 to 18 small trawlers can be parked at the jetty. So, we have to park our trawlers behind each other and from here problem starts,” Pereira added. Limited trawler parking space at the jetty forces trawlers to brush against each other and due to continuous friction, the trawlers are getting damaged. “Every year our members spend over four to five lakh rupees on each trawler that gets damaged at Goa’s most congested Khariwado jetty. Over Rs 7 crores is the quantum of loss that we suffer every year due to damages caused to our boats. Pereira further added that such damage to trawlers happens only in Khariwado as other jetties across the state are in relatively better condition. Indeed, lack of proper infrastructure is the biggest challenge faced here. Another major problem that arises due to space constraints is the

catch which is perishable. Fish gets delayed in reaching the market as many times our trawlers have to be parked behind other. The Goa Fishing Boat Owners Association said that MPT claims right over their fishing jetty so they don't allow the government to intervene, repair or extend the jetty. Earlier MPT was carrying out repairs annually but now even that has stopped. This year GFBOA association's funds were used to carry out minor repairs. "Today it's better to quit the industry and do something else and this is what I have decided to suggest to my son, not to join our traditional fishing business", said the GBOA president.

### **Goa: Six boats seized for fishing without licence**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/six-boats-seized-for-fishing-without-licence/articleshow/88017374.cms>

"The coastal police along with the fisheries department patrol team caught five fishing vessels on Monday night for illegally encroaching Goan territorial waters. Three of the vessels were from Vengurla and two from Malpe. One vessel from Malpe was caught on Tuesday. "Since the vessels lacked necessary licences, they are not allowed to fish in Goan territorial waters. We caught them red-handed and will be filing a case against them. The matter will be heard by the adjudicating officer and a penalty imposed," said deputy director of fisheries, Smita Mazumdar.

### **Goa: Act or we march: Traditional fishermen's ultimatum**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/Act-or-we-march-Traditional-fishermen%E2%80%99s-ultimatum/183004>

"Traditional fishermen on Tuesday threatened to paralyse Goa with a mega morcha, if the State government fails to act against LED fishing and bull trawling along the Goa coast, within a month. Goenchea Raponkarancho Ekvott general secretary Olencio Simoes questioned what the Fisheries Department, Coast Guard and marine police have been doing since they had not detained a single vessel using LED lights for fishing. The fishermen alleged that the Fisheries Department was in league with LED using boats and suspect a nexus between the officials of the Fisheries Department, Fisheries Minister and a handful of trawler owners. Simoes said that LED lights powered by additional 100 kv genset/ generator attract fish up to from five kilometres and due to the intense heat generated by the lights, the juvenile fish are killed along with destruction of all corals and marine vegetation. Simoes feared that if the State government fails to initiate stern action against the violators then Goa, which is the second State for fish export, will head towards extinction of wild fisheries and join a few others countries where fisheries had come to halt because of such destructive gears. Goa Pradesh Fisherman Congress Cell chairman Vasant



Naik said Malpe fishermen were using 100 KV power for LED fishing, destroying small fish and depleting the fish reserves along the Goa coast. He also demanded that the fuel subsidy of Rs 50,000, which has been reduced to Rs 20,000 be restored.

### **Goa: Nets worth Rs 3 lakh seized from Karnataka fishermen**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/nets-worth-rs-3l-seized-from-karnataka-fishermen-in-goa/articleshow/87918626.cms>

"The fisheries department on Thursday found 25 high speed fishing boats from Karnataka fishing in the territorial waters of Goa within two nautical miles near Talpona in Canacona. Assisted by the coastal police, the fisheries department seized five fishing nets worth Rs 3 lakh and some fish. Goa Kshatriya Pagi Samaj president Ashok Dhuri said for the past eight days, fishermen from Malpe in Karnataka have been fishing in Goan waters violating the distance limit of 12 nautical miles. "We, Pagi Samaj members, who fish in small canoes, have been seeing them and today, along with the fisheries department and coastal police, we went to question them. They were arrogant and on seeing the police in the fishing canoe, they fled in their high speed boats," he said. "The coastal police is handicapped as they do not possess a vigilance working boat as the one allotted to them is non-operational for the last one year. Besides, the police is equipped with two guns, which have no special room to be kept at the coastal police station at Talpona. The guns are therefore kept at Cutbona, which is many nautical miles away," Dhuri said. He further appealed to the department concerned to make the vigilance boat available to the coastal police in the absence of which they are handicapped. This, he said, can result in fights between small fishermen and the fishermen with bigger boats. Dhuri added that the bigger boats do bull fishing by violating the distance limit, whereby the small fishermen have no space to carry out fishing. "Whenever these small fishermen go for fishing in their small canoes, the bigger boats can collide with them purposely," he said.

### **Goa: Govt to install solar fish dryers**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/govt-to-install-solar-fish-dryers-at-old-go/articleshow/87705074.cms>

"The directorate of fisheries is in the process of installing a solar-powered fish dryer at its sub-office at Old Goa. The eco-friendly device is expected to convert the surplus fish coming in during an over catch into dried fish. Traditionally, fishermen dry the fish in the open under blazing Sun, but often such a method is vulnerable to dust and rains and attack from insects,



pests and microorganisms therefore compromising on the quality. “The area where the solar-powered fish dryer is to be installed has been identified. Fishermen will be given permission to dry their fish over there following the installation of the device,” a fisheries officer said. The dryer runs on the power of the Sun generated through a solar panel to dry the fish. Using this method, fish are preserved by removing moisture from them, thereby arresting the growth of bacteria, action of enzymes and chemical oxidation of the fat. “The device also takes up lesser time to dry the fish, unlike the traditional method,” the fisheries officer said. Initially, the setup was planned at the fisheries sub-office at Colva. In August this year, the directorate notified that fishermen who, since 2015, have been paying a nominal lease amount of Rs 100 per year for using a 100sqm platform to dry fish at the government facility at Colva will now have to pay a whopping Rs 3,000.

### **How migrants work on Goa’s fishing trawlers**

<https://www.thecitizen.in/index.php/en/newsdetail/index/14/21117/a-day-at-malim-jetty-how-migrants-work-on-goas-fishing-trawlers>

"The fishing sector in India's Goa provides regular employment to its workers for ten months. Most continue working with the same owner year after year. On the trawler, one worker has the job of cooking for everyone, while they all clean their own utensils. Groups of workers are responsible also for filling fresh water in large containers, loading the nets, fetching groceries, crushing the ice and filling it in an in-built box before starting the trip. At sea the fish workers are up against very adverse conditions. They work in extreme heat and humidity, and because of agroindustrial global warming, they face a growing threat of sea storms. These workers' monthly income comes to 10,000 to 15,000 rupees. The exact wage depends on the length of their association with the boat owners. A survey conducted by the Disha Foundation at Malim Jetty found that most of these migrant workers do not have bank accounts. They collect their due wage from the boat owners before returning home, or ask them to transfer the money to a banking correspondent's account in their villages, who then hands over the money to their family after deducting a service charge.

### **Goa: Fishing: Bull trawling, subsidies and patrolling: Paes nets three issues of fishermen**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/Bull-trawling-subsidies-and-patrolling-Paes-nets-three-issues-of-fishermen/182443>

"Leander Paes hit the ground running by checking out key local issues in Velim. But perhaps the one on which he spent the most amount of time was fishing, a major priority of the TMC in the coming elections. From reassuring the party promise of financial assistance in the dry season, of Rs. 4,000 per month to the people involved in fishing activities, Paes highlighted the issue of bull trawling which had led to the destruction of the fish catch by 85%, to raising the issue of lack of patrol boats to catch illegal fishing boats, the tennis legend had all the bases

covered when he said outside boats were depleting fish in the Goan waters. "We will hold their hand when they have no business to carry out," assured Paes. Paes called for professional handholding for fishermen and government subsidies not only for buying equipment but also subsidies for maintenance. One of the biggest drawbacks for fishermen has been the failure to patrol the waters, by Fisheries Dept and Coastal Police. Paes called for patrolling of Goan waters on a daily basis, whether by using boats or helicopters.

"There is an issue of fishing trawlers using LED lights for fishing purposes. It has been brought to our notice that the fishing industry in Goa has been reduced by 85 percent but no one is seen supporting the local fishing community," he stated. He said that TMC will subsidize rates to buy equipment for the fishing and even subsidy will be given to repair those equipment. "The problem is that there is no hand-holding of the local businesses such as fishing and continuing the livelihood of the fishing community", said Paes. He said on a much larger scale there is no good patrolling of waters in Goa, whether it is by boat or by helicopter. There is no proper patrolling on a daily basis in order to check which boats are fishing in Goa waters and taking Goan fish. "During the interaction, I had tried to find out the problems and issues of local fishermen, as it is our responsibility to protect individual people engaged in fishing activities so that they maintain their livelihood. There is so much work that can be done for the fishing community of Goa. The decrease of 85 percent fishing activities in Goa is a serious concern," he stated. He also said that the pollution in the River Sal is another big issue which needs to be handled seriously. Waste discharged into the river is not just jamming the flow of water but it is affecting the ocean in a big way. "It affects fishing activities," he observed.

### **Goa: Fishermen to get subsidy for canoe motors**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/fishermen-to-get-subsidy-for-canoe-motors/articleshow/87614840.cms>

"Fishermen who operate canoes can now avail of subsidy on the purchase of an outboard motor of 2 horsepower (HP) to 5 HP for the operation of the fishing vessels below 26 feet. The beneficiary can avail the scheme after every 5 years. The beneficiary belonging to general category is eligible for the grant of 50% subsidy limited to Rs 30,000 on a unit cost of Rs 60,000 (excluding GST). The beneficiary belonging to SC/ST/woman category is eligible for the grant of 60% subsidy limited to Rs 36,000 on a unit cost of Rs 60,000 (excluding GST). The fishing canoe must be registered with the captain of ports or the state directorate of fisheries and shall submit the vessel registration certificate duly incorporating the details of the outboard motor purchased under the scheme. The beneficiary shall produce the bills from the authorised dealer towards the purchase of the outboard motor of 2 HP to 5 HP. The beneficiary shall possess the valid river gill net registration certificate and license certificate issued by the department of fisheries. The beneficiary shall be eligible for financial assistance for only one outboard motor for fitting to his fishing canoe of below 26 feet. Also, the beneficiary shall not sell/lease/transfer

outboard motors for the period of five years.

### **MarinTrust, GSA sign MoU to meet marine ingredient sustainability goals**

<https://www.seafoodsource.com/news/environment-sustainability/marintrust-gsa-sign-mou-to-meet-marine-ingredient-sustainability-goals>

"The Global Seafood Alliance, formerly Global Aquaculture Alliance; and MarinTrust, formerly IFFO RS; have signed a memorandum of understanding to work together and create an end-to-end assurance program for the global seafood value chain. The MoU will see the two organizations cooperate on meeting a goal of having 75 percent of the world's marine ingredients supplies – for products like fishmeal and fish oil – be either certified as sustainable, in an assessment, applying for certification, or a part of the MarinTrust Improver Program by 2025. The two organizations own collectively the MarinTrust Standard for Responsible Supply, MarinTrust Chain of Custody for Responsible Supply, MarinTrust Improver Program, Best Aquaculture Practices (BAP) and Best Seafood Practices (BSP) certification programs. "Collaboration in areas that are common to all standards, including digitalization and assurance, is a fantastic way to provide assurances to the full aquaculture value chain, from the origin of feed ingredients to the end consumer," MarinTrust CEO Francisco Aldon said. As part of the agreement, GSA agreed to help MarinTrust develop and expand its multispecies criteria, allowing the organization to assess fisheries where multiple species are caught at the same time. So far, one fishery improvement project – the Gulf of Thailand mixed-trawl fishery – has been accepted into a multispecies pilot program, according to the GSA. Read more: <https://www.seafoodsource.com/news/environment-sustainability/marintrust-gsa-sign-mou-to-meet-marine-ingredient-sustainability-goals>

### **Goa: Subsidy on traditional fishing equipment**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/subsidy-on-traditional-fishing-equipment/articleshow/87495770.cms>

"The directorate of fisheries has launched a scheme for traditional fishermen of Goa to purchase stake nets and its accessories. The beneficiaries can avail of the scheme after every three years. The beneficiary belonging to the general category is eligible for a grant of 50% subsidy limited to Rs 30,000 on a unit cost of Rs 60,000 (excluding GST). The beneficiary belonging to the women's category, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, is eligible for the grant of 60% subsidy limited to Rs 36,000 on a unit cost of Rs 60,000 (excluding GST). The beneficiary shall possess valid stake allotment permission issued by the department of fisheries to avail of the scheme. Fishing stake refers to a trap for catching fish which is fixed in the river bed in a creek, canal, river or sea. It is one of the traditional methods of catching fish in Goa.

### **Goa: A pilot project is exploring the viability of farming seaweed**

<https://scroll.in/article/1009327/in-go-a-pilot-project-explores-the-viability-of-farming-seaweed>

"Most of the sandy beaches and bays of Goa, India's smallest state, are dominated by tourism and fishing. Yet in the low tide pools along the 100-km long coastline, slimy algae, known as seaweed, have been quietly flourishing. In recent years, seaweed has gained global renown as a wonder plant of the ocean, reported to be a renewable source of food, energy, chemicals, medicines and with an ability to mitigate climate change. Seaweed is the common name for countless species of marine plants and algae that grow in the ocean as well as in rivers, lakes, and other water bodies. Some seaweed are microscopic while others, like the giant kelp that grow in abundant "forests", are enormous. Most are medium-sized in red, green, brown, and black hues. In many maritime countries, seaweed have been used as a source of food, medicine, and fertiliser for terrestrial agriculture. Maria Fonseca, professor of botany at St Joseph Vaz College, Cortalim, Goa and author of The Manual of Algae of Anjuna says Goa's coastline has an abundance of seaweed. In Goa, most seaweed especially sargassum is found near the rocky coastline of Anjuna. Sargassum has high levels of alginate, an extract used to make water-based products thicker or creamier.

"The gels extracted from red seaweed (carrageenan) and brown seaweed (agar and alginate) are used widely as gelling, stabilising and thickening agents in food, pharmaceutical, dairy, confectionery, paper and textiles industries," Fonseca explained. She added that there has not been much research on Goa's seaweed. "We know that seaweed grows all year round," said Fonseca. "Different seasons in Goa support different varieties of seaweed. In monsoon, green seaweed grows abundantly. The season from October to December is ideal for red seaweed Porphyra (known as nori in Japan) and Gelidium and during the months from November to April we have a rich diversity of seaweed species." "In Goa, there are more than 145 documented species of seaweed," says Gabriella D'Cruz, a young marine conservationist who has been studying coral reef ecosystems, seaweed forests and cetaceans for 10 years. She is currently working towards setting up Goa's first pilot project on seaweed farming. "Seaweed forests are very similar to coral reefs in the sense that they are almost like cities of the sea where they aggregate a lot of biodiversity," she explained. "They are feeding grounds, breeding grounds and have a lot of nutrient cycling. As powerhouses of the sea, working on rebuilding or helping to sustain these are important for the general health of the oceans. Seaweeds are climate-smart algae. They absorb significant amounts of carbon, reduce ocean acidification and act as nutrient scrubbers."

**Global demand** The global demand for seaweed has been expanding steadily. According to Global Market Insights, the commercial seaweed market is expected to surpass \$95 billion by 2027. According to a publication by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, seaweeds are rich in minerals, vitamins, trace elements and bioactive substances and are called the medical food of the 21st century. Seaweed also forms the basis of gourmet foods such as kelp burgers,

linguini, kelp ice cream, kelp cocktails. Traditionally, kelp was used as animal feed in Scotland. Now, there are studies showing that kelp in animal feed is highly nutritious and reduces methane gas. The Japanese have been using seaweed for 1,500 years. In India, Tamil Nadu has a tradition of extracting the gel-like substance to make a halwa. As many as 42 countries in the world carry out commercial seaweed activity. China leads in seaweed production, followed by North Korea, South Korea, Japan, the Philippines, Chile, Norway, Indonesia, the United States and India. These top ten countries contribute about 95% of the world's commercial seaweed volume. Currently, food products for human consumption contribute about \$5 billion.

“If you have been watching the seaweed industry for the past five years, there has been a significant increase in beauty-related seaweed products and foods especially with veganism and vegetarianism on the rise in Europe and the US,” said D’Cruz. “They are high value so it makes sense for businesses to move into this space.” In India, seaweed is used mainly as raw material for the production of agar, alginate and liquid seaweed fertiliser. There are agar, algin and liquid seaweed fertiliser industries situated along the coasts of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat. Sreekanth GB, a scientist at ICAR-Central Coastal Agriculture Research Institute points out that the mariculture sector (including fish and seaweed) of India is in a developing stage and has gained attention recently due to the stagnation of the catch from the wild sector. “So the marine farming sector is a recently explored sector in our country,” Sreekanth said. “Fish farming for instance picked up after the 1990s and mariculture caged farming in open waters picked up in 2015.”

**Seaweed farming** Gabriella D’Cruz said that the fisheries sector is important to Goa’s culture, ecosystem and tourism. It is time to rethink how people use oceans and design businesses that are more regenerative. Seaweed farming done in a sustainable manner is climate-smart, mimics natural systems and is regenerative, she says. Unlike fish, seaweed is perceived differently in Goa. “Most people are not aware of the commercial and ecological value of seaweed. For instance, green seaweed like *Ulva* is wonderful for making chutneys but in Goa, seaweed is used as fertiliser around coconut trees and in gardens so local fisherfolk haul seaweed along with their fish catch and discard it unaware of its numerous commercial and ecological benefits,” added Fonseca. Expounding the ecological benefits, D’Cruz explains, “Seaweed is a low carbon food source meaning it doesn’t require arable land, irrigation or nutrients like fertilisers and it offers a viable source of income for coastal communities facing the stresses of overfishing and rising sea levels.” “In such a scenario, seaweed farming can be a really good investment for a country to make,” she said.

“Apart from its many commercial uses, seaweed farming is an easy addition to fishing. There are seaweed forests across the world. You can tap into your local seaweed forests and create food sources around them.” “Further, the integration of seaweed farms into other fisheries sectors increases the economic union by offering a fall-back plan,” she added. “Protecting our seaweed forests means protecting Goa’s fish breeding grounds.” This November, D’Cruz plans to set up

Goa's first pilot seaweed farm, initially with five rafts at a coastal location yet to be disclosed. "The project in sustainable seaweed farming has the potential to mitigate the loss of biodiversity of the ocean, offer bio remedial solutions to cleaning parts of the ocean and an alternative source of income to local fishing communities in the form of seaweed farming, processing, conservation, aquaculture," she said. "The project is still experimental." She bats for adding seaweed as another product to existing aquaculture in an integrated farm, for example, a combination of seaweed and mussels/prawns/fish, which is sustainable and offers coastal communities a fall-back plan. "Seaweed forests harbour more fish life if you make them biodiverse and multispecies.

It is good for the fish population and it's good for the fishing industry as well. Also, it's not an expensive investment if you live by the sea, have a boat and have a market to sell to." "Currently, funding is being put in, but there are no guidelines or policy in Goa to structure how this funding is used," said D'Cruz, adding that she hopes to be a part of the policy structure sometime soon. She runs a small seaweed company The Good Ocean that consults other companies that want to work with seaweed and communities interested in farming seaweed. She hopes to create a few regenerative products from seaweed. Creating equity Seaweed cultivation has not been popular in India in the past though it is bestowed with a coastline of more than 17,000 km, embracing 821 species of seaweeds, according to the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute publication on trends and prospects of seaweed farming in India. Only recently, seaweed cultivation is picking up in certain coastal districts of the Tamil Nadu state.

Central Salt Marine Chemical Research Institute and Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute have developed culture techniques for some of the commercially important seaweed species in India. As a result of this effort, a lot of Self Help Groups, Village Youth Groups and NGOs have come forward to promote seaweed cultivation as an alternate livelihood option for the coastal poor. Considering the great demand for these resources in the international market and availability of adequate manpower and interest in the country, seaweed cultivation has a very good prospect and it can be developed as a successful cottage or co-operative sector industry. Sreekanth of ICAR Goa reiterates that seaweed farming is just gaining momentum in India. "It requires a lot of awareness programmes and capacity building to develop as a major marine farming sector," Sreekanth said. "Also, the industry needs to be connected as seaweed is not directly consumed in our country. The pilot-scale projects were started in Tamil Nadu and Gujarat and found successful. Extensive surveys need to be carried out in the state in order to identify suitable sites for farming."

According to a recent government proposal "Seaweed cultivation and value chain development in India", seaweed farming is a labour-intensive process and generates employment at every level, primarily for women. Workers who do the drying, cleaning, sorting and harvesting could earn Rs 500 – Rs 700 per day. The proposal states efforts will be made to prioritise the formation and promotion of FFPOs, support to cooperatives and women self help groups in the potential



coastal areas in the country. To this end, the government of India has allocated Rs 637 crore for the cultivation of nutrition-rich marine plants as part of the Rs 20,050-crore central scheme Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana to be spent over the next five years mainly as subsidy support. Referring to Goa, Sreekanth said, “We are yet to carry out surveys and studies on the suitability of the ecology, economics and socio-economic implications of the seaweed farming in Goa.” “For this, extensive dialogues need to be initiated between the stakeholders and fishermen communities,” Sreekanth said.

“Moreover, the premium institutes working on seaweed cultivation such as ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute need to be invited to identify sites and locations suitable for seaweed farming in the state.” “There is a potential for seaweed farming if it is done in a participatory mode after gaining the confidence of the local communities,” Sreekanth said. “Moreover, the producers need to be connected to optimal market situations and industries in order to gain the deserving benefits for them.” D’Cruz agreed, saying, “Seaweed farming happens in the inshore areas of the ocean, a space usually co-managed by artisanal fishers. I think the important thing is to recognise that while the oceans are the commons, we have to respect the rights of access of fishing communities and work with them to integrate seaweed farming into their existing fisheries activities.”

Aaron Lobo, an interdisciplinary marine conservation scientist working at the interface of conservation, livelihoods and sustainable coastal development said, “Unfortunately, seaweed farming in India like most mariculture, including aquaculture, is controlled by people who own land or private players with funding.” “In such a scenario, small fishing communities tend to lose access to traditional fishing grounds,” Aaron Lobo said. “Since most fishing occurs within 12 nautical miles, it is important that the coastal commons remain with fishing communities. There should be equity along the value chain, emphasis on farming natural seaweed species and local coastal communities should be kept at the forefront.”

### **Goa: Pilot seaweed farm explores viability of this climate-smart algae**

<https://india.mongabay.com/2021/10/goas-pilot-seaweed-farm-explores-viability-of-this-climate-smart-algae/>

"Most of the sandy beaches and bays of Goa, India's smallest state, are dominated by tourism and fishing. Yet in the low tide pools along the a 100 km long coastline, slimy algae, known as seaweed, have been quietly flourishing. In recent years, seaweed has gained global renown as a wonder plant of the ocean, reported to be a renewable source of food, energy, chemicals, medicines and with an ability to mitigate climate change. Seaweed is the common name for countless species of marine plants and algae that grow in the ocean as well as in rivers, lakes, and other water bodies. Some seaweed are microscopic while others, like the giant kelp



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In Goa, most seaweed especially sargassum is found near the rocky coastline of Anjuna. Sargassum has high levels of alginate, an extract used to make water-based products thicker or creamier. “The gels extracted from red seaweed (carrageenan) and brown seaweed (agar and alginate) are used widely as gelling, stabilising and thickening agents in food, pharmaceutical, dairy, confectionery, paper and textiles industries,” Fonseca explains. She adds that there hasn’t been much research on Goa’s seaweed. “We know that seaweed grows all year round. Different seasons in Goa support different varieties of seaweed. In monsoon, green seaweed grows abundantly. The season from October to December is ideal for red seaweed *Porphyra* (known as nori in Japan) and *Gelidium* and during the months from November to April we have a rich diversity of seaweed species,” said Fonseca. “In Goa, there are more than 145 documented species of seaweed,” says Gabriella D’Cruz, a young marine conservationist who has been studying coral reef ecosystems, seaweed forests and cetaceans for 10 years. She is currently working towards setting up Goa’s first pilot project on seaweed farming.

“Seaweed forests are very similar to coral reefs in the sense that they are almost like cities of the sea where they aggregate a lot of biodiversity. They are feeding grounds, breeding grounds and have a lot of nutrient cycling. As powerhouses of the sea, working on rebuilding or helping to sustain these are important for the general health of the oceans. Seaweeds are climate-smart algae. They absorb significant amounts of carbon, reduce ocean acidification and act as nutrient scrubbers,” she explains. Global demand for seaweed The global demand for seaweed has been expanding steadily. According to Global Market Insights, the commercial seaweed market is expected to surpass USD 95 billion by 2027. According to a publication by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), seaweeds are rich in minerals, vitamins, trace elements and bioactive substances and are called the medical food of the 21st century. Seaweed also forms the basis of gourmet foods such as kelp burgers, linguini, kelp ice cream, kelp cocktails. Traditionally, kelp was used as animal feed in Scotland.

Now, there are studies showing that kelp in animal feed is highly nutritious and reduces methane gas. The Japanese have been using seaweed for 1,500 years. In India, Tamil Nadu has a tradition of extracting the gel-like substance to make a halwa. As many as 42 countries in the world carry out commercial seaweed activity. China leads in seaweed production, followed by North Korea, South Korea, Japan, the Philippines, Chile, Norway, Indonesia, USA and India. These top ten countries contribute about 95% of the world’s commercial seaweed volume. Currently, food products for human consumption contribute about USD 5 billion. “If you have been watching the seaweed industry for the past five years, there’s been a significant increase in beauty-related

seaweed products and foods especially with veganism and vegetarianism on the rise in Europe and the U.S. They are high value so it makes sense for businesses to move into this space,” said D’Cruz. In India, seaweed is used mainly as raw material for the production of agar, alginate and liquid seaweed fertiliser (LSF). There are agar, algin and LSF industries situated along the coasts of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat. Sreekanth G. B., a scientist at ICAR-Central Coastal Agriculture Research Institute points out that the mariculture sector (including fish and seaweed) of India is in a developing stage and has gained attention recently due to the stagnation of the catch from the wild sector. “So the marine farming sector is a recently explored sector in our country.

Fish farming for instance picked up after the 1990s and mariculture caged farming in open waters picked up in 2015,” Sreekanth said. Seaweed farming in Goa Gabriella D’Cruz says that the fisheries sector is important to Goa’s culture, ecosystem and tourism. It is time to rethink how people use oceans and design businesses that are more regenerative. Seaweed farming done in a sustainable manner is climate-smart, mimics natural systems and is regenerative, she says. Unlike fish, seaweed is perceived differently in Goa. “Most people are not aware of the commercial and ecological value of seaweed. For instance, green seaweed like *Ulva* is wonderful for making chutneys but in Goa, seaweed is used as fertiliser around coconut trees and in gardens so local fisherfolk haul seaweed along with their fish catch and discard it unaware of its numerous commercial and ecological benefits,” adds Fonseca. Expounding the ecological benefits, D’Cruz explains, “Seaweed is a low carbon food source meaning it doesn’t require arable land, irrigation or nutrients like fertilisers and it offers a viable source of income for coastal communities facing the stresses of overfishing and rising sea levels.” “In such a scenario, seaweed farming can be a really good investment for a country to make. Apart from its many commercial uses, seaweed farming is an easy addition to fishing.

There are seaweed forests across the world. You can tap into your local seaweed forests and create food sources around them. Further, the integration of seaweed farms into other fisheries sectors increases the economic union by offering a fall-back plan. Protecting our seaweed forests means protecting Goa’s fish breeding grounds,” she adds. This November, D’Cruz plans to set up Goa’s first pilot seaweed farm, initially with five rafts at a coastal location yet to be disclosed. “The project in sustainable seaweed farming has the potential to mitigate the loss of biodiversity of the ocean, offer bio remedial solutions to cleaning parts of the ocean and an alternative source of income to local fishing communities in the form of seaweed farming, processing, conservation, aquaculture. The project is still experimental.” She bats for adding seaweed as another product to existing aquaculture in an integrated farm, for example, a combination of seaweed and mussels/prawns/fish, which is sustainable and offers coastal communities a fall-back plan. “Seaweed forests harbour more fish life if you make them biodiverse and multispecies.

It is good for the fish population and it’s good for the fishing industry as well. Also, it’s not an

expensive investment if you live by the sea, have a boat and have a market to sell to.” “Currently, funding is being put in, but there are no guidelines or policy in Goa to structure how this funding is used,” said D’Cruz, adding that she hopes to be a part of the policy structure sometime soon. She runs a small seaweed company The Good Ocean that consults other companies that want to work with seaweed and communities interested in farming seaweed. She hopes to create a few regenerative products from seaweed. Creating equity along the value chain Seaweed cultivation has not been popular in India in the past though it is bestowed with a coastline of more than 17,000 km, embracing 821 species of seaweeds, according to the CMFRI publication on trends and prospects of seaweed farming in India. Only recently, seaweed cultivation is picking up in certain coastal districts of the Tamil Nadu state. Central Salt Marine Chemical Research Institute and Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute have developed culture techniques for some of the commercially important seaweed species in India.

As a result of this effort, a lot of Self Help Groups, Village Youth Groups and NGOs have come forward to promote seaweed cultivation as an alternate livelihood option for the coastal poor. Considering the great demand for these resources in the international market and availability of adequate manpower and interest in the country, seaweed cultivation has a very good prospect and it can be developed as a successful cottage or co-operative sector industry. Sreekanth of ICAR Goa reiterates that seaweed farming is just gaining momentum in India. “It requires a lot of awareness programmes and capacity building to develop as a major marine farming sector. Also, the industry needs to be connected as seaweed is not directly consumed in our country. The pilot-scale projects were started in Tamil Nadu and Gujarat and found successful. Extensive surveys need to be carried out in the state in order to identify suitable sites for farming.” According to a recent government proposal Seaweed cultivation and value chain development in India, seaweed farming is a labour-intensive process and generates employment at every level, primarily for women. Workers who do the drying, cleaning, sorting and harvesting could earn Rs. 500 – 700 per day.

The proposal states efforts will be made to prioritise the formation and promotion of FFPOs, support to cooperatives and women SHGs in the potential coastal areas in the country. To this end, the government of India has allocated Rs. 637 crore for the cultivation of nutrition-rich marine plants as part of the Rs 20,050-crore central scheme Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY scheme) to be spent over the next five years mainly as subsidy support. Referring to Goa, Sreekanth says, “We are yet to carry out surveys and studies on the suitability of the ecology, economics and socio-economic implications of the seaweed farming in Goa. For this, extensive dialogues need to be initiated between the stakeholders and fishermen communities. Moreover, the premium institutes working on seaweed cultivation such as ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute need to be invited to identify sites and locations suitable for seaweed farming in the state.

There is a potential for seaweed farming if it is done in a participatory mode after gaining the

confidence of the local communities. Moreover, the producers need to be connected to optimal market situations and industries in order to gain the deserving benefits for them.” D’Cruz agrees, saying, “Seaweed farming happens in the inshore areas of the ocean, a space usually co-managed by artisanal fishers. I think the important thing is to recognise that while the oceans are the commons, we have to respect the rights of access of fishing communities and work with them to integrate seaweed farming into their existing fisheries activities.” Aaron Lobo, an interdisciplinary marine conservation scientist working at the interface of conservation, livelihoods and sustainable coastal development says, “Unfortunately, seaweed farming in India like most mariculture, including aquaculture, is controlled by people who own land or private players with funding. In such a scenario, small fishing communities tend to lose access to traditional fishing grounds. Since most fishing occurs within 12 nautical miles, it’s important that the coastal commons remain with fishing communities. There should be equity along the value chain, emphasis on farming natural seaweed species and local coastal communities should be kept at the forefront.”

### **Goa: Department lacks data to mark fish breeding zones for CZMP**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/dept-lacks-data-to-mark-fish-breeding-zones-for-czmp/articleshow/87266009.cms>

"Goa is racing against time to meet the deadline of December 31, 2021, set by the National Green Tribunal (NGT), to finalise the state’s Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP). While the Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) had tasked different departments with specific work to be able to finalise the coastal plan, the fisheries department has told the authority that it is unable to demarcate fishing zones and fish breeding zones. The department has told GCZMA that it has no scientific data available to mark such zones. “Fishing zone cannot be marked since fish are migratory and venture in and out of the area in search of food, for breeding and shelter. Fish breeding area cannot be demarcated as there is no scientific study carried out by the department. The fish breeding areas and fish can breed anywhere in the water depending on environmental factors, physio-chemical parameters of the water, season and maturity conditions of the fish,” the department has told GCZMA. After deliberating on the department’s response, GCZMA has decided to convey this input to the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), Chennai, which is working to incorporate any changes in Goa’s coastal plan.

Following the public hearing held in July, GCZMA had allotted tasks to different departments to

carry out ground truthing based on the objections and suggestions received from the public. "After considering the replies from the department, the authority decided to submit the same to NCSCM," GCZMA has decided at its meeting held earlier this month. Meanwhile, based on the list of heritage monuments submitted by the department of archives and archeology, GCZMA has decided to ask NCSCM to demarcate such structures of historical importance located in CRZ areas on Goa's coastal management plan. "The authority has taken on record the replies sent by department of archives and archeology and those sites within jurisdiction of CRZ as per CZMP to be marked on the CZMP maps. The authority recommends that NCSCM may examine the comparison and those differences which are required to be incorporated may be incorporated in the CZMP maps," GCZMA said. GCZMA has said that ground truthing could not be carried out based on many objections and suggestions received from the public seeking demarcation of high tide line, mangroves, khazans, bunds, sluice gates, etc.

This was because the exact survey numbers were not specified in the objections and suggestions. "The local bodies, i.e. panchayats and municipal councils were requested to submit their draft CZMP maps. In response, 118 panchayats and eight municipalities have submitted their draft CZMP maps. The draft CZMP maps submitted by the local bodies have been compared with the draft CZMP maps of NCSCM and the differences have been tabulated," GCZMA has stated.

#### **COP26: Praise for updated national climate plans, but 'nowhere near' goal**

[https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/10/1103972?utm\\_source=UN+News+-+Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=36930782cc-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2021\\_10\\_26\\_12\\_00&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_fdbf1af606-36930782cc-107475426](https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/10/1103972?utm_source=UN+News+-+Newsletter&utm_campaign=36930782cc-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_10_26_12_00&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_fdbf1af606-36930782cc-107475426)

"New or updated climate action plans by governments can be effective in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, but greater efforts are needed to keep global warming at bay, the UN climate change office (UNFCCC) said in a new report on Monday. The findings update an earlier report which synthesizes plans outlined by countries in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement on climate change, which aims to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Parties to the accord requested the Synthesis Report, published in September, to help them in assessing progress ahead of the COP26 UN climate change conference, which opens this weekend in Glasgow, Scotland.

#### **Goa: Instead of just exporting fish, focus on marine products: PM**

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=886090>

"Instead of exporting raw fish from India, the focus should be on processing marine products, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday. "India for the longest time has been exporting raw fish. Indian fish is being processed in East Asian countries after which it hits the

world market. To change this reality, the fisheries sector for the first time has been given assistance at a big scale (by the central government)," Modi said, during an interactive session with Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, local bureaucrats and beneficiaries of the schemes launched under the Swayampura Bharat and Atmanirbhar Goa programme. Modi also said that the central government has also formed a separate ministry for Fisheries, while also undertakes steps to modernise fishing vessels. During his virtual interaction with a traditional fisherman from Goa Luis Cardozo, Modi urged fishermen to not limit themselves to the raw market. "Our government is making efforts to ensure that fisherfolk should not limit themselves to the raw market, but benefit from processing," Modi also said. The Prime Minister also said that over the last six to seven years, the central government had taken a lot of steps to empower fisherfolk, which includes extending the Kisan credit card to members of the fishing community, upgrading equipment and facilities in fishing boats as well as developing a special app for sailors.

### **Goa: Vasco vendors create uproar over market shifting plans**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/vasco-vendors-create-uproar-over-market-shifting-plans/articleshow/87193810.cms>

"The Vasco fish market on Thursday saw an uproar from fruit and fish vendors who came together to oppose the Mormugao Municipal Council's (MMC) decision to shift the fish vendors to a temporary shed. Tension ran high at the fish market after MMC junior engineer along with police arrived at the market to inform the fruit vendors to shift to the new temporary shed from Thursday. The vendors challenged the civic body staff saying that they would rather "die in the old market than shift elsewhere". MMC plans to construct a new market for which they want vendors to shift to a shed built for the purpose. MMC has built a temporary shed behind the vegetable market for fruit and fish vendors. The vendors were informed that the old structure will be demolished and a new complex will be built with all facilities. The traditional fishing group at the market had previously agreed to MMC's plans for shifting but has asked officials to stop all street vendors and wholesalers from selling fish. Leader of the fish vendors Caridade Pereira said, "We were born and grown here. We have not taken a single rupee from anyone to build this structure. We will not go anywhere. Time and again the municipality has failed to stop illegal selling of fish and we don't have faith in them."

On Thursday only the fruit vendors had been asked to move to the new shed by Friday. Civic officials and stakeholders will meet the fisherfolk on Friday afternoon to discuss their issues.

### **Goa: Traditional communities and age-old eco-systems in Goa are both in danger**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Insight/Traditional-communities-and-ageold-ecosystems-in-Goa-are-both-in-danger-/181562>



"Who would have thought Goa's fishermen would be reduced to tears in their own land . Our fields and riverine systems are finished; There is no connection between so-called 'development' and protecting our fragile water bodies . It is a matter of deep sorrow that the traditional fishing communities of Goa have to once again literally come on their knees to plead and fight for the same rights forty-six years after the beginning of Goa's ramponkar agitation. No development can take place by hurting traditional communities . If traditional fishing communities and the larger ecosystem cannot be protected, then it is a shame to say Goa is developed. No development can take place by hurting traditional communities and their relationship with Goa's ecosystem. Way back in 1975 the Goenchea Ramponkarancha Ekvott (GRE) were fighting for the conservation of their fishing places, literally invaded by giant mechanised vessels. This led to the implementation of the Goa Marine Fisheries Regulation Act in 1980, which also specified mesh size for the fishing nets to protect the baby fish.

This was the victory of Goa's fishing communities like ramponkars, magkars, gabits and pagi. Is this the same battle being fought today? Is this the way we treat our traditional fisherfolk? In April 2021, the National Fishworkers Forum (NFF), along with nine affiliated fishing organisations submitted two memorandums to Fisheries Minister Fillipe Neri Rodrigues against LED light fishing, bull trawling and cage culture in the State. Subsidies on fuel have been reduced and other hardships . Several subsidies for petrol, outboard motors have been reduced. Fuel requirements per trip are only increasing and with rising prices, it is crippling for fishermen, especially if there is hardly any catch available. Therefore for trips without a catch, the price of petrol still has to be paid. Meanwhile, there are issues with pending subsidy payments too. The ban on bull trawling not implemented led to the plunder of our fish . The Fisheries Department has failed to implement the ban on bull or pair trawling and the use of LED lights equipped with or without generators in the territorial waters to date.

A local fisherman in Betul had once told Herald and this is a feeling that exists all over. He said, "Who do we talk to? Ministers and MLAs have big fishing boats. They are in the business. Some have been ramponkars before. Otherwise, why has the government not managed to enforce their own ban on LED fishing?" The Govt, shockingly, has admitted that it is handicapped in its efforts to control LED fishing . In November 2017, the Central government had ordered a ban on fishing with the use of LED lights from zero to 200 nautical miles. But the Fisheries Department did make an effort but they had jurisdiction only up to 12 nautical miles. For 2017 to 2020 the State government was in the process of notifying rules to impose stringent fines on bull trawling and LED fishing. It also planned to impose a fine amounting to five times the value of the fish catch netted. But it remained just that.

An announcement. Fishermen face hordes of issues but have no fish . Ramponkars have faced adverse weather, boats capsizing and if this situation persisted prices of even local fish would rise. The Sal has become difficult to navigate . The mouth of River Sal has become very dangerous to navigate as the sand bar has increased its length and height and poses a threat to



small and medium types of fishing vessels. Even the larger ecosystem has got destroyed. In the 1970s, the famed engineer, late Urban Lobo, was a warrior against the destruction of coastal sand dunes. A people's movement resulted in a judicial order against sand dunes destruction, but even till today our sand dunes are not only not protected but destroyed indiscriminately. In the sea, corals are destroyed. Along with this our rivers and backwaters do not have oysters and clams. One of the reasons for this is the pollution in the waters and construction debris entering water bodies. Earlier excess water was used for vegetable cultivation, etc.

Farmers say that with water channels being blocked polluted water filled with debris are all over the fields leading to all-round destruction. We are getting vegetables with chemicals, fish in ponds and small water bodies are dying. The salt pans are dying and so are our khazan lands due to the flow of saltwater into the fields which have no protection now. In the backwaters, the bunds are destroyed due to indiscriminate construction activity resulting in brackish water getting into the field sand flooding destroying them. Fr Visitacao B Monteiro in an article in Herald, 'Destruction of Goa's agriculture' wrote: "In the former Ganvkari system the bunds & sluice gates were protected through a regular weekly inspection by a vijia- (tol'luk) who used to repair immediately whatever water ingress was noticed in the bunds. If breaches occurred in heavy monsoon flooding, immediately the Comunidade started repairing the same, and in no time everything was set back in its place." Goa's ecosystem was all about co-existence. It is now about destruction. Will the people of Goa ever accept the fact that our beautiful environment which had resources for all is not only getting destroyed but is killing our way of life and sustenance? It is changing our ecology, our culture and environment and hitting traditional communities where it hurts, their livelihood. Who is accountable? Who will pay for the mismatch between so-called development and the protection of our eco-systems? Well Goa's traditional communities are hurt and betrayed and will soon give their democratic response in February 2022.

### **Fisheries transparency: Mauritania improves score, but still far from goal**

<https://www.cffacape.org/publications-blog/transparency-mauritania-improves-its-score-but-is-still-far-from-the-goal>

"In 2017, Mauritania committed to gradually reducing and then eliminating fishmeal and fish oil production by 2020. Far from being reduced, capacity has since tripled and there are worrying developments that show that the political will to reverse the trend is lacking. The lack of transparency around fishing capacity and effort, coupled with the lack of scientific data on the state of stocks, hinders a truly sustainable management of the small pelagic fisheries sector in Mauritania but also in the region. Indeed, 90% of international catches of sardinella are made in the waters of Mauritania and its neighbour, Senegal. Opacity also complicates the holding of informed and inclusive public debates of all parties concerned, especially the artisanal fishing communities. Mauritania has positioned itself at the forefront of the Fisheries Industry

Transparency Initiative (FiTI), which reports on the level of transparency in 12 areas related to fisheries. It published its first report last May, which represents a step towards greater transparency. However, this report is long overdue and only covered 6 of the areas of the FiTI standard

### **Goa: Goans hit by outstation trawlers**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/goans-hit-by-outstation-trawlers/articleshow/87120476.cms>

"Local fishermen have been affected by bull trawling carried out by fishermen from neighbouring states in Goa's coastal waters, yet no action has been initiated by the authorities, said Goa Forward Party's (GFP) MLA Vijai Sardesai during 'Zero Hour' on Monday. Sardesai said that due to the government's inaction, not only have local fishermen been deprived of their livelihood, but also the people of Goa of good quality fish. If illegal fishing is allowed, it will lead to fish famine in Goa, he said. A fisherman from Benaulim, he said, intervened to stop bull trawling, while the administration did not act. Fisheries minister Filipe Neri Rodrigues denied the charge that his ministry did not act against illegal fishing. "We have never favoured illegal fishing. My department recently seized two boats. We will not permit illegal fishing," the fisheries minister said. Bull trawling is not new to Goa and whenever such cases have been brought to their notice in the past, his ministry has acted promptly, he said.

### **Goa: Act against bull trawling by Karnataka boats**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/act-against-bull-trawling-by-karnataka-boats/articleshow/87051673.cms>

"President of Goenchea Raponkarancho Ekvott (GRE) Agnelo Rodrigues slammed the fisheries department for not acting against trawlers from Karnataka for bull trawling in the territorial waters of Goa. GRE stated that the fisheries department in 2016 and the central government in 2017, had banned the use of bull trawling in the territorial waters and Indian Exclusive Zone (EEZ). However, over hundred trawlers from Karnataka are using the banned destructive gears without the fear of law or or Goa government, GRE further stated. "If this continues, then there could be law and order situation in the state and only the state government will be responsible for any untoward incident," Rodrigues said adding that two trawlers from Malpe, Karnataka, were caught in South Goa. GRE general secretary Olencio Simoes has also demanded that the illegal boats from Malpe should be impounded. He has appealed to the fisheries minister Filipe Neri Rodrigues to immediately direct the fisheries department to strictly implement the law on bull trawling and other violations. GRE has further warned the department that if the Karnataka boats are let free without taking any strict action, then the next time the

traditional fishermen will take the law in their hands.

**Goa: The full-fledged cry of traditional Goan fishermen to a fisherman from Karnataka who had crossed over illegally, that there is no fish in Goa's waters**

<https://www.heralddgoa.in/Insight/Hear-my-cry-What-will-we-eat-if-you-take-away-our-fish/181226>

"The full-fledged cry of traditional Goan fishermen to a fisherman from Karnataka who had crossed over illegally, that there is no fish in Goa's waters, is a shame on everyone who claims to be a decision-maker and leader in Goa. These fishermen have been literally fighting for their survival and fighting with big trawlers who have clearly taken away the fish stock from their waters. On Monday when fishing vessels from Karnataka entered Goan waters in Betul they alerted the coastal police, they gave chase to the trawler on speed boats provided by a local traditional fisherman Pele Fernandes. When the trawlers were brought in, the cry of Goan fishermen was too painful. While congratulating the coastal police, one local fisherman said, "From 3 in the morning I have been out. But have got nothing. We have no money, our stomachs are empty and you people come from outside (to take away Goan fish)." - The sea wealth of Goa is literally pulled away by these monster LED boats. And yet, the government does little to stop them - The LED lobby has been so powerful that the government really hasn't been able to control them.

But who has suffered? Our traditional Goan fishermen. - In May 2016 Goa government banned the use of LED by trawlers - In three months, in August, it lifted the ban and permitted the use of this lighting equipment on boats in areas beyond 12 nautical miles. The then Fisheries Minister Avertano Furtado, who has now joined the Congress, has said that outstation fishermen would have to submit an affidavit stating that they would not fish in State waters. And, they should install trackers so that the government can verify their location of fishing. None of this has happened and fishermen continue to come close to or into Goans waters to fish making a mockery of all restrictions. The ban on LED fishing inland waters also exists. The head of every Goan should hang when Goans practising our land's most traditional occupations have such heartbreaking moments. The traditional fishermen decided to even take out their mechanised speed boats and lend them to the coastal police because no interceptor boats of the force are in order and lying at the coastal stations. And they helped in the interception and arrest of the Karnataka fishermen. But the manner in which they lashed out at the Karnataka fishermen reflected both the hurt at them as well, as the disappointment they had with their own government and leaders, for not giving them basic protection and support. At the same time, the inaction of the government has led to the destruction of one of Goa's most valuable natural

resources.

Why is infrastructure in coastal police stations being allowed to rot? Doesn't this make our coasts unsafe and the livelihoods and lives of our fishermen vulnerable? Can one even imagine something like this? Nine interceptor boats, so important to give chase and trap vessels that are suspicious of carrying out illegal activities or moving illegal goods or contraband are not functioning. It is criminal negligence on the part of the government not to keep these boats in full working condition. Apart from the fishing community, others will ask who will be held accountable for the absolutely crippled coastal police which needs to chase down intruders on private speedboats lent by water sports operators. Where is the Fisheries Minister? Where is the local MLA?. Why was there not a single statement from the government or local leader or anyone from the opposition, including the former fisheries minister Avertano Furtado from the neighbouring constituency? The Cutbona jetty, the nerve centre of Goan fishermen of South Goa falls under the Velim constituency represented by the turncoat Fisheries Minister Filipe Nery Rodrigues, who defected to the BJP. The Betul jetty, an area where many fishermen live falls in the Quepem constituency represented by the Deputy Chief Minister and another defector MLA Babu Kavlekar. The Talpona jetty falls in the Canacona constituency, again represented by another defector MLA Isidore Fernandes.

The question that Goa's traditional fishermen are asking: Where were the people we voted for during our times of need? Goan fishermen are our pride, they are the soul of Goa and they are a key element of what Goan identity is all about. That pride has been badly hurt. On one hand, the polluted waters of our rivers and the sea has killed the treasure of the sea – its fish and other seafood and on the other, big trawlers and other boats fitted with LED lights have been illegally crossing over to our waters and trapping fish sometimes even the smaller ones, along with their babies. These LED boats can even be outside our waters but shine the lights on the water to stun the fish towards the boats. There was a time when the rivers and sea gave Goan fishing families everything Traditional fishing families never had any need. Each caught fish for themselves and their neighbours. At times the fish they caught was exchanged for rice and vegetables with neighbours and all were well fed and happy.

The simple ease of life went on for generations. Many tuned this way of life into a good honest business. But the greed of some has led to the Goan waters not having any fish. Sea pollution is at an all-time high. With pollution and construction debris filling into the seas and rivers, the colour of the waters is changing. Many beaches have become black due to coal and other polluting. Extinct shellfish: Our sea is getting empty of its treasures. So much so, even our shellfish is getting extinct. And these days when you cast a net in the sea instead of fish you get plastic. The treasure chest is now dumping. Rampant construction licenses have been given on farms and fields. Ultimately, Goa's soul rests with its fishermen. And Goa has forgotten its soul.

**COP15: China's biodiversity goals in focus as Xi Jinping plans summit speech**

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3151905/xi-planned-video-link-speech-cop15-taken-sign-chinas-serious>

"Chinese President Xi Jinping will speak on Tuesday via video link at the United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP15) summit, according to China's foreign ministry. The COP15 conference, which started on Monday, is taking place in the southwestern city of Kunming. It ends on Friday but will continue next spring when the parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) are expected to adopt a post-2020 global biodiversity framework that aims to reverse biodiversity loss in this decade. "

### **Maharashtra and Goa: Tarballs on India's west coast: A tale of shifting responsibilities**

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/blog/environment/tarballs-on-india-s-west-coast-a-tale-of-shifting-responsibilities-79506>

"Tarballs hit the news headlines recently when they started appearing on well-known beaches of Mumbai and Goa. These aquatic pollutants, formed from weathering of crude oil floating on the ocean surface, have flooded Anjuna, Morjim, Colva and Mandrem beaches in Goa as well as Juhu, Versova, Dadar and Cuff Parade shorelines in Mumbai. Tarballs are dark-coloured substances dropped off to shores by waves and sea currents. They accumulate in several sizes ranging from small globules to those as big as a basketball. The latter, which weigh 6-7 kilograms, are washing up more often these days. The presence of tarballs can indicate oil spills. In addition to the big spills near Mumbai, the Arabian Sea experiences oil spills routinely as it is also a crowded oil transportation waterway, with western coast corporations like Bombay High, Panna-Mukta oil field, Tapti gas fields and Essar Oil.

"All the oil spilled in the Arabian sea eventually gets deposited on the western coast in the form of tarballs during monsoon, when the wind speed and circulation patterns favour their transportation," according to a study by the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO). The seasonal occurrence of tarballs on the west coast has made the experts and environmentalists demand an investigation into the problem. Discharge from municipal waste, oil-well blowouts, deliberate and accidental release of bilge and ballast water from ships are among the main factors driving the formation of these pollutants. Tarballs can be hazardous to human life due to the presence of *Vibrio vulnificus*, a bacteria whose entry through wounds could be fatal, according to scientific studies. These petroleum blobs also affect marine biodiversity in several ways, such as disturbing turtle habitats. This in turn, augments the impact on humans who consume marine fish. Response of authorities The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) and the Environment Ministry have not addressed the tarball crisis yet, maintaining that they do not have a legal mandate, according to reports in the Hindustan Times.

"The right authority to tackle this problem is MPCB, which comes under the environment

department. It does not directly come under my purview,” said Narendra Toke, the director of the environment and climate change department. Tests conducted by MPCB on beach deposits in Mumbai last year were inconclusive. The pollution control body said they do not have jurisdiction over the cleaning of beaches or in the deep oceans, where the oil leaks usually occur. They are also not authorised to control or produce guidelines for vessels and ships. BMC claimed they are going beyond their jurisdiction to clean up the beaches and remove tarballs after “numerous complaints from the citizens”. Earlier this month, the civic body had removed almost 20,000 kilograms of tarballs from Mumbai’s Versova and Juhu beaches. The tarballs are difficult to wash off from the cleaning equipment, the BMC reported. A junior BMC official told Hindustan Times on condition of anonymity: BMC’s job is not pollution control. Let us assume that the tarballs are coming from the crude oil industry or from ships. We do not have the power to penalise them.

That is the job of the maritime authorities or the pollution control board. If it was in our power, we would have already taken action against them. The environment minister of Goa, Nileshe Cabral, said that as the state government does not have much control over the source of tarballs, the state will write to the Centre. He said, “Last year, we had collected the samples and the NIO had tested them to ascertain where they may be originating from. As per the findings, they were from the rigs near Mumbai high the last time around. We had submitted a report to the then Union environment minister Prakash Javadekar, but the minister has changed since then. We will be writing again to them now.” The chief minister of the state, Pramod Sawant, also assured in a press conference that the state government will be writing letters to the Home Ministry, Shipping Ministry and Union Environment Ministry.

**Role of judiciary** The National Green Tribunal (NGT) and the Apex Court, in several cases, have held the polluters liable for oil spills and other actions that have harshly impacted the marine environment. In the *Ramdas Janardan Koli vs The Secretary to Govt of India, Union Ministry of Environment & Forest and Ors* case, the NGT had given relief to 1,630 fisher families of Raigad district who were adversely affected by Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust’s (JNPT) project. The trust was creating an additional berth at the port in Navi Mumbai and the fisherfolk also suffered oil leakage from ONGC pipeline which damaged marine life. The fishers complained that due to the leakage from the pipeline, their “traditional rights of fishing” were “impaired, diminished and seriously jeopardised”. The tribunal held that the expansion of the port activities by JNPT was a threat to the environment. Also, the oil spill had added to the loss of ecology and environment and ordered compensation of the affected families. In the *Samir Mehta vs Union of India and Ors*, the NGT bench of Justice Swatanter Kumar upheld the “precautionary principle” and the “polluter pays” principle, along with the fundamental right to life and personal liberty under Article 21.

The landmark judgement ordered a Panama-based shipping company, along with its Qatar-based sister concerns, to pay Rs 100 crores for damages caused by the sinking of their ship off



Mumbai's coast in 2011. The tribunal stipulated that fuel spill from the vessel was among the three key factors that affected the environment. The bench also fined MV Rak, a cargo ship of the Adani Enterprises Ltd, Rs 5 crore for dumping coal in the seabed. Legal provisions The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in 1972 in Stockholm strongly impacted the environmental laws of various countries and provided a solid foundation for the protection of the environment. India's participation in the conference resulted in the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 that was enforced to prevent and control hazards of the environment and human life. Part IV of the Indian constitution (Article 48A – one of the Directive Principles of the state policy), has also empowered the state to create laws and policies to protect and improve the environment and safeguard forests and wildlife.

The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, was one such instance. Sections 16 and 17 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, conferred several functions upon the central and state pollution control boards. Among them is the role of devising plans and advising governments on the control of water pollution. The environment and forests ministry had also issued coastal regulation zone notification in 2011 for the following: - Ensure livelihood security to the fishing communities and other local communities of coastal areas - Protecting and conserving coastal stretches - Promoting growth sustainably based on scientific principle and taking into account the perils of natural hazards in the coastal areas and sea-level rise caused by global warming It is, therefore, surprising to see that despite having several legal provisions on the protection of the environment, the authorities have no answers but reasons for the problems. Lawmakers must take up environmental concerns as a priority, apart from the collective efforts of the vigilant citizens, activists and environmentalists. Government regulations on licensing, oil filling at designated ports must be thoroughly followed and commissions must be set up for specifically dealing with coastal management.

### **Goa: Seafood set to get more expensive**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/seafood-set-to-get-more-expensive/articleshow/86739205.cms>

"At the beginning of the previous fishing season, diesel stood at Rs 54 per litre — a price that trawler owners in Goa considered high in the face of the pandemic. Little did they anticipate that it would increase to Rs 94 per litre by the time the season ended in May. With fishing operations resuming and fuel prices touching Rs 100 per litre, boat operators, apprehensive about their margins and the consequent impact on fish prices, are seeking timely reimbursement of the VAT subsidy. "This is going to be very difficult for us," a trawler owner from the Vasco fishing jetty, Cruz Cardozo said. "We require over 100 litres of fuel per day to operate, but it is not every



day that we are able to get a good catch. Days on which we return to the jetty without any catch are hard, but with the rising fuel prices, such days are only going to get harder,” he said. There are a few states like Tamil Nadu where the state government gives boat operators a subsidy on the VAT charged for diesel. The VAT is approximately Rs 20 compared Rs 94 of the diesel price in Goa. Though fishermen in Goa are also entitled to a VAT subsidy, many boat owners claim that they are yet to get their reimbursement. “The state government has reduced the fuel subsidy for fishermen from Rs 50,000 to Rs 30,000 since last year. It has been more than a year since the pending subsidies were released. How are we to survive in such challenging times?” Nerul-based fisherman, Ozer Mendes said.

Reiterating that it was not feasible to run their boats at such diesel rates, president of the all Goa Purse Seine Boat Owners’ Association, Harshad Dhond said, “We therefore want the government to give us the VAT reimbursement trip-wise. That is the least it can do to help the fishing sector in Goa.” While trawler owners are dependent on diesel, traditional fishermen or ramponkar require petrol to run the motors of their canoes. However, the need to mix oil in the petrol for the smooth-functioning of the motor leads to the fishermen shelling out more money in order to fuel-up. Moreover, due to the lack of availability of fish these days owing to rough sea conditions, the ramponkars end up spending more time at sea raising their fuel requirement to two tanks instead of the usual one. “We used to require 25 litres, but now we need 50 litres costing roughly Rs 5,000 for a single day’s trip. This is not only unaffordable for us but is non-profitable when sufficient fish isn’t caught,” general secretary, National Fishworkers Forum, Olencio Simoes said. He added that there will be a direct impact on fish prices if the petrol prices are not regulated. “The fisheries department must see to it that the government understands that the subsidy acts as a relief for fishermen and ultimately has an impact on the price of fish as well,” Simoes said.

### **Assam: Sustainable Development Goals**

<https://www.sentinelassam.com/editorial/sustainable-development-goals-557080>

"The Assam government's decision to hold a Cabinet meeting in each district headquarters every month is aimed at prioritising the performance of districts in achieving targets and implementing various schemes and projects. The North East Region District SDG (Sustainable Development Goal) Index and dashboard developed by the NITI Aayog can be a ready reckoner for the State government in identifying the gaps and setting the district level development agenda. The NER SDG Index is the first of its kind in the country as it focuses on a region and ranks 120 districts of eight states of the region on SDG goals and targets. According to NITI Aayog, the special index offers insights into the social, economic, and environmental status of the region and the districts in their march towards achieving the SDGs. The Index will be prepared and published annually, and reports will be disseminated to be used as a tool in the hands of all interested stakeholders - policymakers, government functionaries, civil society

organisations, academia, businesses, and citizens at large. Assam became the first state in the region in 2016 to align its development schemes with SDGs and in having an SDG Vision. The NER SDG index, however, reveals that only in respect of five SDGs Assam districts have figured among the top five good performing districts of the region.

No district of the state has figured among top five districts in respect of 10 SDGs - Zero Hunger; Good Health and Well-being; Quality Education; Gender Equality; Clean Water and Sanitation, Affordable and Clean Energy; Decent Work and Economic Growth; Reduced Inequalities; Sustainable Cities and Communities and Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. Kamrup district of the state has figured among the top five districts in respect of SDG 1 of No poverty which is aimed at ending poverty by 2030. The district has also figured in the list in respect of SDG 7 of Affordable and Clean Energy. Two districts – Udalguri and Karbi Anglong have figured in the list of top five in respect of SDG 12 of Responsible Consumption and Production, Darrang and Sivavagar have figured in SDG13 of Climate Action. Six of the seven good performing districts in respect of SDG 9 that aims to provide ample opportunities for industry, innovation and infrastructure, are from the state – Kamrup (Metropolitan), Morigaon, Hailakandi, Jorhat, Nagaon and Nalbari. The objectives of the NER SDG Index, as stated by NITI Aayog are to rank the districts of the eight states of the region based on their relative performance across the 15 SDGs (SDG 14 and SDG 17 are not relevant in the region), identify critical gaps and challenges in performance and achievements to strategise necessary corrective measures so that suitable interventions can be undertaken to iron them out, promote healthy competition among the States towards achieving the goals, create a platform for collaboration and enable districts to learn from the good practices of their peers and identify data gaps in the statistical system of the States and the sectors in which robust and more frequent data collection needs to be instituted. Based on the score, each district is categorised into one of the four categories of Aspirant (score of 0-49), Performer (50-64), Front Runner (65-99) and Achiever (100- achieved the target set for 2030).

All districts in Sikkim and Tripura have been categorised in the Front Runner category while 23 districts in Assam fall in this category. The disparities among districts within a state as well as among districts in the region call for states prioritising development goals based on NER SDG rankings. The dashboard will the State government as well as Autonomous Councils in reviewing the resource allocations under various heads of the state budget keeping in mind the performance of the districts in respect of achieving the SDGs. Monitoring and evaluation play the crucial role of ensuring that implementation of development schemes and projects are progressing as intended and in making a course correction if deficiencies are observed. The state cabinet decision that ministers will review the performance of two districts while going to a cabinet meeting held in a district headquarters and two districts on their way back is a welcome move, but the outcome of such review will produce more results if the ministers and officials make optimal use of the NER SDG rankings and dashboard to identify the gaps. The challenge, however, is to ensure that the primary objectives of these meetings do not get lost in optics of refurbishing government offices, beautification of roads near the Cabinet meeting venue and

attention of the government and district authorities concerned are more focussed on development priorities for the entire district. Expediting the preparation of the Assam SDG Dashboard to make available more elaborate development indicators for each district should get more priority to ensure that the state can achieve all SDG goals by 2030.

### **Goa: Despite CRZ notification, built-up area along Goa's coast grows manifold: Study**

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/others/despite-crz-notification-built-up-area-along-goas-coast-grows-manifold-study-101631936971812.html>

"Despite the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) notification being in force since 1991, which disallows any fresh construction up to 500 metres from the high tide line along the coast, Goa's popular beach stretches have seen an increase in built-up area by as much as 20 percentage points since then, largely fueled by tourism, a study that analysed satellite imagery to track development along the coast has found. The study, which was presented as a conference paper late last year, focused on two of Goa's most populous talukas - Bardez that is home to beaches such as Candolim, Calangute and Anjuna and Pernem which is home to beaches like Morjim, Arambol and Tiracol - and has tracked reducing vegetation, water bodies and increase in the built-up area consisting of permanent residences, hotels, resorts, temporary tourist facilities, shacks, etc. "The built-up has increased from 19.6% to 40.3% (as a percentage of the total area), from 1991 to 2019 within the 500mts buffer... (and) from 15.12% to 36.79% within the 200mts buffer from 2012 to 2019.

This includes permanent residential houses, resorts and temporary shacks. Whereas the 50mts buffer from HTL shows built-up and vegetation as 36.79% and 36.91% respectively in the year 2019," the study said. The CRZ notification issued first in 1991 prohibited any construction between 200 metres from the coast which was to be considered a no-development zone and regulated construction between 200-500 metres from the coast. Except for the reconstruction of preexisting structures belonging to the traditional fishing communities on the existing plinth, no other constructions were to be permitted. This comes even as the Goa government delayed by more than six years the finalization of the Coastal Zone Management Plan and has now sought yet another month to complete the exercise. The study further states that according to a host of people they interviewed, the increased built-up area would serve to destroy the tourist's experience of the coast. "With changing CRZ regulations, huge beach areas which today are public spaces will be used for commercialization under the banner of development. Tourists visit Goa for its beauty and open space where land meets the sea. If these spaces are taken over, the tourism industry which survives on natural beauty will be at stake as beaches will be already crowded. Neither tourists nor locals will have proper access to the beaches.

The coast as a resource will not remain sustainable in future," the study stated. Speaking to HT, Goa environment minister Nilesh Cabral admitted that there were "a lot" of coastal CRZ violations. "There are a lot of violations but we are acting and demolishing them as and when

they are detected. People (the violators) also approach the courts and secure a stay on demolitions. But we have taken action against even big violators and resorts,” Cabral said. “A part of the problem is up to now we have been relying on the 1996 CZMP (Coastal Zone Management Plan) for which detailed scaled maps are not available. Once we are done with the current process of finalizing the CZMP plan for the CRZ 2011 then we will have a base on which to tackle violators,” Cabral said. “The government intends to have real-time monitoring of at least some portion of the coast that is prone to violations using satellite imagery for which we have to finalise the current plan first,” he added. Gaps in coastal regulation in Goa has for long been marred by patchy enforcement despite repeated adverse orders from the Bombay High Court at Goa.

As far back as 2009, the Bombay High Court at Goa initiated a suo moto petition against illegal constructions along the coast and had asked coastal panchayats to detail what actions they propose to take against the violators. More recently, the High Court noted “an extremely disturbing feature as to how constructions are put up in CRZ areas without bothering to obtain any permissions from any authorities and thereafter some sort of immunities are claimed based on the completion of such constructions at breakneck speeds” by taking advantage of lax enforcement. This the High Court said was possible because the violators “are firmly convinced that as long as they race to complete the illegal construction and occupy the same, the law will never be able to catch up with them. The attempt thereafter is to institute all sorts of proceedings and delay the action against the wholly unauthorized construction put up in an eco-sensitive zone without seeking permissions from any authorities.” The NGT too had called for an ‘effective monitoring mechanism.’

“We may add that the Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) appears to be working only based on complaints against illegal structures and a large number of illegal structures continue to exist despite the directions of the High Court... It may be desirable to have an inventory prepared in respect of such structures based on an independent annual survey, to be updated periodically to avoid selective action against the violations of the CRZ,” the NGT bench led by chairperson Adarsh Kumar Goel, said. “An effective monitoring mechanism needs to be set up by GCZMA to advance the rule of law,” the NGT bench added.

### **Goa: Beaches sullied by tarballs; fishermen, tourism stakeholders worried**

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/others/goa-beaches-sullied-by-tarballs-fishermen-tourism-stakeholders-worried-101631543612183.html>

"The menace of tarballs, greasy blobs of thick black oil that wash ashore, has once again afflicted beaches in Goa this year with increased severity covering several beaches including those popular with tourists like Anjuna with the black sticky carpet. The phenomenon which occurs every year with varying intensity has been found on beaches in North Goa including along the sands of the Miramar beach in the capital city, Anjuna beach in North Goa as well as

beaches further North including Morjim, Mandrem, Keri, as well as Colva beach in South Goa. Fishermen and tourism stakeholders have urged the Goa government to resolve the worsening environmental issue. Speaking to HT, Olencio Simoes, general secretary of the National Fishworkers Forum, said the tarballs were forcing the fishermen, especially the traditional ones, to dump their catch. “It happens every year, but this year the problem has been especially severe. The shellfish is completely covered in the tar and the entire colonies die out. Besides that, the nets are completely covered in tar and we have to throw the fish out as they cannot be cleaned,” Simoes said. “Tarballs can attract various heavy metals, including nickel, copper, and cobalt, to their surfaces.

Due to different weathering processes, tarballs can accumulate high concentrations of heavy hydrocarbons, organic compounds that only contain carbon and hydrogen, such as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH). This also causes cancer in humans besides complete destruction of marine life and loss to the livelihoods of thousands of fishermen,” he said. On Monday, a delegation of locals called on North Goa MP and Union minister of state for shipping Shripad Naik asking him to address the issue. A study by scientists at the National Institute of Oceanography, which backtracked the origin of the tarballs and using sea surface current modelling as well as chemical fingerprinting, found that the source of tarballs that arrive after the monsoons was used oil dumped in the sea by tankers that pass between the Middle East and South-East Asia. The tarballs that arrived in May were found to be crude oil spills from the Bombay High region. Tarballs are caused by the churning of the oil with seawater to become a thick paste which then washes ashore in the monsoons with the water currents. Some of the balls are as big as a dung cake while others are smaller globules that are a major irritant to those bathing in the sea or walking along the beach as they stick to the skin and are very difficult to wash off, the study said.

The NIO also found that the Goan coast was close to one of the Sea Lines of Communication (SLOC), which is used by ships and international oil tankers coming from and going towards the Persian Gulf. Hence, all the oil spilt in the Arabian sea eventually gets deposited on the western coast in form of tarballs in the monsoon season when wind speed and circulation pattern favour transportation of these tarballs, the study said. Last year, Goa environment minister Nilesch Cabral wrote to the then Union environment minister Prakash Javadekar seeking help in tackling the problem. “We have tracked down the source of these tarballs after studying the phenomenon. We have written to the MoEF about the matter. The Central ministry will now study our findings before taking measures to address the issue which we have raised,” Cabral said. The Goa government officials said they were trying to find reasons for high tarball deposition on coasts this year as compared to previous years.

### **Goa: Bacterial infection resurfaces in fish**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/bacterial-infection-resurfaces-in-goas-state->

[fish/articleshow/86151246.cms](https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/14-fishermen-rescued-from-sea-after-boat-capsizes-off-go-coast20210904212324/)

"Goa's state fish, the mullet continues to suffer from an infection called Epizootic Ulcerative syndrome (EUS) as few specimens with the skin disease surface randomly in the catch in some areas. Compounding this is the lack of continuous research that has concealed the problem. This condition affecting mullets and a couple of other estuarine fish species had been reported in the past. "It is purely organic pollutants like sewage which fuel growth of Pseudomonas, a bacteria that infects skin, gills, the mouth and fins of the fish," Joe D'Souza, a retired professor of Goa University (GU) said. The microbiologist had studied the first outbreak of EUS with a GU student, S Kudchadkar and had later published the findings. Fishermen in Mandur have reported scattered incidences of EUS. "Several mullets in the catch have abrasions or bloody patches near the gills and other parts," Augusto Pereira, a sluice gate operator at Mandur said.

The fisheries department is however unaware about this syndrome. "No cases have been reported to the department and it is difficult to speak about its causative factor," director of the department of fisheries, Shamila Monteiro said. The ulcerative syndrome was reported near prawn hatcheries in St Estevam and Chorao around early 1990s. Pearl spot fish was affected by skin diseases while it also hit the mullet species in Telaulim in Tiswadi, Shiroda in Ponda and Curtorim in Salcete. The EUS strikes the fish mostly during monsoon when fertilizers and organic run-offs leach into the water and spread out with the flow. The catch looks unfit for consumption and has to be dumped. "The percentage of population affected is not known but it happens mostly in areas where water polluted by industrial and other sources stagnates for longer periods in water bodies," retired chief scientist, biological oceanography, NIO Baban Ingle said. In 2014 another episode of pollution triggered by similar conditions caused mass mortality of tiseo (clams) at Musher, Betul. A three-member team comprising D'Souza and Mahesh Prabhu, a water treatment specialist had conducted a microbiological analysis and found that pollution had lethally impacted the bivalve population.

"The bacteria Pseudomonas and fecal coliform together scavenge on the oxygen and render the water anaerobic, suffocating the clams to death," the study stated. The study attributed the cause of toxic pollution to massive influx of sewage, dumping of dry ice and other waste released by more than 200 fishing vessels and around 2,000 fish workers at Cutbona jetty. "More comprehensive studies are needed to study the EUS problem as Pseudomonas bacteria has become resistant to pollution," D'Souza said. In recent weeks mullets are showing signs of recovery as the monsoon season comes to a close.

**Goa: 14 fishermen rescued from sea after boat capsizes off Goa coast**

<https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/14-fishermen-rescued-from-sea-after-boat-capsizes-off-go-coast20210904212324/>



"Fourteen fishermen were rescued from the sea after their fishing boat capsized off the coast at Velsao here on the intervening night of Friday and Saturday. The fishermen were rescued by Drishti lifesavers, an agency acting on behalf of the Tourism Department of Goa (Government for the security of tourists taking to the sea. The well-coordinated rescue operation that lasted two hours involved 30 lifesavers led by Drishti Deputy Manager Shashikant Jadhav, who himself rescued 12 fishermen, said Drishti Lifeguard Public Relations Officers. The Drishti lifesaving team received an SOS call from a local fisherman about a fishing boat with 14 onboard that had capsized at around 21.30 hours at night at Velsao stated the PRO. Jadhav called in the force from across locations and swiftly a 30-member lifesaving team plunged into the choppy waters for search and rescue operations of the fishermen, as per the PRO. Two jet skis were pressed into action while two jeeps with oxygen and first aid kits were kept on standby. In a two-hour operation, the lifesavers braving the undercurrents made several trips on the Jet skis to bring the fishermen back to shore safely. After preliminary checkups and first aid, all were found to be safe and fine, further stated the PRO. Over 75 fishermen have been rescued in the last two months in 15 incidents of a boat capsizing in the sea. This was the first which took place late into the night, the PRO informed. (ANI)

#### **Goa: Bandora meeting rectifies draft CZMP**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/Bandora-meeting-rectifies-draft-CZMP/179527>

"The Bandora Panchayat Biodiversity Committee members on Wednesday held meeting in the Panchayat office with Water Resources Department (WRD) officials and rectified the draft Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP). The meeting was called by WRD officials for inspection of the draft CZMP following complaints and objections from Bandora locals. Adv Surel Tilve, Gurudas Naik and other members were present for the meeting. The officials and villagers verified the respective plans. After finding some discrepancies with regards to locations of bundhs and sluice gates, the WRD officials agreed to rectify them. Speaking to the media persons, Adv Tilve said, "There shouldn't be any mistake in draft CZMP or it will have effects on the villagers in the future." The WRD officials cooperated with villagers in finalising the plan. The proper locations of houses of fishermen, fish breeding sites, mangroves, high tide and low tide lines, khazan lands in draft CZMP should be incorporated with the best interest of villagers.

#### **Goa: Six Fishermen rescued by lifeguards at Colva Beach**

<https://www.republicworld.com/india-news/general-news/goa-six-fishermen-rescued-by-lifeguards-at-colva-beach.html>

"At least six fishermen who got pulled in by rip currents were rescued by lifeguards at Colva beach in South Goa, an official said on Wednesday. The incident took place on Tuesday, when the fishermen, who were in their 20s, got pulled in by strong currents while fishing close to



the shore, it was stated. As per a statement released by Drishti Marine, an agency employed at the coastal state's beaches, lifeguards stationed in the area ventured into the sea and brought the fishermen back to safety and no one was injured in the incident.

### **Goa: Fishermen get lessons in sustainable practices**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/fishermen-get-lessons-in-sustainable-practices/articleshow/85638284.cms>

"To reduce overfishing in Goa's estuaries, experts from the Old Goa-based ICAR-CCARI urged fishermen to follow sustainable fishing practices and manage the ecosystem. A total of 40 fishermen and farmers from fishing villages around the Zuari estuary — Cacara, Odxel, Nauxim, Bambolim, and Siridao — participated in a campaign recently organised by the institute at Carca to discuss various challenges facing sustainability of fisheries. The fishermen were given scientific knowledge to conserve and manage fisheries resources in the natural waters of Goa. Director of ICAR-CCARI, Parveen Kumar urged the fishermen to "use large meshed gillnets in order to reduce the juvenile catch to stop overfishing in the estuaries." Estuaries of Goa such as Mandovi and Zuari support the livelihood to thousands of fishermen, hundreds of fish farmers, are a source of fresh fish to the state's inhabitants and also form an integral part Goan life. Emeritus scientist, ESSO-NCPOR and former head, biological oceanography division, NIO, Dr Baban Ingole, spoke about the various anthropogenic pressures such as overexploitation, pollution, habitat degradation, and invasive species that could seriously impact the fisheries resources of estuaries and rivers.

"Fishermen must help revive the mussel, oyster and clam beds of the estuaries in a participatory mode so as to provide sustainable livelihood to the youth and women along the coastal region," he said. Senior scientist, Animal Science and Fisheries, Dr Shivasharanappa N emphasised the importance of the day and ensured all technical support to fishermen and farmers in conserving and managing fisheries for future generations. The fishermen requested for scientific and technical support from ICAR for various welfare schemes in the field of fisheries. They also requested assistance for preparing applications for the schemes from the developmental departments.

### **Thai Union surpasses 2020 sustainable tuna goals**

<https://www.esmmagazine.com/a-brands/thai-union-surpasses-2020-sustainable-tuna-goals-143898>

"Thai Union has published its progress report for the year 2020, which shows that the

seafood group has exceeded its sustainable tuna goals. Around 87% of the group's branded tuna was sourced from MSC certified fisheries and Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs) in 2020, well above its target of 75%, putting it on track to hit its goal of 100%. In the past five years, Thai Union made significant progress towards greater seafood traceability and sustainability. These include developing and implementing nine tuna FIPs, with the progress of each rated and verified independently by the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership and made publicly available.

**Goa: Limited crew, rising fuel prices, weather contribute to slow start to fishing season**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/limited-crew-rising-fuel-prices-weather-contribute-to-slow-start-to-fishing-season/articleshow/85471423.cms>

"The start to this year's fishing season is seemingly slower and rife with challenges compared to the pre-pandemic era. While delays in arrival of the workforce in Goa, even weeks after the start of the fishing season, is a common scene, this year the pandemic has further delayed the arrival of crew members. Cutbona Fishing Boat Owners' Association president Frank Martins said that less than 40% of the trawlers from the Cutbona jetty have been able to venture into the sea. "A majority of the trawlers are still anchored by the dock." At the Malim jetty, the situation is even worse, with only five to 10% of the vessels venturing into the sea. "Our workers usually wait until August 15 to return to Goa. This time, some are taking even longer. We are hoping that the labour force will come by the first week of September so that at least 70 to 75% of the trawlers can start operations," Mandovi Fisheries Cooperative Society member Francisco Fernandes said.

While trawler owners lament a slow start owing to limited crew, the season has been an "absolutely no start for purse seine boat owners," according to owners of the large vessels. Unlike trawlers, purse seine boats require a greater work force as they stay at sea for anywhere between two to three weeks. Moreover, if rising fuel rates weren't already enough of a burden for fishing boat owners to get started, they now also have to bear the fuel cost of bus transport being arranged to bring the workers from their respective states to Goa. "Like last year, we may have to send buses to Jharkhand or other states to bring back our crew members. Diesel rates have increased by 40% and the cost of transportation is extremely high," a purseiner said. With the minimum cost of ferrying one person amounting to Rs 6,000, this results in an expenditure of nearly Rs 2 lakh to transport a bus full of 35-40 passengers. "The Tamil Nadu government has given its fishing boat operators VAT reimbursement on diesel cost. If the Goa government doesn't do something similar, the state's fishing industry will collapse," All Goa Purse Seine Boat Owners' Association president Harshad Dhond said. And, for vessels that are equipped with both fuel and crew, it's the weather that's playing spoilsport. "The sea is slightly rough owing to which we are not venturing too far. There is mostly mackerel in the part of the sea that we can access, and even that catch is poor. We are able to fetch only about half to one ton of fish in a day. It is not a very productive start to the season," a trawler owner from Cutbona jetty said.

### **Goa: 10 fishermen rescued off Chapora coast**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/10-fishermen-rescued-off-chapora-coast/articleshow/85285409.cms>

"Drishti lifesavers rescued 10 fishermen from a fishing boat that capsized off Chapora coast on Wednesday. The rescue operation at Vagator involved five jetski and more than 15 lifesavers. Drishti said, soon after the boat capsized, two fishermen, who had jumped into the waters, went missing and the jetskis had to be plugged into action to find them. The remaining eight were rescued by the lifesavers. They were then moved to Vagator for first aid, Drishti said. "It was a team effort. Lifesaver Yashwant Kurlle first noticed the fishermen jumping off and the boat that was sinking. The quick response by Amit Mahale, Gauresh Mote and Sachin Naik of Vagator tower on jetskis as first responders, saved the first lot before more Jetski arrived," Drishti stated.

### **Goa: GCZMA has received 3,493 suggestions and objections from North Goa and 4,016 from South Goa on the draft CZMP, as NGT deadline of August 31 for Goa to finalise its CZMP nears**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/to-meet-coastal-plan-deadline-daily-updates-being-sent-to-chennai-centre/articleshow/85356199.cms>

"The Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) has received 3,493 suggestions and objections from North Goa and 4,016 from South Goa on the draft Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP). As the National Green Tribunal's (NGT) deadline of August 31 for Goa to finalise its CZMP nears, the state has begun sending daily updates to the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), Chennai after verification of the inputs received from the public. Some of the main objections and suggestions received from the public over the draft CZMP are that either there is wrong or non-depiction of khazan lands, sluice gates, bunds, fishing zones, fish breeding zones, fishing wards, fishing village boundaries, sand dunes, mangroves and also heritage structures along Goa's coast. Many have also claimed wrong depiction of the regulatory High Tide Line.

The GCZMA has drawn up an action plan and distributed the task of verifying the claims to different government departments. Inspections are also being carried out by expert members of the GCZMA. Accordingly, as the verified inputs are coming in, they are sent to the NCSCM to update the draft CZMP. The plan has been drawn to expedite the process of finalising the CZMP to meet the NGT deadline. While in the case of objections related to khazan lands, bunds and sluice gates the water resources department is carrying out the ground truthing, the objections and suggestions related to fishing zones, wards and fish breeding zones are being verified by the

fisheries department. The inputs received about wrong depiction of high tide line and sand dunes are being looked into by a team of expert members of the GCZMA. The departments of archives and archaeology and town and country planning are verifying details related to wrong or non-depiction of heritage structures on the draft CZMP. Similarly, a team of experts, including Simon D'Souza, N P S Varde, Prabhkar Shirodkar and Vinod Dhargalkar are carrying out ground truthing of claims of wrong depiction of mangroves and mangrove buffer zones. Goa and a few other states would have continued to drag their feet on readying the CZMP if not for a case filed before the National Green Tribunal in 2017 alleging that permissions were being issued without the plan being finalised. Taking cognisance, the NGT ordered the state governments concerned to prepare their individual plans and submit them to the Union environment ministry by August 31, 2019. It also directed that no further environment clearances be granted till the CZMPs were finalised. The deadline for Goa to finalise its CZMP today stands extended up to August 31 by the NGT.

### **Goa: Fishermen to pay 30 times more to dry fish**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/fishermen-to-pay-30-times-more-to-dry-fish/articleshow/85223220.cms>

"Fishermen who, since 2015, have been paying a nominal lease amount of Rs 100 per year for using a 100sqm platform to dry fish at the government facility at Colva will now have to pay a whopping Rs 3,000 annually. The state directorate of fisheries has enhanced the lease amount from Rs 100 to Rs 3,000, as per an update to the scheme lease of platform for drying fish at fisheries complex, Colva. In a partial modification to the 2015 notification of the scheme, the revised sub-clause mandates a security deposit as well. "The platform shall be given to traditional fish dryers at a rate of Rs 3,000 per platform per year. The applicant shall also pay the security deposit amounting to Rs 1,000 per platform," the modification issued on August 5 reads.

### **Goa: Six fishermen rescued**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/Six-fishermen-rescued/178524>

"Six people were rescued by lifeguards in two separate incidents involving fishing boats at Colva and Benaulim. In the first rescue operation, four men, two from Ankola and two from Goa were out fishing, when the accident took place. The canoe capsized about 50 metres from the shore at Colva. In a state of panic, all four boat crew jumped into the water and the current began to drift them into the sea. All four were safely rescued. In the second rescue operation, two men from Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand were on a fishing boat that was carrying 12 people, when the boat capsized off Benaulim Beach. These two fishermen had to be rescued while the remaining 10 fishermen swam safely to shore.

### **Goa: Govt urged to utilise fisheries land at Benaulim for fishing activities**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/Govt-urged-to-utilise-Fisheries-land-at-Benaulim-for-fishing-activities/178272>

"Stating that the nuisance on the beach needs to be controlled, Benaulim fishermen on Monday urged the government to utilise the land owned by the Fisheries Department near the beach for fishing activities. A few locals also demanded that action be taken against the fish traders for creating mess in the open space close to the beach while loading the fish catch. Since the last few days, several traders were seen directly buying fish from traditional fishermen and loading the same into the vehicles. Herald in its edition dated August 2 had reported that the beach is slowly turning into a mini-fishing jetty. Immediately, a few locals were seen urging a fishing trader to clean the area and make way for the fish water to flow into the nearby gutters. Cruz Fernandes from Benaulim said they have no problem with the fishing activities but the mess created by the fish traders is unacceptable. ""We are witness to the mess created here and the fish water is flowing everywhere. I urge the concerned authorities to ask the fishing traders to shift to another place"", he said. A traditional fishermen Alex Fernandes admitted that nuisance created by the fishing traders is causing hardship to the people. However, the people need to bear with the same for a few days, as this is the only time traditional fishermen can earn some profit from the first catch of the new season. ""It has been brought to our notice that the Fisheries Department-owned land admeasuring nearly 40,000 square metres is lying unutilized near the Benaulim beach. However, entry to this land has been blocked for the past several years. We, the traditional fishermen of Benaulim urge that the land be utilised for fishing activities to ensure no nuisance is caused at the parking lot "", he urged.

""Many of our traditional fishermen are compelled to sell fish by roadside near Maria Hall and other places which is risky. We, traditional fishermen have no place to sell the catch in Benaulim"", Alex claimed. In the last three days, a bumper catch of 50,000 tonnes of solar shrimps was reported at Benaulim. Fishermen from Cavelossim, Mobor, Colva and other areas had a sizable catch of solar shrimps on Saturday and Sunday. But on Monday they managed only 5,000 tonnes. However, the mackerel catch was more disappointing.

**Goa: Fishermen in Salcete reap bumper catch of prawns**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/fishermen-in-salcete-reap-bumper-catch-of-prawns/articleshow/84987636.cms>

"Traditional fishermen along the Salcete coastline are elated after netting a bumper catch of prawns. The large stocks are quickly sold to fish traders. However, there is plenty more to

meet the needs of local markets as well as the large number of individuals who flock to the beach to buy directly at source. At the main beach in Benaulim, fish trader Hafiz Maulana told TOI that in the past four to five days, he bought as much as 30-40 tonnes of solar prawns from canoe owners. "The fishermen profited in every way as they could immediately sell their catch and earn instant cash," he said, adding that even after buying most of the stock, there is still plenty of prawns available in the local market, village markets and makeshift spots occupied by fish vendors. Each canoe brings in 300kg to 500kg per trip from the sea, with some fishermen even making two sojourns as a huge quantity of solar prawns surfaced in the Arabian Sea during the past few days. Remy Fernandes, a fisherman and panchayat member, estimates that canoe owners from Benaulim, Varca and Colva must have netted more than 50 tonnes of solar prawns. However, some local activists have raised a red flag against prawns being loaded into insulated trucks, while complaining that the bandstand was reeking of foul smell. One traditional fisherman hit out at the activists. "This is the only time of the year we make some money, and our own villagers instead of supporting us are trying to stop it," he said. Fernandes said that this activity has been going on for years, and that too only for 7-8 days annually. "Given the fact that the government has not provided refrigeration facilities, the fish traders are like saviours to us," he said.

### **Goa: Increase fishing ban to 90 days**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/increase-fishing-ban-to-90-days/articleshow/84959279.cms>

"Goenchea Raponkarancho Ekvott (GRE) has demanded extension of the fishing ban period to 90 days from next season as well as an increase in the petrol subsidy. The fishing season began on August 1 this year. GRE stated that the fisheries department has failed to curb bull trawling, LED light fishing and implement the ban on fishing 5km from the coastline in territorial waters. "There are more than 100 trawlers from Karnataka operating within the territorial water of the state and continue to use these banned destructive gear," Olencio Simoes, general secretary of GRE, said.

### **Goa: Cutbona jetty readies for new fishing season**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/cutbona-jetty-readies-for-new-fishing-season/articleshow/84875648.cms>

"The Cutbona jetty is buzzing again as the 61-day fishing ban comes to an end at the stroke of midnight on July 31. Labourers were seen cleaning trawlers, loading nets, and some even offering special prayers ahead of the new fishing season. However, 60% of the migrant labourer workforce is yet to return from their home towns. Cutbona Boat Owners' Development



Society president Savio D'Silva said around 40% of the work force has returned and the remaining are expected soon. Other than the weather, trawler owners have to also deal with sandbars that form at the mouth of the river where it meets the sea making it difficult to manoeuvre the vessel. During the past few days traditional fishermen along Salcete and Mormugao have netted sizeable quantities of solar shrimps.

### **Goa: Worst flood in decades: Nearly 1,000 homes damaged, hundreds evacuated**

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/goa-floods-homes-damaged-hundreds-evacuated-1831955-2021-07-24>

"One person died, around 1,000 houses were damaged and hundreds of people evacuated from low-lying parts inundated due to heavy rains and overflowing of rivers as Goa on Friday reeled under one of the worst floods in nearly 40 years, the state government said. Chief Minister Pramod Sawant told reporters here that the floods had badly hit talukas of Sattari, Bicholim, Ponda, Dharbandora, Bardez and Pernem, while other areas also suffered damage. He said there was a report of a woman drowning in Dharbandora taluka but a confirmation on the exact cause of the death was awaited. The chief minister visited certain affected areas in Bicholim taluka in the afternoon to monitor rescue and relief operations. He said government-run schools have been converted into temporary shelter homes to accommodate people evacuated from flooded areas. "This is one of the worst floods since 1982. Properties worth crores of rupees have been damaged," Sawant said. The chief minister said teams of the disaster management cell swung into action on Friday and evacuated several people who were stranded at different locations. He said in Pernem taluka (North Goa), the Chapora river was flowing above the danger mark due to which water had entered low-lying areas damaging 88 houses, while eight persons were evacuated. The Chapora river also caused devastation in Bardez taluka where 167 homes were damaged and nine people evacuated, Sawant said.

He said in Bicholim taluka, Valvanti and Chapora rivers were overflowing due to which 164 houses were damaged, while 40 people rescued. Sattari was one of the worst hit talukas where 130 houses were damaged while 65 people had to be rescued as Valvanti and Mahadayi rivers crossed their danger levels, the CM said. He said in Ponda taluka, several people in Waghurme village were stranded in their submerged homes and attempts were on to rescue them. Health Minister Vishwajit Rane was personally monitoring the evacuation process. In South Goa's Salcete taluka, the Kushavati river was flowing above the danger level, damaging 18 houses, Sawant said. In Dharbandora taluka in South Goa, 135 houses were damaged and 150 people evacuated, he said. In Canacona, the Talpona river was overflowing due to which 60 homes were damaged, the chief minister said. The coastal state has been experiencing heavy rains over the past few days. On Thursday, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) had issued a warning that a circulation in the Bay of Bengal is likely to trigger low-pressure area that will cause more rainfall in Goa. Till Wednesday, the coastal state had received 1,998.3 mm rainfall during the



ongoing monsoon season as against the average of 1,612.7 mm for the corresponding period. The state fisheries department has asked fishermen not to venture out into the sea due to gusty winds.

### **Goa: Canacona fishermen upset over fuel prices, demand subsidy hike**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/canacona-fishermen-upset-over-fuel-prices-demand-subsidy-hike/articleshow/84359455.cms>

"Already reeling under a lean last season due to the lockdown, and with just three weeks left for the new fishing season to begin, fishermen in Canacona have a new worry, rising fuel prices. With fishermen claiming to have incurred losses running into lakhs of rupees last season, president of the Akhil Goa Kashtraiya Pagui Samaj, Ashok Dhuri, told TOI that in light of the steep hike in petrol and diesel prices, the government should increase the subsidy given to fishermen each season. The fishing community in Canacona taluka is interspersed across Polem, Galgibaga, Talpona, Rajbhag-Tarir, Patnem, Colomb, Palolem, Agonda, Matvem-Khola and Nuem. There are over 500 small and big motorised trawlers and fishing boats which go out into the sea. These are huge fuel guzzlers. Further, despite going into the deep sea, sometimes they return with a small catch, thus denting their profit margins. Rise in fuel prices affects operating time, frequency of fishing trips and the area covered during each trip, the fishermen said, adding that many fishing boats owners have stopped going into the sea altogether due to prohibitive fuel prices.

This in turn, adversely affects consumers as lesser availability of fish leads to a price hike. "In such a situation, the government and fisheries department need to come to the aid of the Goan fishing community by providing diesel and petrol at a subsidised price," Dhuri said, adding that if fuel prices continue to head north, fishing activities in the taluka could be severely hampered.

### **Goa: Greens seek place for Goa's heritage assets in coastal plan**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/greens-seek-place-for-goas-heritage-assets-in-coastal-plan/articleshow/84287037.cms?from=mdr>

"Goa's heritage monuments and archaeological sites ranging from the megalithic cave and window pane oyster breeding site at Chicalim to the ancient temples and Old Goa's popular churches have been listed by activists for inclusion in the Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP). The state's chequered history has left behind multi-layered sites in several villages and former capital cities — caves, tunnels, monuments and ruins. "The state has prepared environment management plans for sea turtles, mangroves, sand dunes, but there is no plan for management of built heritage," Goa Heritage Action Group (GHAG) and the Charles Correia foundation stated in a submission to the government. Goa has a total of 422 legally notified built heritage sites, including 75 protected by state and central governments. "But only 13 sites have

found mention in the report, and just 12 are marked on the maps,” the heritage groups stated. A few sites are of historic importance, as they shaped the history of the region. “For example, the 500-year-old Rachol church. There is also an ancient tunnel and other ancient remains, which make this village an archaeological site,” Abhijit Prabhudesai, a social activist stated. Furnishing details about other sites at the Goa Coastal Zone Management (GCZMA) hearing on Thursday, he said that sites at Quelassim, Carambolim and other places in the CRZ area need to be demarcated after a survey. ‘Of Old Goa’s 21 protected structures, only two are shown’ In Old Goa, out of 14 centrally-protected monuments and seven state-protected ones, only two — St Cajetan's Church and the Arch of the Viceroy — are marked.

“This demarcation of protected monuments and sites as part of CRZ-1 is under CZMP guidelines,” Glean Cabral, an Old Goa-based activist, said. “Further, at least four more need to be shown, including Largo of St Cajetan, Church of St Peter, Bainguinim and Casa de Polvora, Panelim,” Cabral said. Chicalim, a village awaiting a ‘heritage village’ tag, boasts of a multi-layered history with natural and man-made assets. “There are many historical and archaeological sites in Chicalim, Dabolim and St Jacinto Island. The 16th century ruins of St Bartholomew Church, khazan land with unique irrigation systems that are thousands of years old and ancient caves at Chicalim and Dabolim,” Cyril Fernandes, a social activist, stated. A few houses, an underground tunnel and fort in Sao Jacinto Island and other sites have been included in the Chicalim list. The Chicalim bay is well known as being one of the few window pane oyster breeding sites on the western coast. “National Institute of Oceanography, Dona Paula has declared this as a natural breeding site for the endangered oysters, *Placuna placenta*, locally known as ‘mendeos’, a Schedule IV species protected under the EPA, 1986,” Fernandes said.

#### **Goa: Fishermen urge NGT to delay CZMP hearing**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/fishermen-urge-ngt-to-delay-czmp-hearing/articleshow/84218615.cms>

"After dismissing Goa Foundation's review application praying for time limit of six months, instead of the August 31 deadline, to finalise the Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) for Goa, the NGT is set to hear another petition filed by Goenchea Raponkaranchho Ekvott (GRE) and Goencho Ekvott for postponement of Thursday's CZMP hearings in North and South Goa. They are seeking postponement on grounds that the fisheries planning committee, constituted by the department of environment and climate change in March, has not completed the process of identification of fishermen's houses to be included in the draft comprehensive plan for the fishing community living in CRZ areas. This was scheduled to be completed within 60 days. GRE and Goencho Ekvott have raised apprehension that the committee's report will not have legal sanctity if it is completed after the public hearing is over. The committee's tenure was extended to September 30, 2021 since, due to the election code of conduct, the department couldn't tender documents to appoint the agency to assist the committee

and therefore, it hasn't completed the process of identifying fishermen's houses as per the gazetted order. The associations have also stated that they were not able to meet people due to lockdown restrictions and are also seeking postponement on grounds that a large section of the fishing community has been affected by Covid and that some are not physically fit to attend the meetings on Thursday. GRE general secretary Olencio Simoes said 95% of houses of the fishing community in CRZ areas have not yet been regularised since 1991.

### **Goa: State panels have drawn up crucial plans on khazans, fishing zones in coastal plan, GCZMA clarifies**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/state-panels-have-drawn-up-crucial-plans-on-khazans-fishing-zones-in-coastal-plan-gczma-clarifies/articleshow/84185959.cms>

"As the state inches closer to the date of the public hearing for the draft Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP), scheduled on July 8, the state environment department has clarified that many crucial parts of the plan have been drafted by the state committees and not the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), Chennai. "The CZMP for the state of Goa has been prepared by the NCSCM, Chennai. The management plans for khazans, mangroves, turtle nesting, beaches and fisheries have been prepared by the committees constituted by the state government," the Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) said on Tuesday. Many opponents of the draft CZMP for Goa had expressed fear that the NCSCM may not be familiar with the peculiarities of the Goan coastal systems and that not sufficient ground studies were carried out to understand it when preparing the plan. It was feared that this may adversely affect the coastal communities and the ecology once the CZMP is finalised. However, the state environment department has now said that several crucial parts of the plans have been studied and drafted by experts from the state itself. The Goa Foundation, which approached the National Green Tribunal over the Goa CZMP, has held that the reports on fishing zones, khazans etc prepared by the state formed panels have not been incorporated in the coastal plan. It said that the plans prepared by the panels have simply been attached to the CZMP draft. The environment department also stated on Tuesday that the 'Hazard line' will only be used as a tool for disaster management and will not be a regulatory line. It was feared by coastal communities that any activities within the hazard line will be prohibited, affecting livelihood of fishermen, as also existing structures. The GCZMA though has said now that the hazard line is meant only for planning for any natural disasters.

### **Goa: Fishing Community celebrates Sao Pedro Feast**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/Fishing-Community-celebrates-Sao-Pedro-Feast/176774>

"The traditional Sao Pedro feast, which is the feast of Saint Peter, the patron saint of the fisher folk in Goa, has been celebrated in the port town of Vasco on Tuesday amidst traditional pomp and gaiety. The fishing community members at Khariwada, Non-Mon, Pixem-Dongri

decorated fishing canoes with colourful balloons, coconut palms, flowers and other decorative items at the jetties of Khariwada the Arabian Sea as part of their annual tradition. At Khariwada fishing jetty, the Sao Pedro celebration was held in the presence of fishing community, including women. The priest of St Andrew's Church, Fr Jeremio offered prayers and blessed the fishing community. He called upon Almighty God and Sao Pedro to protect the fishermen when they venture on the high seas for fishing. The fisher folks said that the fishermen at Khariwada are struggling since the last couple of years for a good catch.

#### **Goa: Fisheries Union claims dept is not acting against illegal trawling in Zuari River**

<https://goanewshub.com/fisheries-union-claims-dept-is-not-acting-against-illegal-trawling-in-zuari-river/>

"All Goa Small Scale Responsible Fisheries' Union has complained to the Fisheries Director Sharmila Monteiro against the illegal fishing by trawlers in River Zuari despite ongoing ban. Union President Roque Menezes has said "it has come to our attention that daily trawlers are carrying on illegal fishing in Zuari river during night time due to the negligence of your office in Patrolling." "On June 23, 2021 night one trawler got entangled with underwater sunk ship while trawling at night time in Zuari river. Four other trawlers that were operating from Vasco were stranded in rescue operation to free the entangled trawler. Next day June 24, 2021 this incident was shared by audio on WhatsApp by former vice-president of Old Cross Fishing Co-operative society at Kharewada Prem Dabolkar under Article 19 of the Constitution of India: Right to Freedom of Speech and expression." "However it has come to attention that one trawler owner Tulsidas Kukalkar who owns 'Netra' trawler and notorious record holder for illegal fishing damaged electricity and water connection of Prem Dhabolkar at Vasco. We had complained to your office about Tulsidas Kukalkar' illegal trawling in Zuari river in the past but there is no action from your office that we know of." "We want to convey to you that because of inaction from your office Fisheries in Goa are getting criminal fall outs."

#### **Goa: As tiseos in markets grow smaller in size, experts raise extinction fears**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/as-tiseos-in-markets-grow-smaller-in-size-experts-raise-extinction-fears/articleshow/83822739.cms>

"Availability of tiseo (clams) in good numbers is keeping Goans happy at the dinner table, as the delicacy caters to fresh fish requirements during lean season. Conservationists, however, are unhappy about the undersized catch that may hasten extinction of bivalves. A resurgence in a few shellfish species, especially tiseo, due to rejuvenation of ecology offers opportunities to the fishermen and unemployed during the traumatic pandemic period. The sale of bivalves has been extended from the market place to odd places by the roadside. But it is a sad story everywhere, as the bivalves have been hauled out before maturity. That has left the experts worried, as they apprehend major impacts on the reproduction cycle and a reversal in the revival

process boosted by a cleaner ecology in recent months. “At present, adolescent ones which are not of marketable size are being harvested.

This means there will be insufficient population to sustain the future breeding of the species,” Baban Ingole, former chief scientist of National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) said. In 2020, a few estuarine areas such as Chicalim and Sancoale witnessed a bumper crop of clams and oysters. Despite the local biodiversity management committees’ (BMC) persistent efforts, hordes of extractors plundered huge quantities of the resource, causing a famine this year. “By harvesting them before maturity, the next generation is wiped out. This is how their population collapses and we drive a species to extinction,” an ecologist said. The fisheries department and village BMCs can play a critical role in determining the shellfish size to be harvested. “This needs to be tackled urgently or it may be too late to protect the clam’s gene pool. With no brood stock for reproduction, they may face the same fate like green mussels (xinanneo), ” Ingole, a reputed fisheries scientist, said. Traditional beliefs ensured in decades past a conservation regimen. “We need to sensitise the people again, as commercial interests are dominant. In the past, people themselves understood breeding cycles,” a fisheries department official said.

### **Goa: Margao wholesale fish market opens after over a month**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/margao-wholesale-fish-mkt-opens-after-over-a-month/articleshow/83761446.cms>

"The South Goa Planning and Development Authority's (SGPDA) wholesale fish market re-opened on Tuesday after remaining shut for over a month-and-a-half. President of the wholesale fish traders association Ibrahim Musa said that 35 vehicles carrying stock of fish from outside the state arrived at the wholesale fish market in the early hours of Tuesday. It is expected to end scarcity of fish in Goa, a situation arising from the ban on fishing in the seas since June 1. Consequently, prices of fish that had soared over the past few days are also expected to go down. The fishing season in the state will begin from August 1. With a view to preventing crowding at the market, the SGPDA had ordered closure of its wholesale fish market on May 6, and had remained shut since then.

However, locals had complained that fish vehicles coming to the market from other states offloaded their stocks outside the wholesale fish market creating nuisance. Plans for upgradation of the wholesale fish market are in the offing since long. In August last year, the SGPDA had given approval for seeking funds amounting to Rs 50 crore from the central fisheries department for constructing a state-of-the-art market at the existing place. The proposal was to hand over the market to the fisheries department for execution of the project. Upon the completion of the project, the market was to be taken back by the SGPDA. A memorandum to that effect would facilitate the arrangement, it was decided. However, the project, initially estimated to cost Rs 20

crore still lies on the drawing board of the State Infrastructure Development Corporation, the executing agency for the project.

### **Goa: Covid to cyclone, turbulent times for fishing sector**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/covid-to-cyclone-turbulent-times-for-fishing-sector/articleshow/83155556.cms>

"The annual fishing ban Goa kicked in from June 1 onwards, but this fishing season has been as rough as the agitated waters of the Mandovi on a cyclonic night. With a shortage of manpower, unfavourable weather conditions, rising fuel prices, market lockdowns and the risk of contracting Covid-19, the fisheries industry was riddled with a plethora of problems in 2020-21. "We have faced a loss of over 25% this season. There was a loss incurred due to markets locking down, exports being suspended and rising fuel and labour costs. We can only hope that the second wave subsides before the season resumes (from August 1 onwards), and we return to normalcy," said Harshad Dhond, president of All Goa Purse Seiners Boat Owners' Association. Boat operators in Goa largely depend on migrant workers from other states to carry out fishing operations.

This labour force is not only engaged in fish catch, but also in loading and unloading edible piscine creatures onto trucks, cleanliness of the vessels and dock area, besides some of them acting as cooks aboard the boats when they must leave on a long haul. "Some boat owners spent up to Rs 15,000 each to bring manpower back from their native states. There was also a demand for a hike in salaries by some of the labourers. Compared to Rs 8,000 per month which was paid earlier, this time we paid Rs 10,000 to 12,000 per month," said Savio D'Silva, president of the Cutbona Boat Owners' Association. The first two months of the season – August and September 2020 – were not very fruitful as a result. It was only by October that the fisheries industry seemed to be fully operational. However, the onset of the second wave in March this year turned things around yet again. Moreover, the alert for Cyclone Tauktae sent apprehensive workers scampering back to their hometowns in the second week of May itself, who otherwise would leave Goa only after May 31 – when the season officially ends. "Even though railways are operational now, there is a lot of uncertainty due to which we had to take the responsibility of sending workers back. Majority of the Jharkhand workers have left while those from Karnataka, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and a few from Andhra Pradesh are leaving soon," a boat owner who has paid for the bus transit of his workers, said. Escalating fuel prices proved to be yet another dent in their finances. Currently, trawler owners are paying Rs 86 per litre – which until a year ago – was about Rs 60 per litre.

Though there is a fuel VAT reimbursement scheme that boat operators usually avail of, claims of 2019-20 are yet to be granted by the fisheries department, D'Silva said. "There is little to no help from the government to help the fishing industry. They must at least decrease fuel prices. Else, we may be forced to shut our trawlers," he added. "Some boat owners let only a few of their



boats operate because they didn't have enough money to fill their vessels," a boat operator from Malim jetty said. With vessels, both small and large, spending lesser time at sea, one would assume that this may have proved to be a blessing for the marine species by way of allowing more time to facilitate breeding. Observations made by fisherfolk, however, say otherwise. "Though it is only in December and January that we were able to operate full-fledged, the catch through the rest of the months was bleak," D'Silva said. The fish markets in Goa were temporarily shut a few times owing to Covid-related restrictions. "We either had to lower the prices of our fish and sell it vendors or export the catch to Kerala markets," said Dhond. When markets in Kerala also were forced shut due to Covid lockdowns, the fishermen had no choice but to endure the loss. "When there is no demand, we have no choice but to stop supply altogether," Dhond said.

### **Goa: GRE wants NCSCM dropped from preparing CZMP**

<http://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/GRE-wants-NCSCM-dropped-from-preparing-CZMP-and-NIO-to-handle-it-instead/175707>

"The General Secretary of the National Fishworkers Forum (NFF) and Goenchea Raponkarancho Ekvott (GRE) Olencio Simoes on Wednesday welcomed the order of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) Principal bench, New Delhi, for re-conducting the Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) Public hearing which was violated by the Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) citing Covid protocols. Olencio further stated that three fishermen organization Akhil Goa Kshatriya Pagui Samaj, The Canacona Taluka Gabit Fishermen Trawler/Mechanised Craft Owner Co-operative society and GRE filed the petition which the help of Goa Foundation citing basic procedural flaws in conducting the public hearing which had just allowed 100 participants in both the Venues of North and South Goa. It is to be noted that GRE was one of the two applicants in the NGT matter, with the other being Goa Foundation, who argued the case. Olencio stated that GCZMA along with The National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM) has consistently failed to prepare proper CZMPs even after having been paid Rs 2 crore for the same by the government.

"Therefore we demand that the NCSCM should be dropped and The National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) or any other Goan reputed institution should be given the task to prepare the CZMP in accordance with the Annexure-I of the CRZ Notification 2011, which has laid down clear guidelines for preparation of the plan," said Simoes. Olencio further pointed out that since the fishing community is a primary stakeholder, the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) has to ensure livelihood security to the fisher communities and other local communities, living in the coastal areas also to conserve and protect coastal stretches. "GCZMA should conduct the public hearings at multiple locations, at taluka levels, on different dates. By doing so as many as 173 fishing villages, fishermen communities representatives can attend and submit their objections so that a proper CZMP plan is finalized looking at the interest of the State and the fishing



community,” Olencio added.

### **Goa: Locals turn to freshwater fish as seafood availability dips**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/locals-turn-to-freshwater-fish-as-seafood-availability-dips/articleshow/83074364.cms>

"As the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions have impacted the availability of seafood, people in the rural areas have taken to fishing for freshwater species to fulfil their requirement. In the past few weeks, commercial fishing has been affected owing to the curfew and the recent cyclone. This has prompted villagers to take matters in their own hands and try their luck in freshwater streams and rivers. Chandrakant Aukhale from Pissurlem, Sattari, said, "I love fishing. Besides angling, we use nets for catching freshwater fish. My family relishes the 'ambot-tikhat' preparation of freshwater fish."

During summer, the water level in freshwater bodies drastically declines, making it safe as well as rather easy to get a good catch Goa's freshwater streams and rivers are known for the local fish varieties like Maral, Valay, Dekale, Kaday, Khavale, Toki, as well as prawns and crabs. Many locals prefer to turn the fishing trip into a picnic, with the prized catch roasted over fire. During onset of monsoon, freshwater fish like 'Chadhaniche Mashe' enter the agricultural fields due to the flow of rainwater. As part of the efforts to catalogue the freshwater fish diversity of the Western Ghats in Goa, researchers of Indian Council of Agricultural Research conducted surveys of the freshwater habitat in Goa from 2013 to 2014. This survey yielded 40 species of freshwater fish, seven species of crustaceans and two species of molluscs. Researcher Pradip Gawas from Honda, who has studied freshwater fish diversity in Sattari, speaking to TOI said, "There is a need to conserve and protect this diversity."

### **Goa: Traditional fishermen also affected as fishing activities halted**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/traditional-fishermen-also-affected-as-fishing-activities-halted/articleshow/83155714.cms>

"While purse seine boat owners and mechanised trawler owners felt the larger blow, the average Goan ramponkars (traditional fishermen) didn't appear to be immune from the curse of the sea gods either. "Since the lockdown, we have hardly been able to venture into the waters because many of our fishermen have been sick due to Covid-19. Then, to add to our miseries, there are subsidies applied for by the fishermen that are still pending sanction," Olencio Simoes, general secretary of the Goenchea Raponkarancha Ekvott said. An official from the fisheries department said that while Covid affected fishing activities across most of the season, the weather conditions too left fishermen in the state struggling. "Cyclone Tauktae in particular has left the fishing community devastated since it has left fishing boats and equipment such as nets damaged, besides destroying the houses of those who live close to the sea. We have received

applications of such claims and will disburse the amount soon,” the officer said.

### **Goa: Fishermen reimbursed for cyclone losses**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/fishermen-reimbursed-for-cyclone-losses/articleshow/83099150.cms>

"The Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) on Sunday compensated a total of 61 traditional fishermen for the losses they suffered recently due to cyclone Tauktae. The fishermen, hailing from Canacona, Mormugao, Bardez and Pernem, had reported loss of gill nets and reported damage to their temporary huts. Considering the loss of livelihood to these traditional fishermen on account of loss of fishing gear, GCZMA has granted them an ex-gratia amount of Rs 20,000 for loss of gill nets and Rs 5,000 for the damage to their temporary storage huts. A total of Rs 11.2 lakh was paid out. Fishermen whose fishing vessels have been damaged on account of cyclone Tauktae may submit their applications to the department of fisheries for consideration under the corpus fund.

### **Goa: Cyclone Tauktae: Government pegs losses at Rs 146 crore**

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/india/cyclone-tauktae-go-a-government-pegs-losses-at-rs-146-crore-6927191.html>

"Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has said that the state suffered losses to the tune of Rs 146 crore due to cyclone Tauktae. Due to the impact of the cyclonic winds, the power supply at various places in the state got snapped from May 15 night. As per the government record, scores of houses suffered major damages and thousands of trees were uprooted. Two persons had died in the cyclone-related incidents in the state. Talking to reporters on May 21, Sawant said the state government has considered all kinds of losses in its assessment, including those faced by the fishing community as its members could not venture into the sea due to cyclonic winds for three days. Sawant said disaster management teams were on the field to tackle the situation arising out of the cyclonic winds. The figure of Rs 146 crore has been worked out, which includes losses due to ban on fishing for three days, destruction to various assets of the electricity department, damages to buildings of the education department and destruction of private properties, he said. Damage to agricultural crops has also been included in this figure, Sawant added.

The state faced such a cyclone for the first time since 1994, he said. He apologised to the people

of the state for the inconvenience caused due to the disruption of power and drinking water supply for a few days in certain parts of the state as a result of the cyclone. The work of restoring the power supply took time due to the scarcity of manpower in the state. We had to hire manpower from outside the state to restore the supply, he added. The chief minister said that after this experience, the state government has decided to ramp up its disaster response and purchase some necessary equipment.

#### **Goa: Cyclone causes sand erosion at Polem beach**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/cyclone-causes-sand-erosion-at-polem-beach/articleshow/82891734.cms>

"Over the years, Polem beach stretch in Canacona has suffered significant sand erosion and the situation has worsened now by the impact of Cyclone Tauktae last week. Several casuarina trees, which help hold the sand together, have been uprooted. With monsoon fast-approaching, the locals now fear flooding. The fishermen from Polem area, who exclusively depend on fishing for their livelihood, said that their fishing boats and fishing nets have been left vulnerable to damage from natural systems like cyclones. Fishermen Ankush Pagi said the government should assist them with a shelter to house their fishing boats and fishing nets, in absence of which they have to leave the equipment on the beach. Locals said that a simple look at the state of the beach at present is telling of how, if some protective measures are not taken on priority, there will be tough days ahead not only for the fishermen but also for those residing near the beach too. Residents shiver at the memory of the flash floods that affected Canacona in October 2, 2009. Another fishermen Themo Pagi said they do not have a fishnets mending shed. In absence of this, their livelihood is at stake, he said, adding that the government should take some measures for their welfare. Ulhas Chandrekar, a social activist, said that the concerned department should visit and see the extent of damage caused to the beach and the fishing articles like fishing boats and fishing nets which have been washed away by last weekend's rough waves. Loliem-Polem sarpanch Sachin Naik said he is aware of the damage caused and losses suffered by the Pagi Samaj.

#### **Goa: Fierce winds, heavy showers, power cuts hit Salcete coast**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/fierce-winds-heavy-showers-power-cuts-hit-salcete-coast/articleshow/82669608.cms>

"The swollen sea has taken its toll on the shore in South Goa with large scale erosion along the Salcete coastal belt due to cyclone Tauktae. The India meteorological department (IMD) had warned about deep depression over the Arabian Sea intensifying into a cyclonic storm likely to cause disturbances in Goa during the weekend. The sea was tumultuous with high waves, water running towards the land and eroding the shore. Migrant families working for the local fishing community were seen at the shore and their kids playing where the waves crashed at

the shore. On Friday evening, thunderous rain along with gusty winds disrupted power supply for many hours. Junior engineer Govind Bhatt attached to Carmona sub-station said that incoming supply from Maharashtra and Karnataka failed due to heavy thunder, lightning and high speed winds. Power to Salcete coastal villages, which was shut-off at around 6pm, was restored at 9.30pm in some areas and at midnight in other places. Sub-divisional magistrate Dattaraj Desai, additional collector Sanjit Rodrigues and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) team visited Varca, Benaulim and Colva beaches to take stock of the situation and warned the people and the fishing community against venturing into the sea. Colva PI Anand Shirodkar said his personnel are already on high alert and teams are patrolling the beaches and villages too. Deputy director of fire services Nitin Raikar, who was part of the team visiting the Salcete beaches, said his personnel are all geared up and since Friday evening, they have been answering huge numbers of calls of clearing roads and branches falling on houses.

**Karnataka and Goa: Cyclone Tauktae: 29 missing; 8 dead in Karnataka; parts of Goa without power, may need 2 days to restore it**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/29-missing-8-dead-in-karnataka-parts-of-go-without-power-may-need-2-days-to-restore-it/articleshow/82694233.cms>

"Cyclone Tauktae tore through coastal Karnataka and Goa on Sunday, with eight people dead and 300 houses damaged in Karnataka — even as hundreds were evacuated — while leaving large parts of Goa without power. Airline operations were suspended in Goa and many trains were cancelled. As many as 29 people have been reported missing, 10 each from Kerala and Tamil Nadu and nine from Karnataka. Tauktae, which is turning into a “very severe cyclonic storm” and is headed towards Gujarat, tore through the coast of Karnataka on Sunday, unleashing heavy rain in seven districts of the state. Among those who died is a three-year-old boy and two stranded on a stricken tugboat along the coast. At least nine people were stranded on another tugboat that drifted from anchorage off New Mangalore Port Trust. At least 300 houses were damaged in the worst-affected Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts of Karnataka. Met department says rainfall will be widespread in the state and its intensity in coastal districts will decline by Tuesday. In Goa, strong winds uprooted electricity poles and left large parts without power supply as the cyclone crossed the state approximately 150km off the coastline. Goa CM Pramod Sawant said on Sunday that it would take two days for power supply to be completely restored throughout the state. Goa Medical College too suffered a 15-minute power outage, Sawant said, adding that all Covid hospitals were provided backup generators. All air operations were suspended for a day at the Goa International Airport on Sunday. Along with gusts of wind at 80-100kmph and heavy rainfall, Tauktae also led to visibility at the airport dropping to less than 500m at one point of time.

After heavy rain and high tidal waves wreaked havoc across Kerala and claimed two lives on Saturday, there was forecast of isolated rainfall for Monday in all districts of the state, except

Thiruvananthapuram, Palakkad and Wayanad. On Sunday, an orange alert of very heavy rainfall was issued for eight districts. Meanwhile, the Coast Guard has launched a search to locate the crew of Tamil Nadu fishing boat that was reported missing off Lakshadweep coast on Saturday night.

**Kerala, Karnataka, Lakshadweep, Goa and Maharashtra: Cyclone Tauktae: Coast Guard warns fishermen as cyclone likely to hit Western Coast**

<https://www.india.com/news/india/cyclone-tauktae-coast-guard-warns-fishermen-as-cyclone-likely-to-hit-western-coast-4660263/>

"With the formation of Cyclone Tauktae over the Arabian Sea, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) issued an advisory to the Fisheries Department to warn the fishermen not to venture into sea and ask them to return to the nearest harbour, officials said. Also Read - Year's First Cyclone 'Tauktae' Forming Over Arabian Sea, Likely To Intensify Further, Says IMD. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), a low-pressure area is forming over the Arabian Sea and it may gradually turn into a cyclone over the east-central Arabian Sea by May 16. The cyclone 'Tauktae' is likely to impact areas including the coast of Kerala, Karnataka, Lakshadweep, Goa and Maharashtra. Meanwhile, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has ordered the suspension of fishing activity on the coasts. "IMD issued a warning for a low-pressure area over the Arabian Sea that is likely to turn into a cyclonic storm. Although Kerala will not be in its path. Heavy rainfall is likely to occur on May 14 and 15. Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) held preparedness meetings with Army, Navy, IAF, Coast Guard and NDRF. Fishing activity has been suspended, said the chief minister. If the cyclone hits the Western coast, then it will be the first cyclonic storm in the country in 2021.

**Goa: Coastal body asks for all CZMP resolutions**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/coastal-body-asks-for-all-czmp-resolutions/articleshow/82507477.cms>

"The Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) has directed the directorate of panchayats and the directorate of municipal administration to direct village panchayats and municipalities to submit a resolution taken by them on the draft Coastal Zone Management Plan 2011. Some panchayats in Bardez, Bicholim, Pernem and Tiswadi and municipalities are yet to submit their resolutions to the GCZMA. The government meanwhile has completed compiling the objections and suggestions to the draft Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) submitted by village panchayats. It will now be placed before the GCZMA to decide on the further course of action. Objections and suggestions related to khazan lands will be sent to the water resource department (WRD) while objections pertaining to fishing zones will be sent to the fisheries department, an officer said.

Recently, the high court of Bombay at Goa disposed of cases questioning the public hearing conducted by the North Goa collector for finalising the draft CZMP after petitioners agreed to file appropriate proceedings before the National Green Tribunal (NGT) at New Delhi. In March, the high court had restrained government respondents from proceeding further on the basis of the minutes of the hearing on March 7, 2021, for a period of three weeks or until further orders, whichever was earlier. The court had passed the interim order and observed that the PIL ought to have been filed before the NGT. They were hearing the petitioners as the western zone bench of the tribunal at Pune has not been functional. The March 7 public hearing had been shunned by people. They called it a farce as the government had restricted the number of registrations citing Covid protocols and each speaker was allotted just five minutes. Amidst angry protests inside and outside the venues, and with a huge posse of police personnel guarding it, the state government claimed to have successfully concluded the hearings. There was utter chaos as hundreds of people came out against the CZMP demanding wider consultation, even as the coastal zone management authority carried out the exercise at Panaji and Margao through the district collectors.

#### **Goa: Scientists call for bio control of sucker fish in Cansaulim**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/scientists-call-for-bio-control-of-sucker-fish-in-cansaulim/articleshow/82347879.cms>

"The deadly threat to native fish species of a third invasive variety, Janitor fish - found in worrisome numbers in Cansaulim ponds - has triggered calls for biological management of the hardy aquarium fish. Invasive species of fish and plants severely impacting the local ecology is a worldwide problem. In Goa, two exotic species, Mozambique Tilapia and African catfish have established their habitats, destructively squeezing the local ecosystem. "The catch from fresh water systems yields over 50% exotic species. There is a significant reduction in populations of small native types, such as Rasbora, barbs, pearl spot, and even the predatory murrel species," G B Sreekanth, fisheries scientist, Indian council of agricultural research, Old Goa said. TOI reported on March 9 and April 12 about a large haul of Janitor fish - an ornamental variety kept in home aquariums - in two large Cansaulim ponds. "The dynamics of flooding, whether these ponds are connected to other water bodies need to be studied," Baban Ingole, retired chief scientist, biological oceanography, National Institute of Oceanography, said. Fishing activity starts after ponds start drying up in summer. "Pumping out the water from ponds is the best way to weed out the invasive species.

The fishermen may lose the catch for a year and even some brood stock may remain," Ingole said. In Kerala, sucker fish has severely affected the fresh water ecosystem. "The management (of this invasive species), including weeding is difficult, as there are large populations of other species," Rajeev Raghavan, assistant professor, Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies, Kochi. While suggesting awareness campaigns to educate aquarium owners about



disposing off the fish, he said management at initial stages is effective. Director of fisheries, Shamila Monteiro stated the problem appears to be localised. “We appeal to aquarium owners not to release the fish in ponds,” Monteiro said.

### **Goa: Objections, suggestions to draft coastal plan ready**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/objections-suggestions-to-draft-coastal-plan-ready/articleshow/82248245.cms>

"The state government has completed compiling the objections and suggestions to the draft Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) submitted by village panchayats. “The compilation of objections and suggestions will be placed before the Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) to decide the further course of action,” senior officer said. Objections, suggestions related to khazan lands will be sent to the water resource department (WRD), objections pertaining to fishing zones will be sent to the fisheries department, the officer said. Recently, the high court of Bombay at Goa disposed of cases questioning the public hearing conducted by the North Goa collector for finalising the draft CZMP after the petitioners agreed to file appropriate proceedings before the National Green Tribunal (NGT) at New Delhi. In March, the high court had restrained the government respondents from proceeding further on the basis of the minutes of the hearing on March 7, 2021, for a period of three weeks or until further orders, whichever is earlier. The high had passed the interim order and observed that the PIL ought to have been filed before the NGT. But they were hearing the petitioners as the western zone bench of the tribunal at Pune has not been functional. The public hearings of March 7, 2021, for the CZMP was shunned by people, terming it as a farce, as the state government restricted the number of registrations citing Covid protocols and each speaker was allotted just five minutes. Amid angry protests inside and outside the venues, with a huge posse of police personnel guarding it, the state government claimed to have successfully concluded the hearings. There was utter chaos as hundreds of people came out against the CZMP demanding wider consultation, even as the coastal zone management authority carried out the exercise at Panaji and Margao through the district collectors.

### **Goa: Margao fish market to get waste plant**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/margao-fish-market-to-get-waste-plant/articleshow/82091440.cms>

"The work of setting up a 5 tonnes per day capacity bio-methanation plant at the South Goa Planning and Development Authority (SGPDA) retail fish market began on Thursday with



the contractor galvanizing men, material and machinery at the site. The Rs 2.4 crore project has been awarded by the Margao Municipal Council to a Pune-based firm Urja Biosystems, following a tender process that concluded last month. The firm has won the tender for the supply, installation, testing and commissioning of the three 5 TPD bio-methanation plants with power generation and operation and maintenance of the same for five years. “The municipal engineers will be inspecting the site. The project will be executed following all Covid guidelines,” MMC chief officer Agnelo Fernandes told reporters. The firm has a six-month deadline to set up and commission the plant. Biomethanation is a process by which organic material is microbiologically converted under anaerobic conditions to biogas. Goa Waste Management Corporation had proposed to carry out the waste management upgradation exercise for Margao in two phases – while the first phase entailed setting up three bio-digester plants each having capacity to treat 5-7 tonnes of waste per day, four bio digester plants of similar capacity were to be set up in the second phase.

#### **Goa: Fishing groups against LED fishing, bull trawling, cage culture**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/Fishing-groups-against-LED-fishing-bull-trawling-cage-culture/173726>

"National Fishworkers Forum (NFF) General Secretary Olencio Simoes along with nine affiliated fishing organisations submitted two separate memorandums to Fisheries Minister Filipe Neri Rodrigues demanding that immediate action be taken against LED light fishing, bull trawling and cage culture in the State. They also criticised the rolling back of traditional fishermen subsidies. Agnelo Rodrigues, president of Goenchea Raponkarancha Ekvott (GRE) said that fishermen of Goa are shocked to note that several subsidies for petrol, outboard motors and others subsidies have been drastically reduced specially during the pandemic, which is yet another jolt to the traditional fishermen. He pointed out that these subsidies were increased following the demands of their late leader Matanhy Saldanha, which were fulfilled by former chief minister late Manohar Parrikar. He also added that that since 2016 they have submitted several written objections highlighting the illegal use of LED light fishing and bull trawling. However, Agnelo lamented that the Fisheries Department has failed to implement the ban on bull or pair trawling and the use of LED lights equipped with or without generators in the territorial waters till date. On that note, Olencio said, “The blatant violation of Goan fishing trawlers has gone to an extent that they were found using LED lights fishing in Maharashtra especially in the districts of Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg where several Goan fishing trawlers have been impounded by Fisheries Department of Maharashtra.

#### **Goa: Ornamental Janitor fish in Cansaulim pond raises concern**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/ornamental-janitor-fish-in-cansaulim-pond-raises-concern/articleshow/82022492.cms>

"Fishing activity in a fresh water pond at Cuelim, Cansaulim, on Sunday yielded a large catch of Janitor fish, even as scientists raised a suspicion about an invasion of local water bodies by this ornamental variety, kept domestically in aquariums. A sizeable yield last month in a nearby pond comprised this dangerous carnivore - Pterygoplichthys or more popularly known as sucker fish. The locals are still baffled after finding this South American native about three to four years back and have not been able to find out who released the fish in ponds. "We had a good catch with a variety of fish - though local species such as pitoll and kerri were absent - but sagor, as it is locally called - was a substantial part of the haul," Honorato Saldanha, a villager said. Goa's water bodies are known to be already invaded by African catfish and Mozambique tilapia. While the population of local species of catfish and other fresh water species has decreased, the African native is another voracious carnivore that consumes smaller fish. Tilapia, though not a carnivore, but hardly like other invasive species is known to breed quickly and reduces the food for other local fish.

The harvesting in Kanttea Tollem on Sunday was only a first round of fishing, as locals will wait for the water to dry up further. The fishermen will wait till May to cast their nets in another bigger water body, Pale lake, which may have a larger population of sucker fish. "The size of the sucker fish in Kanttea Tollem was even bigger than in the other pond," Neville Saldanha, another villager said. Fisheries scientists of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have collected samples of the sucker fish and are studying the dynamics of its entry in local ponds. The scientists were alerted after an animal rescuer, Johnson Stephen, posted photos on social media of the discarded sucker fish, which locals had dumped. The sucker fish has also created havoc in parts of Kerala. "It seems it was also found in some ponds of Baramati, Maharashtra. This raises a concern about the competition provided by invasive species to local commercially and ecologically important species. Therefore, a focussed study is the need of the hour to control the spread of this unwanted and dangerous species," Baban Ingole, a well-known fisheries scientist, said.

### **Paris goals still 'long way off', says President of UN climate conference**

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/04/1089332>

"The world is "a long way off" from meeting the goals of the landmark Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the President of the crucial upcoming UN climate conference, COP26, said on Thursday. British politician Alok Sharma was speaking during a global discussion on the 'green' transition in sectors such as energy, transport and food systems, held as part of the 2021 Spring Meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). "Oceans are warming, storms are intensifying, and yet we are a long way off meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement", he told the virtual meeting. "Unless we act now, the human, economic and

environmental cost will dwarf anything that humanity has seen before.” COP26, which will be held this November in Glasgow, Scotland, aims to accelerate action towards the Paris treaty goals, which centre around limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels by curbing greenhouse gas emissions. John Kerry, US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, called the conference “the last best opportunity we have to get real and serious.” He particularly urged developed countries to step up efforts to reduce emissions. “It is essential we raise ambition; we make Glasgow the next step in defining not what we’re willing to do but what we really need to do in order to be able to get the job done.” For Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge, COP26 represents an opportunity to put nature at the heart of the climate fight. He called for banks to invest in nature, noting that spending so far has been minimal.

“We cannot recover sustainably from coronavirus, eradicate global poverty, achieve net-zero emissions, or adapt to climate change, without investing in nature”, he said. Energy access must also be part of the green transition, according to Damilola Ogunbiyi, Chief Executive Officer at Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL), a UN partner. Globally, nearly 800 million people do not have access to electricity, while 2.8 billion lack access to clean cooking sources, she said, which is equivalent to the populations of Africa, Europe and China combined. To change their lives, she recommended that governments focus on policies in the areas of promoting renewable and sustainable energy, and on ease of doing business and regulations. Again, financing here is needed, together with commitment. “We all see that globally, when we come together, just the amazing work we can do, and the COVID vaccine is a perfect example”, said Ms. Ogunbiyi, who is also the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All. “We literally have to have a COVID vaccine response to help a lot of developing countries because it’s not that they don’t want to transition, or they don’t want to do the right thing. It’s a fact that if you do need to transition, there is a lot of funding that is needed.

### **Goa: 800+ fish samples checked, no formalin found: Mantri**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/800-fish-samples-checked-no-formalin-found-mantri/articleshow/81791790.cms>

"As of March 12, a total of 842 samples of fish have been analysed by the FDA's food safety officers in random checks in the state and so far, no adverse findings have been reported, said fisheries minister Filipe Neri Rodrigues while responding to a question tabled by Panaji MLA Atanasio Monserrate at the assembly session. He further said the government has appointed a third party agency, the Quality Council of India (QCI) to carry out checks at the two border checkpoints – Patradevi and Pollem — to check the quality of fish with respect to added formaldehyde. The QCI also tests fish in transport vehicles from Goa as well as those from outside the state that enter the wholesale fish market at Margao. “Till date (March 12, 2021),

42,522 vehicles have been checked at these points and no adverse findings have been reported,” the fisheries minister said. “Further, the FDA, through its food safety officers, is carrying out random sampling of fish sold in the markets that are then sent to private NABL FSSAI-approved laboratories for detection of formalin,” the fisheries minister added. TOI had reported in July 2018 that the state government had banned the transportation of fish from neighbouring states to Goa in view of the formalin scare after traces of the chemical were found to be used to maintain freshness and extend shelf life of the fish.

#### **Goa: No official correspondence declaring Goa as fisheries hub: Govt**

<https://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/no-official-correspondence-declaring-go-a-as-fisheries-hub-govt/2055822>

"The Goa government on Tuesday told the state legislative Assembly that it had not received any official correspondence from the Centre declaring the coastal state as a ""fisheries hub"". Union Minister Giriraj Singh had last month said that Goa has the potential to become the country's fisheries hub, following a discussion with Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and State Fisheries Minister Filipe Rodrigues. The Union ministry had announced a holistic investment of Rs 400 crore for the fisheries sector in Goa. ""No official correspondence was received from the Union government about declaring Goa as a fisheries hub,"" Rodrigues told the House while responding to a question tabled by MGP MLA Sudin Dhavalikar. The Centre has sanctioned Rs 1,193.49 lakh under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana for 2020-21, he said, adding that Rs 596.74 lakh has been released till date. The fisheries department has requested all fishermen societies and associations to submit their proposals for creation of infrastructure such as fishing jetties, floating jetties, fishing ramps, net mending, fish markets etc, the minister said. Based on the feasibility of the site, the department will take up the proposals, he added.

#### **Goa: State govt to seek relaxation from Centre for fishermen in coastal plan**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/state-govt-to-see-relaxation-from-centre-for-fishermen-in-coastal-plan/articleshow/81768244.cms>

"The state government has decided to write to the Union environment ministry and the National Coastal Zone Management Authority (NCZMA) informing them that Goa has a peculiar situation where fishermen are not isolated in ‘fishermen only’ villages. As such, the state has decided to seek permission for developmental activities to be allowed in such coastal areas where fishermen reside in Goa as per the relaxation provided to fishermen villages in CRZ 2011 notification. “The Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) decided to write to the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and NCZMA that in view of the peculiar circumstances prevailing in Goa, where the location of the fishermen houses are not isolated in single wards or villages, other developmental activities permissible under CRZ Notification 2011 may be permitted in areas demarcated as fishing wards/villages the Coastal

Zone Management Plan (CZMP),” GCZMA has said in a decision, after discussing the issues raised by citizens pertaining to the draft CZMP for Goa. This relaxation to fishermen should reflect in the final notification of the CZMP, for which GCZMA will inform MoEF&CC and NCZMA. In the guidelines provided to states for preparation of the CZMP, in the CRZ areas, in the fishing villages, ‘common properties of the fishermen communities, fishing jetties, ice plants, fish drying platforms or area’s infrastructure facilities of fishing and local communities such as dispensaries, roads, schools, and the like shall be indicated on the cadastral scale map.’

States have also been told that in their CZMP detailed plans have to be made taking into consideration the long term expansion of these fishing villages like housing needs, facilities for sanitation, safety and disaster preparedness. “No developmental activities other than those listed shall be permitted in the areas between the hazard line and 500ms and 100ms of width of the creek on the landward side. The dwelling units of the local communities will not be relocated if the dwelling units are located on the seaward side of the hazard line,” the norms for CZMP preparation for fishing villages state. The Goa government has now sought these same relaxations for the state’s fishermen community, who are residing along the coast, even though they may not be isolated into specific fishing villages. As per the CZMP norms, the state government has to necessarily provide safeguards to the dwelling units of such fishermen located along the coast from natural disasters.

### **Goa: GCZMA recommends removal of port limit depiction from CZMP**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/GCZMA-recommends-removal-of-port-limit-depiction-from-CZMP/172840>

"Following apprehensions raised by the people that the Port Authority proposed to be constituted under Major Port Authorities Bill may acquire their land shown within port limits under the draft Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP), Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) has recommended removal of port limit depiction from the plan. GCZMA during its meeting held on March 18 decided to recommend to the Chennai-based National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM) to remove the depiction of port limits from the draft CZMP 2011 before submitting it to the National Coastal Zone Management Authority (NCZMA). “The Authority noted that it is not expressly specified in the guidelines to the CRZ Notification, 2011 that port limits should be depicted in the Draft CZMP,” state the minutes of meeting. NCSCM is of the view that as per the provision of the CRZ Notification the No Development Zone (NDZ) is not applicable within Port Limits. GCZMA at its meeting noted that NCSCM had sought notification of port limits from the Department of Environment and consequently, copies of notification of major port limits – Mormugao Port Trust including Betul, and of minor ports Panjim, Chapora, Tiracol, Sal and Talpona – were provided.

“NCSCM has shown the Port Limits in the draft CZMP maps and major and minor ports have both been provided a single colour code thereby creating confusion and doubt among the general public that all the area shown under port limits is major port ie MPT,” the Authority noted. “Numerous objections and suggestions have been received from the general public on this issue, including apprehensions that the Port Authority proposed to be constituted under Major Port Authorities Bill may acquire their land shown within port limits. Some local bodies have also expressed apprehensions regarding dilution or overlapping of their jurisdictions,” it pointed out further. Former GCZMA member and NIO scientist Dr Antonio Mascarenhas in an article on Herald, had said that since Mormugao is a major sea port, the draft CZMP 2021 specifies that large areas along the sea front and within the saline rivers will henceforth come under the jurisdiction of the port authority. As such, from Aguada to Cansaulim, and from Varca to Loliem in the south, the sea front will hereafter “belong” to and be classified as the property of Mormugao port. He had said that Raj Bhavan, Miramar beach, Mandovi river banks up to the tidal flats of Choraó beyond the bridge will be controlled by the port. In the Zuari river, the sea side slopes of Dona Paula including parts of NIO property, Siridao beach, areas upstream of the bridge, Cortalim, Sancoale, Chicalim bays, as is the case of Khariwado fishing enclave, the Sao Jacinto island would in totality fall under the purview of the port. The NDZ of Baina beach and the adjacent rocky cliffs are almost entirely under port limits. The Velsao-Cansaulim-Arossim coast, a linear strip of about 50 metres in width over the dune fields of the entire region is shown as limits of the port control

### **Goa: HC stays all proceeding on CZMP public hearings**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/HC-stays-all-proceeding-on-CZMP-public-hearings/172732>

"The High Court of Bombay at Goa has stayed all the proceedings pursuant to the public hearings on the Coastal Zone Management Plans held on March 7, till it examines the matter and hears the petitioners as well as the Goa government. The division bench comprising Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court, Dipankar Datta, and Justice Mahesh Sonak has also issued notices to the respondents, including the government, as it is hearing petitions filed by NGO Goa Foundation challenging the public hearings held on March 7. NGO Director Claude Alvares said that the High Court has stayed further proceedings in both South and North Goa public hearings on CZMPs and adjourned the matter for further hearing to April 6. The State government has been asked to reply by April 1 while the date of the rejoinder is April 5. During the hearing of a separate application earlier this month, the government had said that the public hearings on projects in the CRZ will be held only after the finalisation of the CZMP. In yet another plea held before March 7, the High Court had disposed of it as it sought adjourning the public hearing. Traditional Fishermen's Association and Goenchea Raponkarancho Ekvott had approached the high court seeking an order or direction to quash and set aside the public hearings. The petitioners had also sought to stay the public hearings till the time new dates, places and times of public hearings are notified afresh and that directions be issued to the government to first explain



the CZMPs to the people at the panchayat level, before going ahead with the hearings. The high court had then disposed of the petition granting liberty to the petitioners to approach NGT.

### **NOAA's Paul Doremus: Seafood aligns well with Biden's sustainability goals**

<https://www.seafoodsource.com/news/environment-sustainability/noaa-s-paul-doremus-seafood-aligns-well-with-biden-s-sustainability-goals>

"Senior officials from NOAA Fisheries speaking at the Seafood Expo North America Reconnect event on Thursday, 18 March, said U.S. President Joe Biden's emphasis on action on climate change could align well with support for the domestic seafood industry. The new administration has not even been in office for two month and still have several political appointments waiting to be confirmed. However, NOAA Fisheries Acting Assistant Administrator Paul Doremus told the audience numerous synergies exist between the fishing industry and climate interests in Biden's "building back better" resiliency plan. Doremus, who took over as the acting head of NOAA Fisheries in January, said seafood's attributes as a nutritional form of protein and of generally having a low carbon footprint make it appealing as an option for Biden's promotion of sustainable industries. "There's a really big place for seafood in the climate resilient food future that we're looking for," Doremus said. "That resilience extends to our entire food system, and a stronger place of seafood in that world will have a big impact on our overall climate resilience." Doremus said the Biden administration wants to have the commercial fishing industry engaged in talks about developing offshore wind, which the Biden administration is promoting as part of its plan to build a zero-carbon energy system. Doremus also talked about how the industry weathered the COVID-19 pandemic in the past year. He said both NOAA and the industry learned from the pandemic, noting specific weaknesses in the seafood supply chain, with a shortage of cold storage units noted.

"Folks had to modernize in a hurry," he said. "We needed to figure out how to shift product forms, change our processing and distribution systems, [and] open up new channels to consumers," he said. "So, these are all very positive developments, but a more resilient sector in the future would have greater diversity, shorter, more local supply chain, greater processing capacity – in the United States in particular – and more modernized processing and distribution channels." NOAA Fisheries has already produced a pair of reports on the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the fishing industry, and Doremus said another update will be issued in the early spring. Alexa Cole, director of NOAA Fisheries Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection, described how the agency is working to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing and the threat it poses to domestic fishermen's livelihoods. She said the agency and Biden administration are working with trade partners to hold bilateral and multilateral talks on the issue. The agency is also looking at developing predictive analytics that can identify potential indicators of IUU seafood products coming into the country, according to Cole. However, Cole said that there are no plans to expand the Seafood Import Monitoring

Program at this time to include additional species aside from the 13 already covered. “We're really focused on the effective implementation of the program as it exists right now,” Cole said.

### **Goa: Spare river Sal**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Edit/SPARE-RIVER-SAL/172628>

"It's high time we at least, think about this River Sal they call it now inland water No-88. My only request to the government is to spare this river which has fed lots of stomachs of the people living on the banks of this river. We do sustainable dredging but dredging not to dissolve the livelihoods of the people. This river is not for tourism or any maritime movement purpose but for livelihood. We get fresh fish for what our Assolna is famous for or else in coming days we will not see fresh fish in Assolna but the Karwar fish sold in the name of Assolna river fish. Let this river stay for peaceful calmness. When it comes to feeding stomach, this river knows best to...in our young days I remember suddenly we use to get news shell fish (Tisreo) at this part of river or oysters (Kalvam) found at this part of river and the list goes on of the blessings this river gave. Come the rainy season and the red waters of the mountains beside fill the water, and in that lifts the fishing activity. Be it the prawns hatchets of traditional fishing stakes and mullets (Shevte) catching in the river.

Lately some small scale tourism activities have been started in the river which includes boat rides for tourist and small parties of river cruises. These boats move along with the traditional fishermen, which causes a bit of disturbance in fishing with nets. As this is being done on a small scale, our fishermen have tolerated and have adjusted to these disturbances. My view is let this be until this, we do not want any harsher disturbances to disturb the ecosystem. Let the tourism stay until the small boats moving around with the fishermen's and not with high scale maritime activities of fish and game. The river is marked as MPT property on the CZMP plan. Our question is why? Is it to gain control on the river in the name of economic growth. I must say River Sal is not the place to think of development on national basis. This river is in itself a economy for the people leaving on the banks of the river.

Sometimes I feel our government is poor and does not have budget to do sustainable dredging of the river, so include the river as inland waterways of India so that budget can flow through the Sagarmala project to dredge it. We have failed to realise the dire consequences of handing this river to Central government. Today as I write this down, my small community guys do not know what the consequences will be if we keep quiet. That's why there is fewer crowd when asked to attend. They are busy fishing like true Goemkars keeping faith on anyone. They fail to realise the hidden snakes of our land who kept quiet when this river was sanctioned for nationalisation. A request to the Government of Goa, denotify this river, bring it under the government of Goa. Let us do sustainable dredging within the budget of our State, so that no one cheats us in the framing words of agreements. Let Goa be in the hands of us Goans. My only voice ...denotify this

River...let it be called River Sal and not NW-88.

### **Goa: Will CZMP be a death knell for coastal ecosystems?**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Edit/Will-CZMP-be-a-death-knell-for-Goa%E2%80%99s-coastal-ecosystems/172319>

"It is well established that the CRZ 2011 legislation was ratified to ensure livelihood security to the fisher communities and other local communities living in the coastal areas, to conserve and protect coastal stretches, its unique environment and its marine area and to promote development through sustainable manner based on scientific principles. The CRZ 2011 had also mandated that the CZMP for Goa be prepared. A set of detailed procedures were included for the design of coastal plans. The guidelines are explicit about CRZ classification. There is no mention whatsoever about the demarcation of port limits, as inserted in the new draft CZMP. The Major Ports Bill 2020 seems to be the sole reason for introducing port boundaries in the coastal plans. In the ports bill, section C, clause 25 states: "the board of each major port shall be entitled to create specific master plan in respect of any development or infrastructure established or proposed to be established within the port limits and the land appurtenant thereto and such master plan shall be independent of any local or State Government regulations of any authority whatsoever".

It further says: "provided that in case of any conflict between the master plan created by the board and any local authority, the master plan created by the board shall prevail". The draconian nature of this law is abundantly clear. Since Mormugao is major Indian sea port, the draft CZMP 2021 specifies that large areas along the sea front and within the saline rivers will henceforth come under the jurisdiction of the port authority. As such, from Aguada to Cansaulim, and from Varca to Loliem in the south, the sea front will hereafter "belong" to and be classified as the property of the Mormugao port. It is shocking that the Rajbhavan perched on the Cabo headland, along with two thirds of the promontory with dense forests is included within port limits. Similarly, Miramar beach, Mandovi river banks up to the tidal flats of Choraó beyond the bridge will be controlled by the port. In the Zuari river, the sea side slopes of Dona Paula including parts of NIO property, Siridao beach, areas upstream of the bridge, Cortalim, Sancoale, Chicalim bays, as is the case of Khariwado fishing enclave. The Sao Jacinto island would in totality fall under the purview of the port. The NDZ of Baina beach and the adjacent rocky cliffs are almost entirely under port limits.

The Velsao-Cansaulim-Arossim coast, a linear strip of about 50 metres in width over the dune fields of the entire region is shown as limits of the port control. The clout of port authority does not end. Again, from Varca to Cavelossim, it appears the future will be governed by the port command. The port boundary overshoots the beach and uniformly extends around 50 metres into the dune belt. The CZMP from Quitol to Cola coast present a strange scenario. The port limit extends up the rocky cliffs some 100 metres into the CRZ III, thus including the fish breeding

grounds and a long strip of hill top land as well. In Canacona, the port control seems to start just south of Agonda beach. The famous Palolem coast and adjacent hill tops are classified as CRZ II, whereas the offshore island, beach, bay and the boat parking strip all come within port limits. The boat parking area from Patnem to Rajbagh beach front is not only classified as CRZ II but also comes under port limit that also includes the Talpona estuary and mangrove shoals as well. Up to Loliem in Canacona, also a fish breeding strip, the entire rocky coast comprising pocket beaches and coves, the estuary of Galgibaga and the mangrove islands therein, and surprisingly, the turtle nesting site of Galbaga will also be controlled by the port. On some sandy coasts, the port limit coincides with the HTL. At other places, the line crosses the HTL, and is marked nearly 100 metres over the dune fields, and hence, superimposed into the NDZ. On rocky coasts and cliffs, port limit ends beyond HTL, and covers large strips of hill tops as noted in Cabo and many promontories in Canacona.

On riverine islands and shoals, the port has usurped the entire insular land mass. In an order dated August 31, 2017 by Ministry of Shipping, about Mormugao and Betul areas, it stipulates: “port limits shall include all wharves and other works made on behalf of the public for convenience for traffic of vessels, or for the improvement, maintenance or good government of the port and its approaches whether within or without high-water mark and, subject to any rights of private property therein, any portion of the shore or bank within fifty yards of high water mark”. Based on this definition, it is very confusing how mapping of port limits has followed different standards on the coasts of Goa. The CZMP 2021 presents a puzzling conflict. The CRZ 2011 is a national legislation dealing with conservation of coastal systems. The ports bill 2020 is also a national instrument meant for promoting maritime trade and commerce. Both are acts of parliament uniformly applicable to all littoral states. On the ground, CRZ extends from the hinterland, over the beach, down to the low tide line. In comparison, the port limits also include the beach, the dunes and cliffs. An overlap of two instruments is thus evident. Therefore, it is not known how coastal issues will be solved and which authority will control beach shacks for example. A coastal dweller is bound to get confused as port limits and CRZ boundaries impinge on each other. If finalised without necessary inputs from a scientific perspective, this CZMP will be the last nail in the coffin of woes of the battered coastal ecosystems of Goa.

#### **Goa: Survey of fishermen living near high tide line on cards**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/survey-of-fishermen-living-near-high-tide-line-on-cards/articleshow/81456214.cms>

"The fishery planning committee (FPC) constituted by the state government has been tasked to undertake a detailed survey of the CRZ belt within 100m to 200m from the high tide line to identify housing needs and land ownership of traditional fishing community. Individual proposals from the traditional fishermen for construction of dwelling units in the CRZ belt will be permitted on priority, based on the survey, according to director of environment and climate

change, Dashrath Redkar. The state government shall notify fishing villages wherein foreshore facilities, he said in a notification issued on Thursday. The committee has to complete the exercise in 60 days. The FPC is also mandated to study the genuine needs of the major fishing villages in terms of the facilities needed and prepare indicative plan for the same, duly superimposed on the respective cadastral scale village CRZ maps. The survey will help in identification of fishermen houses in fishing wards, existing fishing infrastructure, need for additional infrastructure, location of net mending sheds, canoes, etc, with the assistance of taluka level committees constituted by the department.

The FPC consists of representatives of GCZMA, directorate of fisheries and “three knowledgeable representative of the fishermen community,” the notification stated. The committee headed by the director of environment, has the following as members: Henrique D’Mello (Goenche Ramponkaracho Ekvott), Ashok Dhuri (Akhil Goa Kashtraiya Pagui Samaj), C Chodankar (Fishermen Cooperative Association) and representative of directorate of fisheries. FPC was constituted based on the recommendation of the state-level committee set up earlier for preparing a draft plan titled – Comprehensive plan for fishermen community living in CRZ. In the draft plan, the committee has recommended that the dwelling units of fishermen community can be considered for regularization as per Clause 6(d) of the CRZ Notification, 2011. It also recommended to regularise dwelling units located within 200 to 500m and to permit maximum possible extension of their units in accordance to the TCP regulations.

### **Goa: Fishermen group submits objections to draft coastal plan**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/fishermen-group-submits-objections-to-draft-coastal-plan/articleshow/81519017.cms>

"Goa's coastline is an ecologically sensitive area and needs to be protected by controlling and guarding against unscrupulous exploitation, Goenchea Raponkarancho Ekvott (GRE) on Monday. They submitted their objections on the Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) and sought a public hearing of the mapping to raise their issues. "The Goa government does not feel it important to consult the fishing community and its legitimate representatives, while formulating the most important piece of policy, meant to protect the coastal lands and secure our livelihoods," GRE general secretary, Olencio Simoes said . Goa has the smallest coastline of 105km and a land mass of 3,704 sqkm with many intervening tidal rivers with more than 40 estuarine, eight marine and about 90 riverine islands. GRE pointed out that fishermen's huts, fishing zones up to 12 nautical miles, demarcation of fish landings and canoe parking, net mending area, fish breeding area, beach stretches, among other aspects crucial for the fishermen must be highlighted in the plan.

They demanded that port limits and aquaculture be deleted in all fishing villages. In their letter, GRE pointed also out that public participation in regulatory decision-making is crucial in making environmental governance more robust and better informed. "Public hearing acts as a check on

the arbitrary exercise of powers, especially since it seeks to hear those who could be affected by changes in the eco-system. It thereby embodies the fundamental rule of fair procedure,” GRE said. They also pointed out that the change of venue from the Taleigao Community hall to Kala Academy, Campal just two days prior to the public hearing was a violation of the EIA notification 2006 which has laid down clear procedure to conduct a public hearing in Appendix IV.

### **Goa: Coastal body seeks info on notified fishing villages**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/coastal-body-seeks-info-on-notified-fishing-villages/articleshow/81488765.cms>

"The Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) has sought to know from the state directorate of environment and directorate of fisheries if any fishing villages have been notified in Goa under CRZ 2011 notification or under any state or central government act. The information has been sought in a case pertaining to 121 structures in CRZ area in Baina, for which demolition orders had been issued. The structures had been identified as per a report by the deputy collector for Mormugao. The owners of the structures had appealed against the demolition orders before the National Green Tribunal (NGT), stating that they were part of a fishing village. Accordingly, NGT told the GCZMA that it should have considered fishing villages when taking a decision. The fishermen argued before the GCZMA that the notices have been against traditional fishermen, all of whom have been in the business for generations and have fishing boats or canoes registered in their name. The fishermen said that the state coastal zone management plan (CZMP) is still in the process of being finalised and fishing villages will be demarcated in the plan. The CZMP will require structures of traditional fishermen to be protected. And so the fishermen from Baina asked the disposal of the cases for demolition at Baina may be kept on hold till the CZMP is finalised. The GCZMA accordingly sought information if there is any fishing village identified in Goa. The authority has also sought to know from the Mormugao municipality how long the area in Katem Baina, where the structures stand, is part of urban area. Owners of the structures had appealed against the demolition orders before the NGT, stating that they were part of a fishing village. Accordingly, NGT told the GCZMA that it should have considered fishing villages when taking a decision.

### **Goa: Panchayats understand riverine ecosystem better**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/Panchayats-understand-Goa%E2%80%99s-riverine-ecosystem-better-MLA/171928>

"Supporting all those who have opposed the draft Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP), Benaulim MLA Churchill Alemao on Saturday fully backed the seven panchayats in his constituency in their resolutions against the draft plan which exposed several anomalies. Churchill said the panchayats from Cavelossim, Carmona, Orlim, Varca, Benaulim, Colva and



Seraulim have in one voice voiced their anger at the proposal which affects their future. "It is the panchayats that understand better the relation between the people and its land. It is the village panchayats that understand Goa's riverine ecosystem better than a group sitting in Chennai," Churchill said. "The unique, age-old relationship between the people and the land is fully understood by the people and as such the plan cannot be trusted on the villagers arbitrarily in just 30 days, ignoring the hundreds of blunders in the plans which have been identified by the locals. The plan was to be put in 2013 but it dragged on for eight years now albeit with ulterior motives," he added. "There are villages missing from the draft plan. Sand dunes and fish mending areas have not been mentioned and the fishing wards marked in some cases are beyond 500 metres from the coast.

How can a fisherman drag his boat far beyond 500 metres in the water each day? Fishermen live in the water and not 500 metres away. These mistakes are a reflection that the ground realities and the way of life of rural Goans have been totally ignored. It is shocking that these mistakes have now been dumped onto the people," he charged. "People did not get these plans on time. Copies of the draft have reached in the last days of February, thus giving no time for an appropriate response. The plans were not explained to the villagers. Fishermen, agricultural bodies, comunidades, khazan land groups were not taken into confidence. And worse now, people will get just five minutes to raise objections and genuine concerns. This is not people's participation. People need to know the eight-year delay. And now, we come with an anti-people plan which my panchayats have realised has to be fought tooth and nail. The faulty plan has to be scrapped as 60 days need to be given for the receipt of suggestions and objections. I salute all my panchayats for not falling in line as it affects their very future of existence. These are very genuine and serious protests as Goa's future is at stake," he said. "If the proposed draft is implemented then villagers, panchayats will lose control over the village land and rivers. There are several mistakes in the draft and what people are asking are rectifications that are genuine. The river banks are not properties of any port but they belong to local communities, fishermen since times gone by. The entire riverbank needs to be demarcated as a fishing village and the Port Limit needs to be removed. The khazan land and dry fields are owned by the villagers. The hazard line has been marked arbitrarily and needs to be rectified in consultation with the villagers and the panchayats," he demanded

### **Goa: App service to bring diesel to doorstep**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/app-service-to-bring-diesel-to-doorstep-in-go/articleshow/81439422.cms>

"Farmers, fishermen, industries and commercial entities will no longer need to queue up at fuel stations to purchase diesel for machinery and vessels. The fuel can now be delivered to the doorstep in Goa. Humsafar, an app-based diesel delivery service provider, in partnership with Indian Oil, has launched its services in Goa and along the Konkan coastal belt. Users with

requirements for as little as 20 litres can avail Humsafar's services. Diesel will be delivered at the market rate and at no additional delivery charges. Orders exceeding 2,500 litres will require the user to hold a Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) licence for storage. Humsafar will allow users to place orders on their phones and choose the desired quantity and delivery location. Within eight hours, the fuel will be delivered to the location and the diesel transferred through mobile fuel dispensers. Once they place an order, customers can track the movement of the fuel bowzers.

"We've used technology to make diesel delivery as hassle-free as possible. We have live tracking and automated billing features with assured quantity and quality. The mobile fuel dispenser will remain locked till it reaches the destination ensuring there is no wastage or pilferage," Humsafar's director of operations Dilpreet Sadana said. The doorstep diesel delivery service was launched in South Goa by the chief divisional retail sales manager of Indian Oil. The oil major said that the diesel delivery service will be available to industries, farmers, housing societies, hotels, hospitals, shipping lines, ship building, tourism and fishing boats, IT park, and other industries that requires diesel for static machinery, educational institutes and heavy earth moving equipment. Areas serviceable in and around Goa will include Panaji, Pernem, Ponda, Quepem, Canacona, Mormugao, Dharbandora, Margao, Bardez and Mapusa. The delivery vehicles, known as fuel bowzers, have been certified by PESO. It saves them the hassle of transporting large amounts of diesel from the petrol stations to their desired location. This also ensures that diesel is now being transported legally and most importantly, in a safe manner at the hands of experts," said Sanya Goel, director and founder of Humsafar.

### **Goa: Govt fixes registration fees for various type of fishermen**

<https://www.heralddgoa.in/Goa/Govt-fixes-registration-fees-for-various-type-of-fishermen/171836>

"The Directorate of Fisheries has issued an order on Thursday via an official gazette, wherein the amount of fees to be paid by various fishermen upon their registration, were announced. "Administrative approval of government is hereby accorded to permit and register the individual fishermen to transport their fish catch within the State or outside the State," said the order of the Fisheries Department, which gave out the breakup of these fees. For trawler/purse-seiner fishing vessels that are under 15 metres in size, the registration fees per vessel per season is Rs 2,000. Similarly, for trawler fishing vessels between the size of 15 to 18 metres, the fee is Rs 3,000. Then for purse-seiner/trawler-cum-purse-seiner fishing vessels that are between the size of 15 and 18 metres is Rs 5,000. For trawler/purse-seiner fishing vessels that are between the size of 18 and 20 metres, the fee is Rs 8,000. For trawler/purse-seiner fishing vessels above the size of 20 metres, it is Rs 10,000. Finally, the fee for a canoe owner/ramponkar is Rs 1,000. The order was issued by Shamila Monteiro, Director and Joint Secretary of Fisheries Department.

### **Goa: GCZMA urged to reject draft plan**

<https://www.heralldgoa.in/Goa/GCZMA-urged-to-reject-draft-plan/172009>

"St Andre MLA Francis Silveira has urged the Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) to reject the Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) and to delete the legend 'Port Limits' shown extended in Zuari River from Agassaim to Nauxi in the plan. Silveira has also requested the GCZMA to consider all the suggestions and objections made by the seven village panchayats of Sant Andre constituency and to act accordingly. Silveira, who demanded re-hearing of public consultation on CZMP, said that the primary objective of the villagers is to safeguard and to ensure the livelihood and security of fishermen and other traditional communities living along the coastal area. Silveira said that seven village panchayats of Sant Andre constituency have direct link to the coastline of Zuari River and that traditional fishermen, toddy tappers and farmers are living along the bank of the river.

### **Goa: Public hearing on CZMP – A Farce!**

<https://www.heralldgoa.in/Review/Public-hearing-on-CZMP-%E2%80%93-A-FARCE/171904>

"Goa is endowed with 105 km coastline and nine rivers. Goa desperately needs a Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) to demarcate the high tide line, low tide line, sand dunes, fishing areas, fish/shell fish breeding areas, turtle breeding sites, mangroves, salt pans, salt marshes, water bodies, existing settlements and structures and so much more and then plan for the future. With six of our rivers taken over by the Centre under the National Waterways Act, 2016 and with the Major Port Authority Bill 2020 extending port limits to large areas of Goa, the future of people's control over their natural resources and living in harmony with nature, does look bleak. We do have a Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification issued on January 6, 2011, which lays down guidelines for the States to prepare such CZMPs. This is the first time the CZMP is being done. The objective of a CZMP is clearly stated inter alia to ensure livelihood security to fisher-people; to conserve and protect the coastal/river stretches; promote development in a sustainable manner and plan taking into consideration natural hazards and rising sea levels etc. Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) was to get this done within two years. So latest the plans were to be ready by 2013. However, the Goa government slumbered and awoke only when in 2018, one Mehdad & another filed a petition before the National Green Tribunal (NGT) praying that this exercise be completed. The job was entrusted to the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM) based in Chennai. Yet, the government could not get its act together.

Time after time they sought adjournments and NGT extended its deadlines while recording the "continued failure" on the part of State of Goa. NGT in its order dated 27/11/2020 while observing Goa's "huge unexplained delay" in finalising the CZMP granted time till January 31,

2021 as a last resort, subject to the condition that the concerned Secretary of the State of Goa will not be able to draw his salary from 1/2/2021 if there is any default, till compliance”. This stoppage of salary made the mare go. Sometime in 2019, the draft CZMP was submitted by NCSCM, however, it was so shoddy and inaccurate that public uproar forced the government to withdraw the same and NCSCM was to prepare new plans. Thus NCSCM hurriedly cobbled together data and finished the plan and sent it to GCZMA on January 30 this year. Now this plan has to be approved by stakeholders through a public hearing as mandated by law. So a public hearing was immediately announced to be held on March 7, 2021 for taking objections to the CZMP as submitted. The mandatory 60 days time to peruse the plans was not even granted. The concerned stakeholders and NGOs did approach the High Court to stay the public hearing.

The government got a shot in the arm when the High Court refused to stay the public hearing and directed the petitioners to approach NGT for relief. In foisting a public hearing hurriedly on the people of Goa to cover up their gross failures and delay, the government has failed to gauge the angst and deep anguish of the people, as village after village is waking up to the bitter reality that the CZMP does not reflect the ground reality of their village. The public notice published in the local dailies on January 31, 2021 itself is flawed. The villages of St Jacinto Island, (Mormugao), Tivrem (Ponda), Maulingem (Sanguem), Cavlim, Corjuem, Panolem, (Bardez), Morombi o Pequeno, Morombi o Grande (Tiswadi), etc, are not mentioned in the list of villages. The plan for Colva for example has problems galore – sand dunes, water bodies, fish net mending areas, beach houses not shown. Over 100 people from St Jacinto Island held a press conference when they realised that their houses, chapel and heritage structures did not figure on the plan. In village after village the same gaffes are surfacing. This can only happen if the NCSCM, appointed by the government, based in Chennai did not consult the local stakeholders at all and obviously did slip shod work, relying on government data and met some government authorities. The local panchayats were neither met or consulted, neither were the fishermen’s associations, the shack owners associations, the khazan tenant associations or the comunidade representatives. Some of the plans were uploaded on the website but even here they could not get it right. The website was not working for some days and people could not access the maps, and many village maps were not yet uploaded till a week ago.

A RTI disclosed that panchayats received the physical copies of the maps as late as February 26, 2021. So the people could not access the maps and where the panchayats had received the maps they didn’t have the expertise to read/understand the maps. It is interesting to note that of the 28 objections to the plans received by GCZMA, the panchayats were largely seeking explanation of the plans to be able to register their objections. That is what GCZMA should have done anyway. Map reading is complex. One has to understand to read legends and various terms like high tide line, hazard line, port limits. The plea of the people was simple – send experts to the panchayats and explain the plan to us. Lakhs of people in Goa depended for their livelihood on the coastline and rivers that traverse through Goa. The people want the plans, as is evident that without waiting for the government, 126 panchayats sought the help of experts and got this massive

mapping exercise completed and submitted to all authorities. This is indeed a commendable feat! Yet these plans were ignored.

It is the people who live off their lands that have innate knowledge of their environment. NCSCM officials sitting in their armchairs in far away Chennai would scarcely know the different types of fishing being done in Goa. There are the fishermen locally known as ‘Kharis’ who are registered with the Fisheries Department, fishermen who fish using ‘futani’, ‘kobulem’, ‘katali’, ‘Onna’ – they are the ones who know the tides, the ebb and outflow at the manus (sluice gates); what kind of bait to use for catching what fish; what net size; how much of shell fish to harvest and where. If the villagers can prepare their detailed plans in a short time, it is difficult to fathom what took GCZMA all these years – with all the expertise and machinery at their hands. Now the government wishes to have a farcical public hearing in one day for 178 villages and eight municipalities which come under the CRZ notification. The CZMP is a major exercise that has to be done well. The maps will be finally cleared by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change. That will become the law. If ‘port limits’ are shown in the khazans, well, the government can say ‘sorry, get out, you cannot catch your fish here - this is the Port limits’. If the sand dunes are not marked they will be destroyed by hoteliers trying to build as close to the water as possible.

If the ‘gayre’ fresh water ponds which hold the saline water from the sea are not shown, they will be buried and salinity in the village wells will increase. If the drainages from the coast are not shown, it will lead to flooding of the villages which lie close to the coast. The coastal ecosystem as well as the intricate khazan system with its terraced bunds and sluice gates is a marvel of engineering which has been preserved for centuries. Every single person living in Goa has a stake in proper plans being submitted. People are much more aware about climate change and protecting their environment for the future. So better late than never, they are trying to save whatever is still left - and the government should help them in this process. However, sadly, instead of acknowledging their contribution, they are labelled as ‘secessionist’, ‘trouble makers’ and ‘blocks to development’. Goa is a blessed State – endowed as it with varied topography. We have dolphins and river otters that frolic in our rivers, the Olive Ridley turtles that visit Morjim and Canacona, rare corals and window pane oysters, shell fish that breed only in mangroves, healing springs, and so much more. Justice Gautam S Patel warmed the cockles of every Goan heart when he recognised this in a judgement stating: “Goa’s greatest asset is its environment and ecology – its rivers and riverbanks, its beaches, its lakes and clear streams, its dense forests, its low hills and fertile fields, its boulders and even trees shrouded with moss and vines and lichen in the rains, its ridiculously brilliant sunsets...” and concluded by saying, “this is a land truly worth fighting for!”

The public hearing must be held. This is mandated by law. It is not at the whims or fancies of the authorities. For a public consultation to be effective and a participative one, the first requisite is knowledge of the plans. If this itself is lacking then the public hearing will be a sham... a farce

just to comply with the law and get done with it. The importance of a public hearing is endorsed by the Supreme Court in a judgement of *Hanuman Laxman Aroskar vs Union of India* by stating: “Public consultation is a process by which the concerns of the local affected persons and others who have a plausible stake in the environmental impacts of the project or activity are ascertained with a view to take into account all the material concerns in the project or activity design as appropriate. Public consultations involves a process of confidence building by giving an important role to those who have a plausible stake. It recognises that apart from the knowledge that is provide by science and technology, local communities have an innate knowledge of the environment... by recognizing that they are significant stakeholders, the consultation process seeks to preserve participation as an important facet of governance based on the rule of law.” The judgment ends by saying that public consultation cannot be reduced to a “mere incantation or procedural formality which has to be completed to move on to the next stage”. However, the government is making every attempt to dissuade participation.

They have fixed the public consultation on the same day at the same time in both districts. People who have interests in both districts, scientists, experts have to choose one place to put forth their objections, thus effectively shutting them out from filing objections. One of the major stakeholders in the CZMP are the comunidade representatives. The government has fixed a meeting for the delegates of comunidades on the same day, again preventing an important stakeholder from attending the hearing. These are COVID pandemic times. The SOPs for mass attendance are still in place. Large gatherings are still a threat. More so elderly and seniors are still afraid to travel long distances by bus. Now if their livelihood is at stake, they have to make the bus journey from Canacona and reach Margao before 10 am – if they wish to participate and register their names to lodge their objections as the public notice states that registration has to be done before 11 am at the venue. Besides, Section 144 prohibiting gathering of more than four persons is still in place in Goa. The latest direction for the public hearing is granting five minutes per person to speak. For the public hearing to be fair and effective, every panchayat should have received a CZMP copy well in advance. All maps should have to be uploaded. Government officials/experts should have explained the maps to the people at the panchayat level. This is not one project but a plan for entire Goa. It cannot be held only in one district but at every panchayat to be truly fair, participative and effective.

The government has the data and reports. The Dr Simon D’Souza committees on Fisheries and Khazans; the numerous studies by the National Institute of Oceanography( NIO), Dr Antonio Mascarenhas’s plan on sand dune rejuvenation, studies by various NGOs having expertise in coastal conservation are available. Recently the massive coral bleaching of coral reefs around Grand Island were sought to be rejuvenated by a meticulous process of coral transplantation. Ingole, who co-authored a research paper on corals said that Goa is lucky to have a coral patch very close to the coast and should utilise this natural asset judiciously by protecting and preserving it. Protecting Goa’s corals should have been part of the plan. It needed Venkat Charloo, a trustee of “Coastal Impact” a voluntary organisation, to save the corals and 100 fish



species in the area. It needed Puja Mitra of 'Terra Conscious' to doggedly push for saving Goa's dolphins. It needed a group of otter lovers like Katrina Fernandes and Kshitig Garg to relocate in Chorao to save the shy river otters who have staged a comeback. It needed Arun Madgaonkar to persistently fight the sand mafia to protect our river banks from collapsing. It needed Judith Almeida to approach the NGT to save the sand dunes in her village. So many more green activists – the Goa Foundation, Rainbow Warriors, Goa Green Brigade – are fighting with all their breath and limited resources to save Goa for future generations. We need a plan and urgently – one that recognises people's rights and livelihood not that of capitalists who see the coasts and river banks as areas to be plundered for profit and gain.

### **Goa: India's first fisheries hub to come up, boosting state's presence in global markets**

<https://www.knocksense.com/goa/fisheries-hub-in-go-to-boost-the-states-presence-in-the-global-market>

"Edged by a flourishing coastline and housing multiple water bodies, Goa is home to a thriving industry of fishing and allied activities. With aims to further boost pisciculture and affiliated business activities in the state, Goa would be soon gifted with a fisheries hub. Reportedly, this project with investments worth Rs.400 crores from the central government, was recently announced by the Union Fisheries Minister. With objectives to increase employment & earnings As per reports, a fund of Rs.41 crores has been already assigned for this scheme under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana. Reportedly, the minister mentioned that the state with ample water resources enfolds the capacity of the largest fish production in the country. He further added that the introduction of 30 landing centres and jetties for fishing boats is one of the key developments under this project. The latest plans are also inclusive of the establishment of a seaweed and exquisite fish complex to propel the business of the state's presence in national and international markets.

While Indonesia and China are the top players in this multi-dollar global industry, Goa stands a chance to grab a remarkable proportion in the market. Additionally, this would also lead to a hike in employment opportunities and earnings of the local people in this industry. Multiple facilities to improve the business activities in the state Other provisions of the project talk about enhancing the Margao wholesale market, specialised facilities for women and retail fish market, amongst other things. It is also proposed that technical assistance would be utilized to spot areas inhabited by larger quantities of fish. Reportedly, the Minister asserted that a new fishing harbour will be developed at Vasco Bay to ease the prevailing difficulties in the region. In addition to this, Sagar Mitras in 70 villages will be trained to spread information amongst the rural population dependent on fishing. Another notable part of the announcements, is the proposal to set up a diagnosis referral lab for livestock, to be developed at a cost of Rs.10 crores. When the government attempts to amplify the most prominent industry at the local level, the economic progress of the region stands assured. With the latest interventions, it can be expected

that Goa may soon evolve as a busy market addressing the demands of the fishing industry at domestic and global levels.

### **Goa: Benaulim fishermen up in arms over Coastal Plan**

<https://www.thegoan.net/goa-news/%EF%BB%BFbenaulim-fishermen-up-in-arms-over-coastal-plan/66258.html>

"Coastal Salcete and the traditional fishermen are up in arms against the Coastal Zone Management Plan for the village as these plans have shown fishing wards not along the coastal but in the interior of the villages. The marking of the River Sal as Port Limits also came in for strong opposition at an awareness programme held at Benaulim on Friday evening. A fisherman from Colva Thomas Rodrigues pointed out that the fishing ward marked in the village is not on the shore, but inside the village around two kms away from the coastal. He further said what was proposed by the village panchayat after consultations with the villagers and stake holders have not been shown in the CZMP. "For whom is this plan prepared? We will show to the government on the day of hearing on March 7", he added. Orlim Sarpanch Tamica Da Silva said the CZMP makes no mention of the St Michael Church and have not shown houses on the plan. The Sarpanch demanded that the government should remove the Port limits from the Plan, further demanding that the plan should also show the old houses.

### **Cargill outlines ambitious carbon reduction goals for aquaculture**

<https://thefishsite.com/articles/cargill-outlines-ambitious-carbon-reduction-goals-for-aquaculture>

"A new initiative that aims to help aquaculture operators reduce their carbon footprints has been launched by Cargill today. Called SeaFurther Sustainability, it aims to save two billion kilograms of CO2 by 2030, which is the equivalent of removing more than 400,000 cars from the road. ""With SeaFurther Sustainability we are charting a new bold course, one that makes aquaculture better for our planet,"" said Pilar Cruz, president and group leader for Cargill Aqua Nutrition. ""Seafood consumption is rising globally. We want to meet that demand; increasing production while decreasing environmental impact. By working closely with farmers to source sustainable ingredients, improve farm productivity and ensure fish welfare, Cargill is redefining aquaculture's role in helping the world thrive."" The programme will start with salmon farmers. ""We are excited to see a clear commitment from Cargill that is focused on the needs to reduce the environmental footprint of salmon,"" said Stian Amble, biology and quality advisor at Nova Sea. ""Delivering more sustainable aquaculture will require the value chain to align on key goals and work together to deliver on them. By agreeing on the value of the changes that are required, we can deliver true transformation to become more sustainable more quickly and at greater

scale."" Through SeaFurther Sustainability, Cargill aims to reduce the footprint of farmed salmon 30 percent by 2030. Today, feed represents up to 90 percent of a salmon's environmental footprint. To reduce this climate impact the initiative is focused on: -- Working closely with suppliers to grow responsibly-sourced ingredients and supply chains while finding ways to reuse by-products, like fish trimmings, that would normally be discarded.

The company also strives to identify and source novel ingredients that create even more sustainable feed, helping customers and partners achieve shared sustainability goals. -- Utilising its extensive aquaculture feed experience, it aims to help farmers increase efficiency and maximise production while decreasing their impact on the planet. -- Safeguarding the welfare of farmed fish by providing feeds that protect and promote animal health, reducing the use of resources and the impact on the ocean at large. While the company is starting with salmon, SeaFurther will expand, with an intent to add other species, like shrimp, in the near future. SeaFurther joins a range of Cargill's strategic partnerships, investments, research and technologies aimed at protecting oceans. The company is involved in plans to reduce the environmental impact of global bulk shipping in line with the International Maritime Organization's target to decarbonise shipping by at least 50 percent by 2050. ""The health of the world's salmon is ultimately linked to the health of our oceans,"" said Jan Dieleman, president of Cargill's ocean transportation business. ""Large-scale carbon reduction requires commitment across the global supply chain and we're working with partners to develop solutions to reduce our impact on the environment. As one of the world's largest vessel charterers, Cargill continues its push to reduce emissions and raise industry standards."" Since the end of 2019, the company has installed around \$3 million of energy saving equipment onboard some of its long-term charter vessels. Cargill is also a strategic partner of ZeroNorth, a tech start-up that provides digital tools that improve vessel performance and reduce fuel consumption. In 2020, Cargill partnered with BAR Technologies to bring their WindWings - large, solid wing sails that measure up to 45 metres in height - to the deck of bulk cargo ships to harness the power of the wind and reduce CO2 emissions by as much as 30 percent. ""Cargill has an opportunity to drive real, positive climate impact for people and the planet,"" said Cruz. ""With our global footprint and view across supply chains, sustainable oceans and sustainable seafood can become a reality if we are all in, partnering with farmers, working across the industry and pulling in the same direction.""

### **Goa: For the protection of the fishing community**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Review/For-the-protection-of-the-fishing-community/171597>

"A State committee was formed last year for the preparation of a draft comprehensive plan for the fishermen community living in CRZ areas. The Committee examined various documents provided by concerned govt departments and research papers on the subject matter. Further, the Committee also undertook site visits and held several meetings to deliberate on the

requirements of the fishermen community living in the CRZ areas of the State. They have summarised the present status of fisheries in Goa and what needs to be done within the notification of the CRZ Notification 2011. They also observed how the location of the fishing community makes them vulnerable to coastal hazards such as erosion, shoreline changes, flash floods and cyclonic weather. The Committee suggested how the fishing community's vulnerability to such hazards can be minimised by proper adoptive and preventive measures. This 11-member committee headed by its Chairman and expert Dr Simon D'Souza recently submitted its exhaustive report to the government, which is supposed to be considered for the draft Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP).

However, stakeholders complain that these recommendations, which should have been incorporated in the draft CZMP, are not reflected in the same. Here are some of the committee's recommendations

- 1) Undisturbed beach areas shall be reserved for fish landing, 'canoe/boat' parking and traditional ""ramponn"" fishing activity on shore. Due to the continuous expansion of tourism activities, the beaches and areas along the coast of the beach are being slowly occupied for tourism related ""structures/facilities"". At times, there is no place for fishermen to land or berth their canoes on the beach as the shack, water sports operators and sub-bathing chairs continuously use the whole stretch for their business. Similarly, traditional fishermen who operate the ""ramponn"", a very long net installed between the Low Tide Line (LTL) and High Tide Line (HTL) to catch fish, require a large undisturbed part of the beach for their regular operation. On busy beaches (viz, Calangute, Candolim, Baga, Anjuna, Colva and Palolem) during the peak tourism season, conflicts arise between the local fishermen and tourism stakeholders for space on the beach. It is therefore necessary on such busy beaches, beyond which the tourism stakeholders should not be allowed to operate. The rest of the area on the beaches shall be kept free for the local fishing community to conduct their traditional chores related to fishing.
- 2) As per the claim of the fishing community living in CRZ areas of Goa, several of their dwelling units permissible as per the provisions of erstwhile CRZ Notification of 1991 are yet to be regularised. Such dwelling units can be considered for recommendation under Clause 6 (d) of CRZ 2011 notification. Accordingly, it is recommended that the GCZMA may conduct a 'fishing-ward' wise survey of such dwelling units, which were permissible under CRZ 1991 Notification and are yet to be regularised. Consequently, eligible dwelling units may be regularised on a case-by-case basis as per the above cited Clause and as provided under Clauses 8 III A (ii) (first part) and 8 III B (vii) & (ix) of the CRZ 2011 notification. In the process, it is imperative to check the genuineness of each case and ensure that such dwelling units; due for regularisation and are not used for any commercial activity and are not sold or transferred to non-traditional coastal community. In such cases, where such un-regularised dwelling units are located within 200 m to 500 m from the HTL line, the provisions of Clause 8 III b of CRZ 2011 Notification may be used to allow maximum possible extension of their units in accordance with the prevailing TCP regulations.
- 3) Clause 8 III A (ii) of CRZ 2011 Notification permits 'construction/reconstruction' of dwelling units of traditional coastal communities including

fisher-folk between 100 m and 200 m from the HTL along the seafront in accordance with a comprehensive plan (CZMP plan) prepared by the State government in consultation with the traditional coastal communities including fisher-folk and incorporating the necessary Disaster Management Plan (DMP), sanitation and recommended by the GCZMA to NCZMA for approval by MOEF& CC. As per the Draft Goa CZMP prepared by the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), there are 186 fishing wards falling within or adjacent to the CRZ area where the fishing activities are carried out in the State of Goa. A 100m buffer line has been drawn from HTL to the landward side in case of fishing wards near the sea coast to facilitate the above stated special consideration available for the Fishing Community in Goa. A detailed survey of the said CRZ belt falling within 100 to 200 m of the HTL shall be conducted to identify both the housing needs and land ownership of the traditional fishing community living therein. The planning strategy to be followed to allow construction of dwelling units in this belt may be restricted to the principle adopted in the CRZ Regulations and also reiterated in the Report on ""Carrying Capacity of Beaches of Goa for Providing Shacks and Other Temporary Seasonal Structures in Private Areas"" prepared for the GCZMA by the NCSCM (Chennai) in December, 2016.

Accordingly, assuming that the traditional 'coastal/fishermen' communities own developable plots within the CRZ belt of 100 m to 200 m of HTL (on landward side), it is recommended that the "construction/reconstruction" of proposed dwelling units shall be permitted, provided that these: (i) Are within the ambit of traditional rights and customary uses (such as fishing villages and 'goothans') (ii) Have a maximum FSI of 0.50 with ground coverage limited to 40%. (iii) Are restricted to two floors (ground plus one) with overall height of the structure not exceeding 9 m (i.e, the vertical distance measured from the ground level at the base of the outside wall to the highest ridge of the roof). (iv) Are not used for any commercial activity (v) Are not sold or transferred to non-traditional coastal community. Based on the results of the survey to be carried out and the construction norms, recommended herein above, a Comprehensive Plan (CP) for the proposed dwelling units of traditional fishermen in this CRZ belt (100 m to 200 m of HTL, on the landward side) shall be prepared and officially approved. Specific proposals for construction of dwelling units as per the said norms shall be then promptly approved (on a case-by-case basis) in accordance to the said CP. 4) Clause 8 III A (III) (I) of CRZ 2011 Notification permits facilities for local fishing communities such as fish drying yards, auction halls, net mending yards, traditional boat building yards, ice plants, ice crushing units, ice storage, fish curing facilities, jetties and the like, within the 'No Development Zone' (NDZ) of CRZ III (i.e, belt of 200 m from HTL, on landward side). Further, Clause 8 V3 (i) permits the State government to notify the fishing villages wherein all such foreshore facilities required for fishing and allied activities, may be permitted by the concerned Gram panchayat in CRZ area. A Fishery Planning Committee (FPC) comprising representatives of GCZMA, Directorate of Fisheries and three knowledgeable representatives of Fishermen Community may study the genuine need of such facilities in major fishing villages and prepare an indicative Plan (IP) for the same duly

superimposed on respective Cadastral Scale Village CRZ Plans. These may be notified village wise for prompt action by the concerned village panchayats. The Department of Fisheries has identified a number of feasible sites wherein the above infrastructure can be developed. The FPC may examine the proposed sites in the village and recommend developing the facilities promptly that are genuinely needed to the fishermen community. 5) Sanitary facilities such as adequate water supply, community toilets, sewage 'treatment 'disposal', wash rooms and dispensaries with first aid facility are necessary for the welfare of the fishing community, as near the shore as possible. In CRZ III areas, the CRZ 2011 Notification under Clause 8 III A (iii) (j), (K) and Clause 8 III B (viii) permits the establishment of such facilities within ("HTL to 200 m" on sea shore/ "HTL to max of 100 m" along tidal water bodies) and ("200 m to 500 m" belts along the sea shore), respectively. It is recommended that such facilities, as far as possible be provided as components of Auction Hall, Fish Market 'and/or' Community Toilet. Public Rain Shelters and minor approach pathways are also permissible in these CRZ belts under the same Clauses. Fishing "boats/ trawlers" and other mechanical gear require "storage/supply" of petroleum products within the CRZ to maintain and run the same.

This is permissible vide Clause 8 III A (iii) (e) and Clause 8 III B (ii) of CRZ Notification (2011) in the above cited CRZ belts. The Fishing "village/ward" wise requirements of the above mentioned facilities including Garbage Collection and Disposal services shall also be determined by the said FPC and presented to the GCZMA for speedy action through the respective panchayats. 6) The FPC in consultation with the Goa New & Renewable Energy Development Agency shall implement a new scheme to provide Solar Photo-Voltaic lighting for common spaces and Solar Thermal Water Heating systems for houses within the wards of fishing community. 7) Government shall plan the establishment of Garden cum Recreational Area, wherever possible, in the NDZ of CRZ III area for the benefit of local traditional fishing communities. This is permitted under Clause 8 III A (iii) (a) of the CRZ 2011 notification. 8) For a total number of 70 fishing villages (37 South/33 North)\* and 2,844 fishing crafts (904 mechanised/1669 motorized/balance non-motorized), the State has 33\* Landing Centres. Presently, Seven Jetties (Major: Chapora, Malim, Cortalim, Khariwada, Cutbona & Talpona) and 33 Ramps cater to the needs of the said fleet. The FPC may examine the current status to assess the need for additional such facilities and suggest locations for the same along the coastline and estuarine banks. 9) As per the Census of 2010, Goa had a fishermen population of 2189 families (801 North/ 1388 South) with a total of 10,545 persons. Accordingly, the average number of fishing families and number of persons per village work out to 56 and 270 respectively. The average family size is 4.08 members. Population wise, the largest village is Betul, Bapsora (Salcete) with 761 persons (228 active) and the smallest is Mandrem with 37 persons (7 active). It is important to note that the large villages such as Calangute, Candolim and Colva, which have maximum tourism activity, have relatively lesser populations of fishermen. The FPC may examine to find out if this is the consequence of either the fishermen moving away from their traditional occupation, sub-letting their work to migrant workers or both. This will also influence



the housing needs of the local fishing community to accommodate their workers. 10) The demand for shellfish is high in Goa. However, there is a threat of decline in the shellfish found in the wild due to over exploitation, pollution or encroachment. Further most of the breeding sites are continuously being disturbed for tourism related activities. Thus in order to protect these sites from anthropogenic influence, the Directorate of Fisheries has identified breeding zones of shell fish across Goa and these shall be earmarked.

### **India: National fishworkers forum firm in opposing cage fishing planned along 200 sq km of Goa coast**

<https://www.thegoan.net/goa-news/national-fishworkers%E2%80%99forum-firm-in-opposing-cage-fishing-planned-along-200-sq-km-of-goa-coast/66304.html?fbclid=IwAR1x02roCm-I9AJbLC26nU5CkcbQFnxN6dEkQBQhKnpzSNFFCrP8R-jGQgg>

"While opposing the Sagarmala project planned across the country, and lodging its objection to the new ports proposed to be built along the country's coast, the National Fishworkers Forum (NFF) has further resolved to oppose tooth and nail cage fishing planned along the 200 sq km of Goa coast. Newly-elected NFF General Secretary Olencio Simoes has asserted that the Rs 400 crore fishing package plan for Goa by the Union Minister is not for the Goan fishermen, but for the fish farmers, who will be mostly industrialists. The General Body of National Fishworkers' Forum being held here on Saturday elected Olencio Simoes as the new General Secretary of the Forum. As a young leader belonging to Goa, working for the fishworker community since more than a decade, the Forum believes that he will take forward the legacy of earlier leaders and will take the work of the organisation to new heights. The members elected Jackson Pollayil from Kerala Swathanthra Matsya Thozhilali Federation, as the Treasurer of NFF. Ramakrishna Tandel from Maharashtra Machimar Kriti Samiti has been elected as the Vice President of NFF.

The Forum discussed in detail regarding the issues affecting the fish workers across the country and has decided to hold consultations across the communities across India, mobilising the stakeholders and making them aware of how various new policies will affect their lives and livelihood. It was observed that the new policies are leading a path towards occupying the coast and its resources, which will in a way, dispossess the fish workers from their habitations. "National Fishworkers' Forum will be making efforts towards creating a Coastal Rights Bill similar to that of the Forest Rights Act, which intends to protect the rights of the fish workers and coastal ecology," informed NFF Chairperson Narendra R Patil. He said the NFF has passed resolution against all Sagarmala plans planned across India and opposed all new ports to be built across India, which will be detrimental to the fish workers. "It has been also decided to look at

the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana at all the coastal states. The draft new Blue Economy Policy 2020, has once again been brought without any consultations with the community and have given far less time to respond apart from no translations in local languages. Members from 8 coastal states attended the meeting with the resolution to meet in Tamil Nadu this December,” he added. Olencio said that the Rs 400 crore fishing activity planned for Goa by the central minister is not for fishermen of Goa but for fish farmers who will mostly be industrialists. “We will strongly oppose cage fishing in 200 sq km planned in Goa,” Olencio warned.

### **Goa: Coastal body to verify activity in Cortalim creek**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/coastal-body-to-verify-activity-in-cortalim-creek/articleshow/81131698.cms>

"The Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) has decided to call for old cadastral plans and a report from the Captain of Ports (CoP) to verify if the water channel of the Cortalim creek has been encroached upon. Fishermen from the village had earlier approached the National Green Tribunal (NGT) stating that fishing rights in the creek were being disrupted by the anchoring of barges and ships brought in for repair to docks and shipyards. The NGT was informed that apart from the disruption of fishing rights, the repair of ships and barges had been causing pollution in the water body due to the dumping of metal, debris and chemicals used in ship-building and repair. The tribunal had consequently directed the GCZMA to inspect the site and later, the directorate of settlement and land records (DSLRL) was asked to carry out a survey. As per the report and survey, the NGT had found that there had been a violation of CRZ Notification 2011.

“Based on the application filed before the tribunal, the inspection report of the expert member of the GCZMA and the survey report of the DSLRL, illegal activity resulting in blatant and serious violation of the CRZ Notification 2011 was noticed. Accordingly, showcause notices were issued,” the coastal authority had noted in its meeting. The alleged violators accordingly told the GCZMA in a meeting last year that barge and ship repair and building activities were being carried out foreshore, which were permitted under the CRZ Notification 2011. It was also argued that the activities were on prior to 1991 and that the DSLRL survey was faulty. In a meeting of the GCZMA last month, the alleged violators told the authority, “The structures are very old and are shown in the survey plan.” More time was sought from the authority to produce a copy of the affidavit filed by the CoP before the Supreme Court in the matter. The GCZMA, in the meanwhile, has decided to call for old cadastral plans, a report from the CoP and the Goa State Pollution Control Board to be able to decide on the matter.

### **Goa: CM calls for investment in agriculture, fisheries & green energy**

<https://www.uniindia.com/goa-cm-calls-for-investment-in-agriculture-fisheries--green-energy/west/news/2322337.html>

"Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Thursday called the entrepreneurs community to make investments in the agriculture, fisheries, green energy sectors in the state to boost the state economy. Speaking at the inaugural function of 4th Goa BIZ Fest of BNI-Goa region held virtually, he said the state government had initiated various developmental programs such as Swayampurna Goa, Making Goa a Fisheries Hub, Model Career Centre for Career Counseling and Employment for Youth and appealed to BNI members to supplement the government in effective implementation of these initiatives. The Chief Minister expressed satisfaction over organization of Mega Virtual Expo of BNI Fest and growth of BNI in Goa, which have 14 chapters and 630 Entrepreneurs in the country. He released business directory of Goa BIZ Fest on the occasion. Goa BIZ Fest is being held till February 20, 2021, and has been organized in partnership with BNI- Kolhapur, Mangalore and Hubli-Dharwad. The Goa BIZ fest will discuss on various aspects of economic growth of Goa and neighboring regions. The fest will also deal with industrial growth and growth of MSME`s in Goa.

### **Goa: Draft coastal plan allows tourism infra in NDZ**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/draft-coastal-plan-allows-tourism-infra-in-ndz/articleshow/80915417.cms>

"Making leeway for the high footfalls Goa's beaches receive, the draft coastal zone management plan (CZMP) has allowed for creation of tourism-related infrastructure in no-development zones provided they are not in ecologically sensitive areas (ESA). Among the infrastructure permitted to be set up in NDZs of beaches are parking facilities, toilets, changing rooms, floating jetties, sewage treatment plants, solid waste collection systems, lifeguard towers and cabins. The draft CZMP also permits events and weddings in NDZs. "The state of Goa is popular for its beaches and there are high footfalls on the beaches in Goa thereby making it essential to provide adequate infrastructure for visiting tourists...in No Development Zone areas except in ecological sensitive areas," the draft CZMP report has stated. A senior officer said that the state government had specifically recommended several inclusions, including permission to temporary structures in NDZs along the coast and river/estuary banks, except for where the area is marked as ecological sensitive in CZMP plan.

The officer said that among the other recommendations made by the state, which find mention in the draft CZMP, are floor space index to not exceed 0.33, open area to suitably landscaped with appropriate vegetation cover, overall height of temporary structures to be capped at 9m and two floors (ground plus one). The state had also recommended “swimming pools not exceeding 50sqm in area shall be permitted. The draft CZMP maps should depict mangroves in khazan lands as mangroves in khazans and also there should not be a buffer for mangroves in khazan lands”. The senior officer said that for any major infrastructure project in CRZ areas that require environmental impact assessment (EIA) studies, consultation, etc, prior in-principal approval should be obtained from the state government before the project is placed in the public domain. There are about 100-odd applications for reconstructions and regularisation of dwelling units pending before the Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) for want of final notification of the CZMP as per CRZ Notification, 2011.

Similarly, there are state government projects pending, which includes toilets and changing rooms at various beach stretches. “The final notification of the CZMP will help the authorities in deciding the various violations in the CRZ areas. The final CZMP will also help the fishing community to construct dwelling units between 100 to 200m along the coast. It will also facilitate construction of fisheries- related infrastructure with the NOC of the local panchayat,” the officer said. The state government recommendation not to increase coal handling at the Mormugao Port Trust (MPT) has been mentioned in the draft CZMP report. At present 12 MTA coal is handled at MPT.

**Goa: ‘Blue economy programme has economic as well as scientific advantages’: NIO Director**

<http://www.uniindia.com/-blue-economy-programme-has-economic-as-well-as-scientific-advantages-nio-director/west/news/2315687.html>

"Professor Sunil Kumar Singh, Director, National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), has said that blue economy programme of the Centre has both economic as well as scientific advantages. Speaking exclusively to UNI, he said the programme would be of benefit to various sectors which include power, agriculture, meteorology and fisheries, among others. "We have done a lot of work on polymetallic nodules. NIO started work on polymetallic nodules in the central Indian Ocean 40 years back. India was the first pioneering country to make investment in this area. This area belongs to the International Seabed Authority. So if you want to work you have to take permission from the International Seabed Authority. After getting permission we surveyed 1,54,000 sqkm in the area and out of that 75,000 sq km was relinquished for future use. In that we have found 100 million tonnes of iron and manganese deposits. We are now ready to exploit that. Lot of exploration has been done.

Actually on January 26 this year we completed 40 years of survey. Now this programme has been taken over by the Ministry of Earth Sciences. Even this area has cobalt which is not

available on land in our country. If we are able to extract cobalt, it would be a big achievement. This is one part of the blue economy programme," he said. "We are at an advanced stage. Now technology is being developed at National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai, which will be activated after some time. There is a rule that you have to show that the environment is not getting impacted. NIO is continuously doing the Environment Impact Assessment," he said. Professor Singh said a lot of study was being done to get more information about precious metals available under the sea. "There is a mountain kind of structure within the ocean and there are precious metals like gold, platinum etc. We are trying to study that also. One aspect is how the movement is taking place, how the crust is forming, what is the time frame, another is economic issue. These are sources of very important mineral like rare earth minerals. There also a lot of study is taking place and that is also part of the blue economy," he said. The NIO Director said the plan was being afoot to have a floating like structure which could help generate wind, solar and hydro electricity facilitating reduction in emission of carbon into the environment.

"We are using coal for energy and for that we are creating pollution. But slowly we are moving towards non-conventional energy. Here again the ocean will serve as a huge resource. We are making a big floating structure in the sea where we are putting a hybrid energy system. That will include a solar panel, wind turbine, hydro electric turbine which will be run by waves and tides. We are planning to have a huge floating structure so that we could generate power from solar, wind and tide and wave. This is also at a very advanced stage," he said. Professor Singh said the blue economy programme would not only benefit the fisheries sector but also help in more accurate prediction of monsoon and thereby helping agriculture. "If we talk about living resources from the sea , then fisheries comes into mind. So we are trying to understand the distribution of fisheries, particular type of fisheries, why they are available in a particular area. We are also trying to predict where fisheries will be more and where less. We mostly know about fishes available on surface water. But we want to go a bit deeper as huge resources are there. But the problem is cold. So we have to have a processing unit on board so that fish could be processed as soon as they are out of water," he said. The NIO Director said,"The whole Indian economy is based on monsoon which is controlled by the sea condition. That too we are trying to study how sea is impacting monsoon. If you are able to predict monsoon in advance, agriculture can be planned accordingly. So lot of study is being done to find connections between sea and monsoon. Interestingly, the South East monsoon is not dependent on Indian ocean but they are very much dependent on pacific conditions.

If Pacific conditions are changing it will impact Indian monsoon. Similarly, recent study has shown there is a connection between Atlantic sea and Indian monsoon. So whole ocean is impacting our monsoon. You cannot study monsoon in isolation unless you study the ocean. It has been found that whenever the Pacific is heating, you will have drought in India and whenever Atlantic is cooling we have drought in India."

## **Goa: Centre's Rs 400 crore generous, but will it reach us: Local fishermen**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/centres-rs-400cr-generous-but-will-it-reach-us-local-fishermen/articleshow/80776377.cms>

"Members of the fishing community in Goa have reacted to the whopping Rs 400 crore earmarked for the state. While some have welcomed the generous fund, others are doubtful of benefiting from it. Union fisheries minister Giriraj Singh, during his visit to Goa on Sunday, had announced the investment of Rs 400 crore to make the coastal state a fisheries hub. "In the past, hundreds of crores have been promised under the Blue Revolution and we are still waiting for it. Even the new jetty, which was promised seven years ago, not even 20% has not been completed," president of the All Goa Purse Seine Boat Owners' Association, Harshad Dhond said. He said that the need of the hour is infrastructure development at the existing jetties. "At Malim jetty, we lack proper infrastructure. The land may belong to the fisheries department, but all the maintenance work is done by the Mandovi Fisheries Cooperative Society," Dhond said, adding that they still hope to benefit from the new investment. Chairperson of the Cutbona Fisheries Cooperative Society, Vinay Tari said that they were not even informed about the Union minister's interaction with fishermen. "We still don't know which fishermen met with him and what issues were presented that day.

We would have also wanted a representation with the minister to demand intervention at the mouth at the Sal," he said. Currently, the navigation of the river mouth is hindered, which, Tari said, can lead to a lot of lives and livelihoods being lost in case of a casualty. "The idea of converting mining pits for cage culture is good, but there are existing problems in Goa that require to be resolved," he added. Traditional fishermen, whose livelihoods are dependent on localised fishing, pointed out that the investment appears to be more in favour of exporters and large fishing vessel operators. Ronnie Fernandes, a traditional fisherman, said that cage culture fisheries will lead to the slow death of small boat operators. "The bull trawlers will only engage in catching fish for exports, but as traditional fishermen, we catch what locals consume. Shouldn't safeguarding our trade be prioritised? The state government must ensure that the existing schemes' subsidy reaches us before promising to make Goa a fisheries hub," said Ozer Mendes, a member of the Goenchea Ramponkaranchem Ekvott.

## **Goa: Fishing requires a boost, will it happen now?**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Edit/Fishing-requires-a-boost-will-it-happen-now/170787>

"The Centre has proposed an investment of Rs 400 crore towards the revival of the fisheries sector in the State. Union Fisheries Minister Giriraj Singh, who was in Goa on the weekend, said this grant is aimed at making the State, which has a long coast line a 'fishing hub'



in the country and that Goa has the potential to become the biggest fish exporter in the country. The initial focus of the project would be on cage farming techniques spread across 75 sq kms, he said. Of the amount, Rs 41.47 crore has already been sanctioned to Goa. The State could indeed do with a boost to its fishing industry but needs to take precautions that this does not result in overfishing and depleting the natural resources. Goa is already saturated by trawlers and any addition of these could have a detrimental effect on the existing resources. In this respect the sea cage farming technique has to be explored and National Institute of Oceanography has recommended that up to 200 square metres can be utilised. If, as proposed, the mining pits in the State can be utilised for cage culture, this would be another welcome initiative. The pits are currently not being utilised for any purpose and converting them into fish farming pits would indeed be acceptable, especially if it will provide fish on the Goan table.

Fish today, though a staple of the local diet, is beyond the means of many people. Will making Goa a fishing hub reduce the price of the fish in the markets? That is what the people want to know. Currently the fish-loving Goan pays dearly for his daily portion of sea food as a large quantity of what is sold in the local markets is brought from other States. Not much of the fish that is caught off the coast of Goa makes it to the local markets. As a result, Goa has been through a period when the formalin used in fish to preserve the catch had cast a huge shadow on the fish that was brought from other States. If the infusion of capital in the sector, as proposed, can reverse this trend and make Goa as major fish exporter, as envisaged, it will lead to a tremendous boost to the sector in Goa. While the stakeholders will revel in this, especially if it also improves the current standards of the landing jetties, will the benefits be passed on to the local consumers?

There are various other issues involved in the fishing industry, including employment that in this sector turned into a sensitive subject due to migration trends. It cannot be overlooked that much of the labour force involved in the fishing industry is migrant labour. Last August, as the annual monsoon fishing ban was lifted, trawlers were unable to go out to sea immediately as the labourers who had rushed off to their home States during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown were yet to return to Goa. The previous July-August there had a little storm on the social media after pictures and videos had gone viral of trainloads of migrants workers alighting at the Tivim railway station and walking towards Mapusa. There were questions raised as to who were these people and why they were coming to Goa until it was explained that these were migrants coming to Goa in search of jobs on fishing trawlers and in sand extraction. While exploring the possibility of making Goa a fish exporting hub, the related issues should also be taken into consideration. In addition, the traditional fishermen and their concerns cannot be left out. These make up a big community in Goa and have often been neglected as mechanised fishing takes over. They too will have to be given their due place in the proposal.

**Goa: Can be India's fisheries hub, Rs.400 cr investment discussed with CM'**

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/goa-can-be-india-s-fisheries-hub-rs-400-cr-investment-discussed-with-cm-101612691243212.html>

"Union Minister Giriraj Singh on Sunday said that Goa has the potential to become the fisheries hub of the country and held a discussion with Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and State Fisheries Minister Filipe Rodrigues about a holistic investment of Rs.400 crore for the fisheries sector in Goa. "Goa has the potential to become the fisheries hub of the country. I have discussed with Goa CM and Fisheries Minister of the state about a holistic investment of Rs.400 crore for the fisheries sector in the state. Out of this, Rs.41.47 crore has been approved already," said Singh while addressing a press conference. Sea cage culture will be promoted in Goa, the Union Minister added. "It will lead to an increase in the export of fishes from the state. To be started with 1000 cages, along with the state's fisheries department," said Singh. "Development of a hygienic wholesale fish market with an investment of Rs.50 crores and a fish aquarium of international standards for the purpose of tourism in the state of Goa has been discussed with the State Government," he added. Singh further said the "Sagar Mitra" scheme will be implemented in the villages of Goa for educating the local youth dependent on fishing and fisheries Sea-weed culture and ornamental fish culture will be strengthened in the state of Goa. "On basis of discussions with the Government of Goa, it has been decided to develop 30 new landing centres for fisheries as well as tourism purposes. Road connectivity from jetties and landing centres to the villages will also be ensured," he added.

#### **Goa: Mining pits to be used for cage culture for fisheries**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/mining-pits-to-be-used-for-cage-culture-for-fisheries/articleshow/80740263.cms>

"Goa's coastline shows potential for fish culture with scope for installing as many as 30 lakh cages for fish production, Union fisheries minister Giriraj Singh said on Sunday. To begin with 1,000 cages will be set up in Goa, he said. In addition, "there are enough reservoirs in Goa, including mining ones. We will start cage culture there, too. Nowhere is there space available for cage culture like in Goa. We only need seed and feed links", Singh said. He said that Goa, despite the immense and unmatched potential of its coast, falls short of fish for consumption during the fishing ban. The state's fish processing units also depend on supply from Maharashtra and Karnataka. Cage culture will ensure that Goa not only meets its requirement for consumption and fish processing units, but will also become one of the biggest fish exporters in the country, he said. "Goa has the capacity to produce the highest quantity of fish in the country and the quality of this fish produced through cage culture will be of export quality," said Singh. The state currently produces 1 lakh tonne of fish, he said.

"The National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) has carried out a survey showing that cage culture is possible in 200sq km into the sea. When we discussed this with the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) regional centre in Tamil Nadu, they said cage culture can

safely be carried out in 72 sqkm by ensuring that tourism and fishing activities are safeguarded. I cannot even imagine it has the capacity for 30 lakh cages to be installed in all. It will provide a new model of marine culture,” said Singh. He said that the use of cage culture will mean that fishing boat workers do not have to go through the hardships of living at sea for eight to 10 days and will also save on diesel costs. There is also a lot of scope for inland fisheries in Goa, for which about Rs 65 crore will be provided inland for Biofloc, Recirculating Aquaculture Systems (RAS) and Reservoir Cage Culture. State fisheries minister Filipe Nery Rodrigues said that this will really be useful in making Goa self-sufficient.

### **Goa: That sinking feeling: No bumper Budget for fishermen**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/that-sinking-feeling-no-bumper-budget-for-fishermen/articleshow/80639348.cms>

"Fisheries stakeholders, who were expecting subsidies for traditional fishermen who operate within 12 nautical miles, were disappointed that the Budget made no such provision for them. Their hopes were dashed further when they realised that Goa does not feature among the five states selected for the setting up of fisheries hubs. “The focus of the Budget is not on fisheries but on commercial-based fishing such as caged culture and all new forms of fish production. Traditional fishermen are disappointed,” vice-chairperson of the National Fishworkers’ Forum Olencio Simoes, said. “There is no clarity on what hub it (the Centre) is talking about, but it appears that it is more for capture fisheries,” he added. In her Budget speech, Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman proposed substantial investments in the development of modern fishing harbours and fish-landing centres. Five major fishing harbours at Kochi (Kerala), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Paradip (Odisha) and Petuaghat (West Bengal) will be developed as hubs of economic activity, she said and added that inland fishing harbours and fish-landing centres along the banks of rivers and waterways would be developed.

Vice-chairman of the Confederation of Indian Industry, Goa, Atul Jadhav said the state would have benefited from a fishing hub. “We should have a fishing hub for Goa because we are a fishing state and one of the eight maritime states. If all the associations get together, we can pitch for a fishing hub,” he said. Jadhav’s views were echoed by vice-president of the Goa Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ralph de Souza. “The chamber would prefer to take up this issue (fishing hub for Goa) with the central government,” he said. A fish exporter, however, said it was expected that Goa wouldn’t be selected for the setting up of a fishing hub as its fish catch is a not even two per cent of that from larger coastal states. Simoes said the traditional fishing community was expecting fuel subsidies as it has been hit by the Covid-induced lockdown besides several storms and cyclones. “The cost of diesel has skyrocketed and it is becoming difficult for traditional fishermen to venture into the sea. Several subsidies, including for fuel and canoe engines have been reduced,” he rued.

## **UN Sustainable Development Goals influencing Japanese seafood buying**

**<https://www.seafoodsource.com/news/environment-sustainability/un-sustainable-development-goals-influencing-japanese-seafood-buying>**

"Japanese corporations – including the huge conglomerates such as Nissui, Maruha Nichiro, and Mitsubishi – have been heavily influenced by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which were adopted in 2015 “as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030.” Practically every major company in Japan has amended its corporate social responsibility (CSR) reports to include an accomplishment in each of the 17 categories if possible, including for SDG 14, “Life below Water,” which calls for the sustainable management and protect marine and coastal ecosystems from pollution, as well as efforts to address the impacts of ocean acidification. This change has had an incrementally large effect on their decisions on seafood purchasing, investments, and corporate philanthropy. Japan’s national government has pushed for policies aligned with SDG 14, including reducing coastal eutrophication and floating plastic debris density; Managing a proportion of the national exclusive economic zone (EEZ) using ecosystem-based approaches; Reducing the average marine acidity (pH) measured at representative sampling stations; Increasing the proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels; Conserving at least 10 percent of coastal and marine areas; Discontinuing fishery subsidies that may encourage Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing; Increasing sustainable fisheries’ contribution to the gross domestic product of small island states; And ratifying and implementing portions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea pertaining to sustainable use of the oceans and their resources.

For Japan’s private companies though, any action that may contribute to ocean sustainability is usually sufficient to warrant displaying the blue fish SDG 14 symbol. A showcase for these achievements in Japan is the annual Tokyo Seafood Sustainability Symposium (TSSS), put on by Seafood Legacy, Co., Ltd. and Nikkei ESG. Seafood Legacy is a Tokyo -based consultancy that forges connections between sustainable seafood programs and businesses. Nikkei ESG is a publication of the Nikkei newspaper group that focuses on environmental, social, and governance issues. Funding for the event is provided by the Walton Family Foundation and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. Panasonic Corporation won the first Japan Sustainable Seafood Award in 2019 at TSSS for promoting sustainable seafood in its corporate cafeterias. The company first introduced Aquaculture Stewardship Council- and Marine Stewardship Council-certified food at its head office in Kadoma, Osaka Prefecture, in 2018. It subsequently expanded the program to its other offices. The goal was not only to provide a market for sustainable seafood at cafeterias, but to encourage Panasonic workers to choose certified seafood in their private shopping.

But the COVID-19 outbreak caused problems for the program in 2020. Kosuke Kino, manager of

Panasonic's groupwide brand strategy division, CSR, and citizenship department, said with the introduction of teleworking cafeteria use has declined to about 80 percent of its pre-pandemic totals at the company's factories, and to about one-third at sites with many white-collar workers. As the sustainable seafood items were only featured on corporate menus once per month, it has become less profitable for Panasonic's suppliers and caterers to acquire the necessary chain of custody (CoC) certification and to stock items carrying certification. The CoC certification requires companies to undergo training and demonstrate that they can keep certified products separate from non-certified products. There is time and expense involved in the certification and associated record-keeping. Of the 48 Panasonic locations that were serving sustainable seafood, about half have temporarily suspended it, Kino said. In order to expand its base of suppliers while making sustainable seafood more attractive for them to handle, Panasonic has been networking with seven other companies, including Denso, Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance, and Tamura Corporation to help them serve certified sustainable seafood in their cafeterias. Panasonic has shared its experience in setting up its own program, and the uptake of the initiative beyond its own corporate structure has made it easier for corporate caterers to stock certified seafood, Kino said.

The company has also helped 11 catering companies to acquire CoC certification, in some cases utilizing a group certification process that cuts costs. However, Kino said it is not always easy to get competing caterers to work together, as they wish to guard their menus and recipes as trade secrets. Kino said the company is now investigating the possibility of using sustainable seafood with longer shelf-life in the company's emergency larders, used in case of disaster, such as Japan's not-infrequent earthquakes. The foods, such as fish sausage, would be distributed to workers when they near their expiration. Another possibility is to offer sustainable seafood for sale at the company convenience store, or at special sales events – Toyota Motor Corp. is currently doing this, Kino said. These measures are relatively easy to implement, as the sale of canned or processed products does not require the acquisition of CoC certification, he said. Miki Yamaoka, who handles communications for Seafood Legacy, gave SeafoodSource some additional examples of corporate initiatives that have been driven by SDG 14 in Japan. In procurement improvement, Japanese supermarket chains Aeon, JCCU [Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union], and Seiyu have been introducing and expanding their offerings of MSC-certified sustainable seafood.

In investments, The Norinchukin Bank, based in Tokyo, has built an environmental and social risk management (ESRM) framework to assess and manage environmental and social risks prior to making investment and financing decisions customers and projects. It also began handling sustainability-linked loans in May 2020. And in operations, in December 2020, Japan's Nissui, Maruha Nichiro, and Kyokuyo in Japan, joined a SeaBOS pledge that by the end of 2021, they will eliminate IUU fishing and forced, bonded, and child labor in their operations; extend their collaboration with the Global Ghost Gear Initiative to solve the problem of lost and abandoned fishing gear; combine to clean up plastic pollution from coasts and waterways; agree on a

strategy for reducing impacts on endangered species and the use of antibiotics; and set CO2 emissions reduction goals and report on their approaches. SeaBOS is a collaboration between scientists and the world's largest seafood companies in the wild-capture, aquaculture, and feed production sectors and its member companies represents about 10 percent of global seafood production. Two companies shared the Japan Sustainable Seafood Award at TSSS2020 last year: Usufuku-Honten (based in Kesennuma), which acquired MSC certification for its Atlantic bluefin tuna catch; and Yokohama-based Japanese restaurant company Kijima, which has been changing its seafood to ASC- and MSC-certified fish while disclosing its progress on its website in a campaign it has titled the ""Kijima Organic Challenge.""

### **Goa: State likely to receive draft coastal plan soon: Cabral**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/state-likely-to-receive-draft-coastal-plan-soon-cabral/articleshow/80204938.cms>

"The state government is expecting to receive the draft coastal zone management plan (CZMP) from the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), Chennai, this week, environment minister Nilesh Cabral said on Sunday. Speaking to TOI, Cabral said that, if everything goes right, then the CZMP 2011 will be uploaded on the environment ministry's website somewhere between January 16 and 18 for public consultation. "The National Green Tribunal (NGT), has given us a deadline of January 31 to complete the plan, but we are preparing a final plan by February end and it will be submitted to the ministry of environment, forest and climate change (MoEFCC) for final notification," he said. Cabral said that once the plan is uploaded, people can submit their objections and suggestions and that if the realistic ones will be incorporated in the final CZMP. "Given the pandemic, we cannot hold public consultations. The CZMP presentation will be uploaded on the website for people's viewing," Cabral said. Once the CZMP 2011 is notified, the state government will start work on preparing CZMP 2019, he said. Earlier, the state had filed an application seeking time till March 10, 2021, to complete the plan, stating that the Covid-19 pandemic had affected work on the plan.

The application had stated that, in the meanwhile, it has been ensured that no violations occur in coastal regulation zone (CRZ) areas and that necessary directions are issued from time to time in terms of Section 5 of the Environment Protection Act, 1985. Goa submitted that no approval is being granted for any development in coastal areas till the CZMP is finalised and clarified that the delay in finalising the plan is not deliberate. The government had said that local bodies had expressed their desire to know the contents of the CZMP and hence field visits were organised through the officials of the Directorate of Settlement and Land Records in North and South Goa to explain to each and every local body as to what is a CZMP and what features should be incorporated in the plan as per the provisions of CRZ Notification 2011. The state government said that all of the local bodies prepared their own CZMP and the same were forwarded to NCSCM. The NGT, has given us a deadline of January 31 to complete the plan, but we are



preparing a final plan by February end and it will be submitted to the ministry of environment, forest and climate change for final notification

### **Goa: Traditional fishermen agree to River Sal desilting with conditions**

<https://www.heralddgoa.in/Goa/Traditional-fishermen-agree-to-River-Sal-desilting-with-conditions/169628>

"The Assolna Velim Cavelossim Betul Traditional Fishermen Association on Sunday finally agreed to the proposed second phase of desilting River Sal's six-km stretch provided the officials adhered to certain conditions. The decision was arrived at the meeting which was held over an hour. Remmy from Chinchinim and Milagres from Assolna initially strongly opposed to the desilting but finally agreed. Remmy asserted that the desilting should not be more than one-metre deep while Milagres demanded that the same be carried out only at certain places. Anthony Silva alias Brain Box spoke on the third phase of desilting which will include Assolna and opined that the villagers will get about two months before the work commences. He asked them to form small ward-wise committees to monitor the desilting as and when it is done. Association president Augustine Furtado explained that they met the Ports and Fisheries Ministers in Porvorim following which Captain of Ports officials along with the fishermen surveyed the river stretch where the fishermen identified the places that needed to be desilted. Following the survey, a meeting was held with traditional fishermen of Tolleaband and Kudeamad in Chinchinim on Saturday as they were the ones who would be affected due to the second phase and they agreed to the desilting with certain conditions. Ambelim's former sarpanch Cruz Silva read out the conditions of which the first one was to allow only desilting and no dredging of whatsoever will be allowed.

He explained that environment impact assessment study would be pre-requisite for any dredging. The second condition was that all sewerage and urban effluents dumped in the river Sal be stopped forthwith. "Otherwise there is no point in desilting as the same will return and the river will get silted again," he explained. The third condition by the fishermen was that no casino or marina be allowed on the banks of River Sal and pointed out that the desilting is proposed not so much for the benefit of the fishermen but to have passenger vessels moving in the river. The fishermen also demanded that River Sal be strictly used only for fishing and not any other commercial activity and added that any future proposals to desilt the river should be taken only after taking the traditional fishermen into confidence. Augustine revealed that the survey revealed that the depth is about 3 mts at most places and at a few places the river was very shallow even less than metre. A villager will be on the vessel during the desilting which will be done as per his instructions as he will be monitoring it, he said adding that they are trying to get the company to pay him for spending time on the vessel.

### **Goa: Fisheries dept to keep eye on catching juvenile fish**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/fisheries-dept-to-keep-eye-on-catching-juvenile-fish/articleshow/80160707.cms>

"In a major step to ensure fish growth and conservation of the marine ecosystem in the state, the fisheries department has prohibited catching juvenile fish in the state. The department has decided a minimum legal size (MLS) for certain fish variants and has restricted the catch of such fish below certain centimeters. MLS is seen as a fisheries' management tool with the ability to protect young fish, maintain spawning stocks and control the sizes of fish. "The restriction has been brought out so that fishermen do not catch fish which is less than the particular size. We already have a mesh size regulation, but this notification will give it more weightage. Fishermen are not restricted from catching any fish, but they are restricted from catching fish less than the given size," director of fisheries, Shamila Monteiro said. The department has listed out 20 types of fish and shrimp that are very dominant in Goa (see infographic). There will be a check on fishermen at landing centres to ensure that the rule is being followed. Fishermen might have to resort to using fishing nets of bigger mesh size to pull their shoal from the waters to ensure that juvenile fish do not get trapped in their nets.

Considering that there could be chances of some quantity of fish that may end up being of smaller size, action will be taken only if more than 50% of the catch in the shoal comprises of small size fish, Monteiro said. It has come to the state government's attention that a large quantity of low-value (non-target), smaller size fish (juveniles) are caught by mechanized fishing vessels, only to be cast off later since the commercial value is lesser. Though there is no information on the volume of the rejected fish, the department maintains that the fish "are found killed and discarded in varying proportions" after being caught by mechanized fishing vessels. "The juveniles of various species of fishes are caught before they attain maturity, and this severely affects the fish population. Along with juvenile fish, other non-edible biota, which are vital to the existence of marine eco-system are caught in a fishing operation," a notification issued by the department on Thursday read. The notification also stated that the government has considered the matter serious since it will affect the juvenile population of the marine life and in the long run may also "bring about a disaster in the fishing industry making it unsustainable and uneconomical" as a result of which the state government has decided to prohibit the catching of the different species of juvenile fish in the specified area.

**Goa: Shrimp, mussel & fresh water fish farming can offset tourism, mining losses: CPIE**

<https://www.uniindia.com/shrimp-mussel-fresh-water-fish-farming-can-offset-tourism-mining-losses-cpie/west/news/2285104.html>

"Organized shrimp, mussel and fresh water fish farming in the interiors of Goa or in Goan villages can more than offset the losses caused to local businesses and villagers due to the slump in tourism caused due to Covid pandemic and the closure of the mining business in the state, according to Centre for Promoting Indian Economy. Shrimp farming is an aquaculture

business that exists in either a marine or freshwater environment, producing two to three varieties of shrimp or prawns for human consumption. Freshwater fish is cultivated in ponds or trenches created specially for the purpose and about 40 to 60 percent of it is consumed by the fish processing industry. While the coastal areas of rural Maharashtra including villages in Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg have taken up aquaculture in a very big way, Goa is still dependent on tourism for its revenue, a mistake that is now very apparent to Goans across the state, thanks to the Covid pandemic.

Aquaculture farmers can earn an income of Rs ten lakh in the shrimp season that lasts for six months from May to October. Approximately, about 4,000 kgs of shrimps can be produced from a pond excavated on an acre of land, which can fetch a price of Rs 250-350 per kg. After excluding costs, and other expenses, the net profit can range from 4-5 lakh per acre, which is more than any other crop that is sowed in a conventional cropping system. Besides, the demand for seafood including shrimps, mussels and fresh fish is drastically higher in Goa, compared to other states, and even without foreign tourists, the local consumption is high enough, and the high price of beef and mutton could be a huge incentive for aquaculture farmers in Goa, said Goemcho Goenkar, a group of citizens. Being a tourist destination with the majority of the local population consuming fish, there is a high demand for finfish and shellfish in Goa and the present demand far exceeds the normal supply, CPIE India pointed out.

### **Goa: Bridge the communication gap to the benefit of all**

<https://www.heralddgoa.in/Edit/Bridge-the-communication-gap-to-the-benefit-of-all/169415>

"In both cases, it involved a communication gap between the administration and the stakeholders that led to keeping them pending. In the case of the dredging of River Sal it was held back until there could be a site inspection where officials will put forth the Environment Impact Assessment report and the desilting plan before fishing community and explain the project to them. In the case of the municipalities ordinance, the government has asked the merchants to revert with suggestions and objections for which a month has been given. As per the details available, River Sal needs to be desilted as the accumulated silt has resulted in the river depth varying. The desilting is expected to improve the navigational channel for the fishing community. This is part of a national project and the State has till March this year to complete this second phase of the dredging. The fears of the fishermen, who have not been told what the project entails, is that this could harm the traditional fishing activities in the river, and hence affect their livelihoods. The joint site inspection of the river will ascertain the river depth and demarcate the fishing zone areas.

The Fisheries Minister, Felipe Neri Rodrigues, who admitted that the government failed to take the fishermen, who are the main stakeholders, into confidence while proposing the project, said that the dredging is important to protect and conserve marine life. The municipalities ordinance seeks to regularise the unauthorised possession of municipal shops and thereby generate revenue

to the council and further to limit the lease period of shops to ten years and thereafter auction the shops. The objection of the merchants is that there are many Goan families who are dependent on this as their traditional businesses and that since the ordinance has restricted their right to the shops to ten years, after which there will be an auction, they fear they will not be able to run the business after that period. Their fear of not having a business after a decade is justified, but if there are traders in unauthorised possession of shops, then this has to be sorted out. In both instances there is a perceptible lack of communication between the government authorities and the stakeholders. Had the government reached out to the traditional fishing community in the case of River Sal, and to the market merchants in the case of the municipalities ordinance, there would possibly have been no requirement to hold back the dredging project and the municipalities ordinance.

The association of the fishermen is firm that until the government satisfies their queries, the dredging work will not be allowed. The situation would not have arisen had the government met the fishermen in advance and communicated with them. With a session of the Legislative Assembly already called for later this month, the government can table the amendment to the municipalities Act in the House and allow for a debate on the amendments before going ahead with it. Where the dredging of the River Sal is concerned, if as the government says the project is only to benefit the fishermen, the site inspection should allay the fears of the traditional fisherfolk. Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant has said that the approach of the government is 'business friendly and people friendly'. This is an opportunity to portray that approach and settle both the issues to the benefit of all – the government and the stakeholders.

### **Goa: Traditional fishermen oppose Sal river desilting, seek inspection**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/traditional-fishermen-oppose-sal-river-desilting-seek-inspection/articleshow/80104683.cms>

"Traditional fishermen on Monday opposed desilting of the Sal until the government conducts a physical site inspection, along with them. Assuring villagers that the work would be undertaken only after taking the fishermen into confidence, ports minister Michael Lobo said that officials of the Captain of Ports have measured the depth of the river and an environmental study has also been done. "We will show the traditional fisherman how the dredging will be done," he said. It is up to the traditional fisherman to take a decision, Lobo said, suggesting that they "make a representation before the National Green Tribunal (NGT)" if they don't want the dredging to be done. Stating that the depth of the Sal has reduced at various stretches and the government wants to revive the river for fishing activities, Lobo said. "Dredging is not being done for coal handling, passenger boats, etc."

The government has only lived up to its assurance given in the House that the Sal would be desilted, he said. "This is the second phase. We have been given time till March to desilt the river and we have filed an affidavit to complete it," Lobo said at a meeting with fisheries

minister and Velim MLA Filipe Neri Rodrigues and the traditional fishermen. Lobo told reporters that three years back, a six-kilometre stretch of the river, from Nuvem to Navelim, had been desilted. “This is the second phase in which another six-kilometre stretch would be cleaned up at the cost of around Rs 8 crore. In the third phase, another six kilometre stretch will be taken up,” he said. Meanwhile, Rodrigues, in whose constituency most part of the Sal flows, batted for traditional fishermen being taken into confidence on the desilting work. Calling it a long-pending issue, he said, “We also want the river to be clean, but as fisheries minister, my one apprehension is that the work should not affect marine life there.” “We have told both ministers to provide us with a layout pointing out fishing zones and orchards, and what they are planning to do. We will discuss the issue back at site,” one fisherman said.

### **Goa: Soon, beaches may have fishing space demarcated**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/soon-beaches-may-have-fishing-space-demarcated/articleshow/79982843.cms>

"To resolve the frequent conflicts between local fishermen and tourism stakeholders over space on beaches, the final draft comprehensive plan for the fishing community has stated that undisturbed areas will be reserved for traditional fishing activities. Prepared by the state government, the final draft plan has also recommended a ward-wise survey to regularise dwelling units built prior to 1991. Stating that continuous expansion of tourism activities has gradually led to beaches and areas along the coast to be occupied by related structures, the final draft stated, “At times, there is no place for fishermen to land or berth their canoes on the beach as shack (temporary restaurant) owners, water sports operators and sun bathing chairs continuously use the whole stretch of the beach for their business. Therefore, fishermen, after toiling hard to catch the fish, find it difficult to either land or berth their canoes and boats. Similarly, traditional fishermen who operate ‘rampons’ a very long net laid between the low tide line and high tide line to catch fish require a large undisturbed part of the beach for their regular operations.

“It is therefore necessary to demarcate certain stretches on such busy beaches, beyond which tourism stakeholders should not be allowed to operate, the draft stated. The final draft plan also stated that as per the claim of the fishing community living in coastal regulation zone (CRZ) areas, several of their dwelling units permissible as per the provisions of erstwhile CRZ notification of 1991 are yet to be regularised. The final draft has asked that the genuineness of each case be checked and it be ensured that the dwelling units due for regularisation are not being used for any commercial activity and have not been sold or transferred to non-traditional coastal community. In cases where such unregularised dwelling units are located within 200m to 500m of the HTL, provisions under the CRZ 2011 notification may be used to allow maximum possible extension of their units in accordance to the prevailing TCP regulations.

## **Goa: Violation of environment laws': Goan locals, fishermen stand against scooping of river sal's water-bed**

<https://thelogicalindian.com/environment/river-sal-dredging-25381>

"The traditional fishermen gathered to protest against the digging process after a dredger was seen in the river. According to media reports, this was not a move to desilt the river, but, a case of 'capital dredging' to remove the virgin soil from the sea bed to create smooth navigational channels for larger ships. Once considered the economic hub of several villages in South Goa, River Sal is witnessing conflict over its 'desilting' process. According to a report by The Goan, the traditional fishermen gathered to protest against the digging process after a dredger, an excavation device used for the scrapping of the sea bed, was seen in the river. They reportedly called upon the Captain of Ports to immediately revoke the work order. The publication reported that this was not a move to desilt the river, but, a case of 'capital dredging' to remove the virgin soil from the sea bed to create smooth navigational channels for larger ships. The fishermen have claimed that since the river depth in most part of the Varca-Telaulim bridge stretch has always been much less than three meter, such move would destroy the marine ecosystem which is the breeding ground for shellfish and other fish species.

Additionally, initiating the work without obtaining relevant environmental clearances have also been cited as a gross violation of the laws. Reports have pointed out that the dredger appeared to be moving in the direction of Orlim to carry out the clean-up along the six-km river stretch. The AVCB Traditional Fishermen Association which represents the fishermen on the banks of Assolna, Velim, Betul, Chinchinim and Cavelossim, has written a letter to the Captain of Ports not to carry out any dredging or desilting work without consulting the fishermen and obtaining their consent. A deliberate attempt to conduct 'capital dredging' on the river bed in the name of desilting has been touted as a case of fraud with the locals and criminal violence against the fishermen community depending on River Sal for their livelihood without involving them into the decision-making process. ""It is most unacceptable that the fisher folk, who are the caretakers, occupants and owners of these resources held in common for thousands of years, have not been informed about the plans to dredge our river. We know and own every inch of this river, and your attempt to interfere with her without informing us is gross contempt of Article 19 of the Constitution, the United Declaration of the Rights of indigenous peoples and Goa Panchayat Rat Act,"" said Association president Agostinho Furtado.



## **SeaBOS establishes time-bound sustainability goals**

<https://www.seafoodsource.com/news/environment-sustainability/seabos-establishes-time-bound-sustainability-goals>

"Seafood Business for Ocean Stewardship (SeaBOS), an organization made up of the CEOs of 10 of the world's largest seafood companies, has established a set of time-bound goals intended to push the seafood industry towards sustainability. The new goals were established during a dialogue in October 2020, and include measurable metrics on sustainability issues like illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing; extending a collaboration with the Global Ghost Gear Initiative; agreeing on a strategy to reduce the use of antibiotics; and setting a CO2 emissions reduction goal for each company. SeaBOS is rising to the challenge, SeaBOS Chair Therese Log Bergjord said. "It's time to face the facts – the situation is critical and we have to act. We can all do better. I hope more will follow our example to build momentum on the ocean stewardship agenda.

The goals, according to a press release from SeaBOS, will guide SeaBOS activities over the coming years. The established emissions targets are in line with the Paris Climate Agreement, and the members have also highlighted a need for further government regulation to support sustainable fisheries and aquaculture management. "The leaders of the seafood industry have taken action to support the health of fish stocks and the ocean ecosystems we all depend on, Stockholm Resilience Centre Science Director Professor Henrik Österblom – who helped instigate the development of SeaBOS – said. With governments now sharing this vision, we hope that transformational change is imminent. Established in 2016, SeaBOS members include the Maruha Nichiro Corporation, Nissui, Thai Union, Mowi, Dongwon Industries, and other major international seafood companies. The organization's scientific work is funded by the Walton Family Foundation, David and Lucile Packard Foundation, and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

## **Goa: Govt preparing strategy to upgrade value chain & branding of agri & fishery products**

<https://menafn.com/1101226813/India-Goa-Govt-preparing-strategy-to-upgrade-value-chain-branding-of-agri-fishery-products&source=138>

"Goa Government has announced to develop brand for local products to make state 'Self-Sufficient' in agriculture and allied sector. Dr Pramod Sawant, Chief Minister of Goa on Wednesday announced the roadmap to make Self-sufficient Agriculture sector in the state. Dr Sawant said that state government departments will work in coordination with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Central Coastal Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR-CCARI) and other central government institutions. The Chief Minister was speaking at a press conference held today at ICAR-CCARI, Old Goa. Deputy Chief Minister and Agriculture Minister

Chandrakant Kavalekar, ICAR-CCARI Director Dr Eknath Chakurkar were also present on this occasion. Chief Minister conducted a series of meetings with ICAR-CCARI and officials of State Government to prepare a roadmap for execution of strategies for improving production, productivity, value chain, mechanisation in agriculture, animal husbandry and fisheries sector of Goa State.

The proposed action plan for Goa state includes mainly productivity improvement in major crops like paddy, cashew and coconut, diversification in agriculture, creation of integrated farming system models, mechanisation, value addition and policy reforms in the agriculture sector. The objective of these meetings is to make Goa self-sufficient, create a brand of 'Goa' on the global platform. By implementing all Central Government schemes, the Government will achieve the target of doubling the farmer's income by 2022, he said. To create a 'Goan Brand' of local products, the government has planned to set up clusters of Organic Farming and start 12 Farmer Producer Organizations state-wide, informed the Chief Minister. Micro Irrigation Scheme will be developed under PM-Kisan Yojana. 'Integrated Farming' will double the income of farmers. This will attract more youth towards agriculture and allied sectors, said Dr Pramod Sawant. The first state level coordination committee meeting for doubling the farmer's income by 2022 was conducted on March 23, 2017 at ICAR-CCARI, Goa. It is estimated in the 70th round of NSSO that the average income of farmers in Goa is Rs. 91,098 of which Rs. 16,893 is through farming, 15,097 is through dairying, Rs. 12,243 through non-farm activities and 46,865 through wage labour and salary.

### **Goa: Why are Goans complaining about their fish?**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/why-are-goans-complaining-about-their-fish/articleshow/79363154.cms>

"Fish is an irreplaceable part of most Goans' diet. Its importance is manifested in the thriving fishing industry, which contributes about 2.5% to the state's GDP. Yet, Goans find that their beloved staple is becoming increasingly unaffordable. "When fish is a natural resource, why is it being sold at an exorbitant price, which the aam aadmi cannot afford? asks a 60-year-old, who can no longer afford the better fish varieties. Not that there is any shortage. The traditional fishermen pulling in a bumper catch from the river In 2019, the state's marine fish production stood at 86,027 tonne and inland fish production was 3,669 tonne. All of this is facilitated by over 3,000 mechanised vessels. What irks locals is that despite owners of these vessels being heavily backed by subsidies, fish is nowhere close to being affordable. The state spends around Rs 60 crore annually on subsidies for the fisheries sector. "Rs 24 crore goes towards subsidy on reimbursement for VAT on diesel for mechanised fishing vessels, a government official says.

"When public money is used to keep the fisheries business afloat, what is the benefit for the consumer? one aggrieved consumer asks. Panaji-resident R D Pires points to the lack of political

will to rectify the situation. “There is no end to the escalating fish prices in the state. Political will is needed to take up measures for sustainable fishing, encourage fish farming and make affordable fish available to citizens, Pires says. General secretary of Goenchea Ramponkarancho Ekvott (GRE) Olencio Simoes cites dependence on migrant labour for crew, price regulation and inaccessibility to the wholesale market without the involvement of agents as some of the reasons for inflated fish prices. “Wholesale markets in Goa, especially in South Goa, are controlled by agents. Due to this, most local fishermen don't get first preference in these markets. Trucks carrying fish from other states are given priority, Simoes says. Local fishermen are therefore forced to either lower fish prices or give away their catch for exports to make sure that everything is sold, he says. However, even the export industry doesn't seem to be doing very well, according to president of the Sea Food Exporters' Association of India, Maulana Ibrahim. The failure to implement the ban on destructive fishing gear, like LED lamps, has also impacted the fishing industry

“We did a business of Rs 100-120 crore through fish exports earlier. In the last fishing season, however, we have not even made Rs 20 crore, he says. Until and unless the central government formulates a uniform policy for fisheries and take action to implement it, the industry is going to collapse Maulana Ibrahim, president, Sea Food Exporters' Association of India “Until and unless the central government formulates a uniform policy for fisheries and take action to implement it, the industry is going to collapse. The policy must set new guidelines for mesh size, fish nets, boat size, allied fishing, high speed engines used on the boats, etc, for ocean catch, Ibrahim says. Sebastiao Cardozo, general secretary of the All Goa Purse Seine Boat Owners' Association, points to another lacuna. He says the Goa government has not provided fishermen with storage facilities at jetties. Wholesale markets in Goa, especially in South Goa, are controlled by agents. Due to this, most local fishermen don't get first preference in these markets. Trucks carrying fish from other states are given priority Olencio Simoes, general secretary, Goenchea Ramponkarancho Ekvott. Those in the fishing business also point to the fisheries department's failure to implement the ban on destructive fishing gear, like LED lamps, and illegal fishing activities like bull trawling and highspeed trawling.

These illegalities perpetuated by bigger mechanised boats affect the catch of smalltime trawler owners and have a cascading effect on prices. As a solution to battling depleting resources and combating the issues leading to it, those in the hinterland want a huge push for ‘caged culture’ and estuarine fishing. Traditional fishermen also face problems due to water sports activities and marine projects. Bad practices Use of LED lamps was banned by the central and state governments two years ago, but implementation is only on paper. When traditional fishermen raised the issue, Goa's fisheries minister Filipe Neri Rodrigues had expressed inability to act against those engaging in it. He had also pointed to the fisheries department's failure to implement the ban on destructive fishing gear. Practices like LED-fishing result in over-exploitation of fishery resources, and Rodrigues had promised to work in coordination with central agencies such as the Indian Coast Guard and the state's department of ports to tackle the

issue. To further curb the illegalities, the state fisheries department is currently forming draft rules to penalise violators based on the offence or gravity of the violation. When nature shows no mercy Natural phenomenon also has its impact on the sector.

From August to October 2019, Goa faced the effect of four cyclones. Cyclonic conditions also led to the migration of schools of fish. Export of marine products The cyclones Goa faced in 2019 caused major damage to fishing industry. Soon after, in March 2020, the pandemic hit and the fisheries sector in Goa was badly affected due to major outmigration of labour. The cutting down of the fishing ban period also did not help as expected because August 2020 yet again brought with it stormy weather. The sector is seeing a gradual revival at present with only 30% activity resumed as of October. According to Cardozo, a large part of the problems faced by the fishing sector in Goa today could perhaps be resolved if fishermen are allowed to venture beyond their jurisdiction. "Owing to the large size of the purse seiners, we have the capacity to fish beyond state waters 12 nautical miles from the shore. We are, however, restricted only to Goa. We must be permitted to enter national waters, at least till Maharashtra and Karnataka, he says.

### **Goa: The Catch in fishing sector**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/the-catch-in-goas-fishing-sector/articleshow/79358552.cms>

"Fish is an irreplaceable part of most Goans' diet. Its importance is manifested in the thriving fishing industry, which contributes about 2.5% to the state's GDP. Yet, Goans find that their beloved staple is becoming increasingly unaffordable. "When fish is a natural resource, why is it being sold at an exorbitant price, which the aam aadmi cannot afford? asks a 60-year-old, who can no longer afford the better fish varieties. Not that there is any shortage. In 2019, the state's marine fish production stood at 86,027 tonne and inland fish production was 3,669 tonne. All of this is facilitated by over 3,000 mechanised vessels. What irks locals is that despite owners of these vessels being heavily backed by subsidies, fish is nowhere close to being affordable. The state spends around Rs 60 crore annually on subsidies for the fisheries sector. "Rs 24 crore goes towards subsidy on reimbursement for VAT on diesel for mechanised fishing vessels, a government official says.

"When public money is used to keep the fisheries business afloat, what is the benefit for the consumer? one aggrieved consumer asks. Panaji-resident R D Pires points to the lack of political will to rectify the situation. "There is no end to the escalating fish prices in the state. Political will is needed to take up measures for sustainable fishing, encourage fish farming and make affordable fish available to citizens, Pires says. General secretary of Goenchea Ramponkarancho Ekvott (GRE) Olencio Simoes cites dependence on migrant labour for crew, price regulation and inaccessibility to the wholesale market without the involvement of agents as some of the reasons for inflated fish prices. "Wholesale markets in Goa, especially in South Goa, are controlled by agents. Due to this, most local fishermen don't get first preference in these markets. Trucks

carrying fish from other states are given priority, Simoes says. Local fishermen are therefore forced to either lower fish prices or give away their catch for exports to make sure that everything is sold, he says.

However, even the export industry doesn't seem to be doing very well, according to president of the Sea Food Exporters' Association of India, Maulana Ibrahim. "We did a business of Rs 100-120 crore through fish exports earlier. In the last fishing season, however, we have not even made Rs 20 crore, he says. "Until and unless the central government doesn't formulate a uniform policy for fisheries and take action to implement it, the industry is going to collapse. The policy must set new guidelines for mesh size, fish nets, boat size, allied fishing, high speed engines used on the boats, etc, for ocean catch, Ibrahim says. Sebastiao Cardozo, general secretary of the All Goa Purse Seine Boat Owners' Association, points to another lacuna. He says the Goa government has not provided fishermen with storage facilities at jetties. Those in the fishing business also point to the fisheries department's failure to implement the ban on destructive fishing gear, like LED lamps, and illegal fishing activities like bull trawling and high-speed trawling. These illegalities perpetuated by bigger mechanised boats affect the catch of small-time trawler owners and have a cascading effect on prices. As a solution to battling depleting resources and combating the issues leading to it, those in the hinterland want a huge push for 'caged culture' and estuarine fishing. Traditional fishermen also face problems due to water sports activities and marine projects.

**BAD PRACTICES** Use of LED lamps was banned by the central and state governments two years ago, but implementation is only on paper. When traditional fishermen raised the issue, Goa's fisheries minister Filipe Neri Rodrigues had expressed inability to act against those engaging in it. He had also pointed to the fisheries department's failure to implement the ban on destructive fishing gear. Practices like LED-fishing result in over exploitation of fishery resources, and Rodrigues had promised to work in coordination with central agencies such as the Indian Coast Guard and the state's department of ports to tackle the issue. To further curb the illegalities, the state fisheries department is currently forming draft rules to penalise violators based on the offence or gravity of the violation. **WHEN NATURE SHOWS NO MERCY** Natural phenomenon also has its impact on the sector. From August to October 2019, Goa faced the effect of four cyclones. Cyclonic conditions also led to the migration of schools of fish. Soonafter, in March 2020, the pandemic hit and the fisheries sector in Goa was badly affected due to major outmigration of labour. The cutting down of the fishing ban period also did not help as expected because August 2020 yet again brought with it stormy weather. The sector is seeing a gradual revival at present with only 30% activity resumed as of October. According to Cardozo, a large part of the problems faced by the fishing sector in Goa today could perhaps be resolved if fishermen are allowed to venture beyond their jurisdiction. "Owing to the large size of the purse seiners, we have the capacity to fish beyond state waters 12 nautical miles from the shore. We are, however, restricted only to Goa. We must be permitted to enter national waters, at least till Maharashtra and Karnataka, he says. **State fish of Goa** The striped grey mullet (Mugil

cephalus), locally known as 'shevtto', is a delicacy in Goa. The fish is nutritionally superior. With an average catch of 280 tonne per annum, the fish contributes to about 7% of Goa's total inland production. The mullet fish catch in 2019 stood at 492 tonne compared to 632 tonne in 2018 and 726 tonne in 2017 thus showing a sharp decline in catch over the past couple years.

### **Goa: Fisheries dept convenes meeting to review sanitation issues at Cutbona Jetty**

<https://www.heralddgoa.in/Goa/Fisheries-Dept-convenes-meeting-to-review-sanitation-issues-at-Cutbona-Jetty/167681>

"The Fisheries Department Director Sharmila Monteiro chaired a meeting at the Head Office Panjim on Friday, November 13 to address concerns raised by Velim Civic & Consumer Forum and GOACAN regarding the need for adequate toilets to address the sanitation issues at Cutbona Jetty. Solutions are being worked on to resolve the sanitation issue and need for toilets at Cutbona Jetty to take off on World Toilet Day. The meeting was attended by Agnelo J Severes, Vice Chairman, South Goa Mechanized Boat Owners Co-operative & Marketing Society Ltd; Vinay Tari, Cutbona Fisheries Co-operative Society Ltd; Roland Martins, Co-ordinator GOACAN; Brijesh Singh, Sulabh International; and Chandrakant Velip, Deputy Director Fisheries Department. Underutilization of existing public toilet maintained by Sulabh International was discussed and it was decided to incentivize the usage of the toilet by introducing a pass system to avoid payment per usage and to encourage toilet usage among the fish workers. It was also decided that Behavioural Change Communication (BCC) programmes must be introduced to discourage open defecation.

It was also decided that a formal request for mobile toilets as a stop-gap arrangement will be made to Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural) Government of Goa so that the setting up, maintenance, and costing will be discussed and appropriate service provider be identified for the same. Progress of the setting up of the 50 seater toilet with the required STP was discussed and a status report will be prepared to identify tasks to be undertaken in the 60 days with the Town & Country Planning, Department & Directorate of Health Services, and the Goa State Pollution Control Board. The Director stated that there are many schemes under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMSSY), which are being promoted in Goa by the Fisheries Department; one of these is the establishment of bio -toilets in mechanized fishing vessels. The scheme has a subsidy component as well.

This was seen as a step towards creating good sanitation standards and encouraging the usage of toilets per se. It was agreed that if such bio-toilets are to be set up and used there must be appropriate awareness created among all the stakeholders. Given that 'Sustainable Sanitation and Climate Change', is the theme for the World Toilet Day, which will take place on November 19 - it was agreed that a presentation on the setting up, usage, and sustainability of bio-toilets will be made at the Fisheries Sub Office in Cutbona, Velim on Thursday, November 19. The meeting also took stock of the fact that poor sanitation and open defecation in water bodies,



pollution of the seas, dumping of plastic waste in the rivers are some of the factors that are affecting the fish catch and therefore there must be an awareness campaign on this matter. It was agreed upon that this subject could be addressed during the observation of World Fisheries Day on November 21. It was agreed upon that the issue of conservation of fish resources in general and Goan Fish varieties, in particular, must be deliberated upon further.

### **Goa: Introduced in aug, govt's cage fish farming initiative has no takers yet**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/introduced-in-aug-govts-cage-fish-farming-initiative-has-no-takers-yet/articleshow/79271840.cms>

"The state government's mariculture initiative is yet to find any takers. "We notified the Goa State Mariculture Policy 2020 in August. Now, it is the public that needs to step forward and apply for permits. This would be the best time to apply for it since the cultured fish require about six to seven months to grow, a fisheries department official said. Fisheries department sources said that so far seafarers who returned to Goa due to the pandemic and people who lost their jobs due to the lockdown earlier this year, have been inquiring with them about sea cage culture however, the department hasn't received any applications so far. The fisheries department had planned to source the fish seeds from the Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture (RGCA) in Chennai for the fish farmers in Goa. If there is demand for seeds that are not available with the RGCA, the fisheries department is also willing to write to the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) for help. TOI had reported in August that the state government has formulated a leasing policy to introduce systematic management strategies both for conservation and sustained fish production. It was aimed at encouraging artisanal fishers to take up offshore open sea cage culture such that they shift from capture fisheries regime to culture fisheries regime. To implement cage fish farming as per the Goa State Mariculture Policy 2020, the state government also proposed to constitute an expert committee for zonation and demarcation of the marine waters for mariculture.

### **Goa: GSPCB confirms borewells in Cuncolim fish processing units**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/gspcb-confirms-borewells-in-cuncolim-fish-processing-units/articleshow/79216705.cms>

"The Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB), during an environment audit conducted by it of several fish meal and fish processing units at the Cuncolim Industrial Estate, Cuncolim, indicated the presence of borewells within the premises of these units. The findings have given credence to complaints that the bore wells have been dug by these units to discharge untreated effluents. On Friday, a team of GSPCB officials, during a physical verification, confirmed the detection of borewells at some of the units and collected samples of the water discharged into the them for analysis. The GSPCB had on November 5 and 6 conducted a Ground Penetration Radar (GPR) survey of four fish meal and fish processing units located in

the Cuncolim industrial estate – United Marine Products, Quality Foods, Sagar Feeds and Food Processing Industries and Indotech Ice and Cold Storage. In a notice addressed to the four units, GSPCB said that during the GPR survey, chambers/pits/pipes were identified to be located underground within their premises. 'Woman burnt alive': Rahul accuses Bihar govt of 'hiding' incident Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday attacked the NDA government in Bihar over a woman allegedly burnt alive and accused the Nitish Kumar dispensation of ""hiding"" the incident for ""electoral gains"".

In a first, a non-Muslim tops Islamic Studies exam in India Shubham Yadav (21) from Alwar has become the first non-Muslim in the country to top in the Central University Common Entrance Test in Islamic Studies. A philosophy graduate from Delhi University, Shubham wanted to understand the religion in depth. Dreaming to become a civil servant, Shubham said that Islamic Studies will be helpful for UPSC preparations. For physical verification of the GPR reports, the GSPCB on Friday conducted an inspection and excavation of the identified locations of some of the units in the presence of the factory representatives. The GSPCB records stated that at the Indotech Ice and Cold Storage six borewells were detected, while at Sagar Feeds and Food Processing Industries, three borewells were found dug. Water samples of each of these borewells have been collected for analysis. At the United Marine Products, 10 suspected locations for borewells/chambers/pipes were located within the premises during the GPR survey. However, on Friday, the factory management prevented the GSPCB officials from digging the locations within the premise by producing a stay order issued by the court. United Marine Products had earlier moved the court anticipating that the GSPCB would demolish certain structures of the unit. The environmental audit was conducted by the GSPCB team led by member secretary Shamila Monteiro, along with professor R Jayashakila, Tamil Nadu Fisheries University, professor Manjare, BITS Goa, and consultants Hemant Rane and Sanjay Amonkar.

**Goa: MMC must shift fish vendors in old market, says Niz Goenkar**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/MMC-must-shift-fish-vendors-in-old-market-says-Niz-Goenkar/167447>

"Niz Goenkar Revolutionary Front's Spokesperson Chandrakant Vast said that instead of wasting funds in installing new temporary shed on the footpath in the heart of port town and create inconvenience to the people, Mormugao Municipal Council should shift the fish vendors in the old fish market premises which is underutilised for years. On Tuesday, Vasta told Herald that installing a structure on the footpath is against the High Court guidelines and therefore MMC instead of going ahead with the temporary shed on the footpath should in fact shift fish vendors in the old fish market premises which is standing tall and only needs some minor repairs and cleaning. He further questioned the intentions of the local governing authorities who have failed to make better utilisation of the existing infrastructure and pressing on installing a new infrastructure on the footpath which is against the High Court guideline. He also criticised the

MMC cowing down to the pressure of the fish vendors. He said that the MMC is the local governing and decision making body and it should strictly implement their decision in free and fair manner without succumbing to any pressure. As per my view the fish vendors should have been shifted to the old fish market with repair work of the infrastructure and the government funds could have been utilised for several other projects which are yet to see the daylight in Vasco. Later, when contacted the outgoing MMC Chief Officer Arvind Bugde denied any request from anyone asking to shift the fish vendors to the old market premises. "The market has been planned as per the fish vendors' convenience, he mentioned. Bugde said that the MMC is open for exploring alternatives but till date the council has not received any official request for any changes in the proposal.

### **Goa: Experts committee to identify, demarcate zones for cage fish farming**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/experts-committee-to-identify-demarcate-zones-for-cage-fish-farming/articleshow/79119383.cms>

"To implement cage fish farming as per the Goa State Mariculture Policy 2020, the state government has proposed to constitute an expert committee for zonation and demarcation of marine waters for mariculture. The committee will be headed by the director of fisheries as chairman while the deputy director of fisheries will be the member convener. The members will include a representative of National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) in Goa, a representative of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) Karwar, Karnataka, a representative of the fisheries survey of India, Mormugao and a representative of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, South Goa, department of agriculture. The committee will identify the zones for sea cage farming and demarcate them as zone A and zone B. It will also identify the site where sea cage culture can be permitted by issuing detailed geographical co-ordinates. TOI had reported in August that mariculture, a specialised branch of aquaculture, may soon receive a boost in Goa. Mariculture involves the cultivation of marine organisms for food and other products in an enclosed section of the sea such as cages/pens, or in tanks, ponds or raceways which are filled with saline water. The state government has formulated a leasing policy to introduce systematic management strategies both for conservation and sustained fish production. The aim is to encourage artisanal fishers to take up offshore open sea cage culture so that they shift from capture fisheries regime to culture fisheries regime.

### **Goa: Install mobile toilets at Cutbona**

<https://www.heralddgoa.in/Goa/%E2%80%98Install-mobile-toilets-at-Cutbona%E2%80%99/167213>

"GOACAN has sought that the Cutbona fishing jetty be provided with mobile toilets before November 19, World Toilet Day, so as to tackle the threat posed to the health and sanitation of the fish workers as well as the villagers of Velim and the neighbouring villages in

Salcete. In a letter to Jyoti Kumari, Salcete Deputy Collector, GOACAN pointed out that the lack of mobile toilets is only adding to the burden of the staff of the Primary Health Centre Balli who are already tasked with the work related to the COVID-19 pandemic. It raised concerns about the spread of vector-borne and waterborne diseases and that despite the earlier interventions, there has been no effective action been taken in the matter.

### **Goa: Vasco retail fish market vendors decide not to vacate shed till new council comes**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/Vasco-retail-fish-market-vendors-decide-not-to-vacate-shed-till-new-council-comes-to-power/166944>

"Retail fish vendors from Vasco fish market shed decided not to vacate the existing premises until the new Mormugao Municipal Council (MMC) comes to power, on Tuesday. The decision was taken during a meeting of the fish vendors with Fr Michael Fernandes on the issue of proposed modern fish market shed and vacating the existing fish market shed to allow the work of the proposed fish market project. During a meeting with Fr Fernandes, who is also an advocate, the fisherwomen decided they should get an assurance in writing from the MMC that the project will be completed within a year. Another query was the funds of Fourteen Finance Commission which was transferred to the Goa State Urban Development Authority (GSUDA) by the MMC. It was discussed whether the council had obtained a written permission from the Commission to transfer these funds for building the fish market which was actually given to undertake developmental works in all 25 wards of the municipal area. The fish vendors have decided not to vacate the fish market shed until the new municipal council is formed and comes to power, Vasco Fish Vendors Association Caridade Pereira informed media after the meeting. "If we vacate the existing fish market shed by allowing construction of a new market to begin, we fear that the new municipal council may shelve the project and we will have nowhere to go, said Pereira. "Therefore we need written assurances from the council that the project will be completed within a year and further fish vendors are not willing to vacate shed until the new municipal council is formed and comes to power, the fish vendors association president added. Reiterating the points which Pereira mentioned, Fr Fernandes said that they need a written assurance from the new council (after the municipal election) that they will complete the proposed project.

"We also demand that the illegal selling of fish by the roadside be stopped immediately and also want two policemen to be deputed near the fish market shed to keep vigil on such illegalities which are happening in daylight, added Fr Fernandes. Nandadeep Raut, chairperson of MMC, however, had a different version to this issue. "All the formalities to be followed in undertaking the work of this modern fish market project have been completed. Someone is playing mischief and trying to create a misunderstanding among the people for his own political mileage, claimed Raut in his statement. He also revealed that as per Form-D the property belongs to MMC. Raut also mentioned that even if the existing council changes, the resolution taken by this council in

the meeting will remain unchanged. “All the 25 councillors have agreed on this project. This resolution was even sent to the Director of Municipal Administration who has granted his approval for the project. I feel there should not be any hurdle for this project. I feel some politicians are jealous regarding this project and that's why efforts are being made to create obstructions, but this project will happen as desired by the fish vendors, Raut added.

### **Goa: MSP for fish**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Edit/Goa%E2%80%99s-MSP-for-fish/166629>

"Seems so silly to discuss fish in these trying times, but these are exactly the times surgical strikes on fish supplies are being planned, for that matter every other food supply chain disruptions are either being conducted, or are in the works. No better time really, while the entire population is in a lockdown mode and demonstrations are hard to come by, this really becomes an opportune times for politicians in office to prepare the groundwork to take control of all things food. After all food can then be used as a weapon to control citizens and convert them into slaves from followers. Eventually the goal is, if one applies some imagination, is to take control of the food source and force citizens to be completely dependent on those that have access to it. The giving away of the Benaulim fishing infrastructure project by the government to a private party is one such attempt to corner the fish supply which will not only be hoarded but released in a calibrated manner so as to jack up the prices and hit the Goans where it hurts the most. However, before this crooked plan comes into full implementation, they need to put in place the local fishermen (ramponkars) by taking over their workplace and eventually put him out of business, hence the Benaulim type of agreement for sale. Fishing infrastructure handing over is just one example of how a Goan eventually will be at the mercy of the people that control the fish supplies, once they elbow out the local fishermen out of business. Fortunately for Goa the local fishermen are the last and only line of defense and because they are still holding the fort, they have become a thorn in the flesh of those that want to have complete control of the fish supply. The local fishermen might not be educated but they have brought back market forces into play. For example as soon as the lockdown was announced the local fishermen were able to serve the people of many coastal villages with unadulterated fresh fish not necessarily at a reasonable price to begin with, but as soon the supply began to increase the prices began to recede.

A natural demand supply dynamics, which does not augur well to those who want to tinker with the supply and artificially keep the prices inflated. So far these fishermen have stayed true to Goans, but for how long is a matter of time, as some have begun to get joining offers from political parties that are waiting to manipulate them and take control of the fish supplies. During the beginning of the lockdown many jobs local or international got chocked, but Goans seems to have shrugged of the tag they carried for long that they are not willing to take up small jobs, converted that belief into ‘there's is no job too small' attitude. Many Goan stories did come out

that they were prepared to take up jobs that will bring food on the table, this included distributing fish door to door, while many Goan consumers responded in a positive way, there were some who had their doubts especially when the suppliers were unable to explain the origin of the fish. Why are Goans so bothered about the origin of the fish, the simple reason being that fish is not a trustworthy source of food anymore? There are doubts in the minds of the people that fish imported from other states is being sold as Goan fish and in some cases it is mixed with Goan fish to give some sort of authenticity to the goods. No wonder smart Goans pick up their fish supplies directly from the fishermen at the beach.

This brings us to the question, why do we even have to import fish from other states. Agreed we have tourists to feed, but why should Goans give up their right on the source of food that rightfully belongs to them for the sake of tourism. Imagine you tell a Swiss national that he will have to eat his share of cheese imported from some faraway country because it is cheap and lousy, while we hoard the finest Swiss cheese to feed the big spending tourists. This type of arrangement will not only rile up the citizens of Switzerland but they will make sure the government is out of office in no time. Actually nobody tells you directly not to consume Goan fish, but these crooks have found a way to confuse the people by mixing it all up and take advantage of the lack of knowledge many Goans have in identifying quality fish. Most Goans in the past went by the word the seller would give them, not anymore, and it is here that a dedicated government food administration will have to come in play, not only to check the quality of the food being sold in the market, but to also display the origin of the food. The developed world has to deal with well informed customer and therefore there is pressure on the food suppliers to give out all information in a transparent manner. This is the reason you have restaurants encouraging the 'farm to fork concept' wherein the restaurants or the hotels buy the produce directly from the local farmers thereby ensuring freshness. There are many restaurants that follow this concept in Goa, but time has come to show it off on the menu cards too. That will differentiate your business establishment and could be a game changer; after all educating the customer can never go in vain.

Even agencies that give away food awards will become more credible if they go beyond taste and ambience and give significant importance to use of local produce. Fish is just one example this writer used to explain the importance of self sufficiency in food Goa needs to focus on. We cannot negotiate with our neighboring states over different issues because most of the time our backs are to the wall as we depend on them for food supplies. Fish is one of the source we have abundant supply, at least enough for resident Goans. Let us not allow artificial scarcity to control and manipulate the prices. If market forces are being manipulated it is time for the people to demand that the government bans exports of fish and fix a MSP to be sold exclusively to Goans. Please read MSP here as Maximum Selling Price for the sake of the quiet helpless Goan consumer.



## **Goa: Gets Rs 2 crore aid to propel fisheries sector**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/goa-gets-rs-2cr-aid-to-propel-fisheries-sector/articleshow/78670861.cms>

"Goa has received Rs 2 crore under the central government's grant for focused and sustainable development of fisheries – the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). "The department had moved a proposal for this grant. The central government has approved of approximately Rs 14 crore for Goa. Of this, they have released Rs 2 crore to the state, a fisheries official said. This is for various schemes such as deep sea fishing, aquaculture, building of bio-toilets in fishing vessels, among others to boost the fishing sector in the state under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan. The state action plan includes 24 beneficiary-oriented schemes, of which nine are towards development of inland fisheries and aquaculture including technology infusion such as construction of brackish water ponds and biofloc ponds, recirculatory aquaculture system (RAS), open sea cages and reservoir cages. In addition to this, there are three non-beneficiary schemes like the upgradation of departmental jetties, and construction of a state of the art wholesale fish market. However, the department has not received funds for the non-beneficiary schemes. The state fisheries department has already started receiving applications for its various schemes under this grant. "We are planning to disburse the amount very soon, after we complete scrutinising the applications, the official said. The PMMSY scheme is being launched in 21 states of the country for focused development of fisheries sector in the country with an estimated investment of ₹20,050 crore during a period of five years as part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat package.

## **Goa: Fisheries dept moots using khazan lands for agriculture, aquaculture**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/fisheries-dept-moots-using-khazan-lands-for-agriculture-aquaculture/articleshow/78629545.cms>

"In a bid to make optimal use of the state's khazan lands, the directorate of fisheries has recommended that the government take a policy decision to set aside fertile khazan lands for the development of agriculture and aquaculture zones. The directorate has contributed suggestions for the preparation of a draft khazan management plan. Khazan lands presently occupy nearly 18,500ha of area in the state, of which about 3,500ha are fallow and marshy. The directorate of fisheries has stated that all khazans are agricultural lands, most of which have turned marshy or have become mangrove-infested after being left unused for a considerable period of time. As most of these tracts are tenanted, they cannot be used for aquaculture. They are not considered to be economically feasible for agriculture either, and are therefore left fallow. "In order to make these idle lands productive and with a view to increase the state's fish production, it is strongly recommended that the state take a policy decision to set aside these fertile khazan lands for developing zones for agriculture, aquaculture and other allied agricultural activities, the directorate has stated. In a khazan system, the sea is connected to an inland riverine body through

a sluice gate. Khazan lands are fragile and have sluice gates as the only protection against inundation by saline waters.

Hence, bundhs and sluice gates are the most important component of a khazan system's structure. “Khazan lands are generally used for growing paddy. Fishing using traditional methods is carried out in the ‘poeim’. However, the system of rice production and fish farming in Goa is now being reversed and fish farming is gaining importance as a major economic activity. Hence, many vested interests are involved in ‘fake breaching’ and keeping protective dykes (bundhs) and sluice gates in poor condition, the directorate of fisheries has said. It has called for the need to re-survey fertile and fallow areas to identify tracts that are continuously inundated with saline water and has suggested that submerged land lying fallow for an extended period of time may be earmarked to be promoted as areas for pisciculture

### **Retailer responsibility in aquaculture production, feeds recognized at GOAL**

<https://www.aquaculturealliance.org/advocate/retailer-responsibility-in-aquaculture-production-feeds-recognized-at-goal/>

"Day 2 of the Global Outlook for Aquaculture Leadership (GOAL) conference looked at how major retailers and supply companies approach to environmental concerns. Presenters agreed that value-chain collaboration is crucial to maintaining a sustainable industry. Anna Turrell, head of environment for Tesco, one of the top retail chains in the United Kingdom, explained that as leaders in sustainability, the company is focused on delivering low-impact protein, and that seafood is an important part of this portfolio. “We have an imperative to source and delivery healthy, sustainable and accessible food to our growing global population. In doing so, we must tackle systemic issues such as food waste, biological diversity, ecosystem degradation and inequality, she said. Tesco has partnered with the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) to half the environmental impact of the average UK shopping basket. Consumers, Turrell explained, are increasingly knowledgeable and concerned about the environment. However, in order to effect change, there needs to be continuous engagement with suppliers, processors, packaging and transport companies.

Suppliers are encouraged to sign up to PAS 1550, the code of practice for tackling illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing illegal fishing and human rights abuses. The panel agreed that the impacts of feed production are a key factor to be addressed, with greater efforts made to ensure use of certified sustainable fish stocks, investigate more alternative proteins and oils for feed, and achieve zero deforestation on terrestrial ingredients. Pilar Cruz, president of Cargill Aqua Nutrition, explained that there were challenges to ensuring sustainable growth of the feed industry, in order to supply a demand for farmed seafood that is predicted to more than double by 2050. Cruz said that Cargill has gradually increased its use of novel ingredients such as microalgae and insect meal, in collaboration with customers, and that there are some exciting sources of the omega-3 fatty acids DHA and EPA to evaluate. However, new sources also need

to be able to upscale sustainably and to ensure their carbon footprint is in line with acceptable norms, as life-cycle assessments (LCA) show large variations between type and supplier. Cargill aims to use 100 percent Marine Stewardship Council-certified marine ingredients by 2025 and is already incorporating higher proportions of trimmings from seafood processing in its feed to maintain the balance of marine ingredients.

“Our goal is to provide an increasingly wide basket of sustainable, healthy and nutritious raw materials that meet the needs of the aquaculture industry, and we are engaging with suppliers and stakeholders to drive change. We are investing to have a positive impact on the planet, Cruz said. Dave Robb, director of sustainability for Cargill, joined the ensuing panel discussion to explain that the company had investigated many dozens of different ingredients over the past few years, but few offered the right price points versus benefits for customers. “Our customers are sensitive to price change, which in turn is dictated by the retailers, and we have to work within these constraints, said Robb. “We can't force fish farmers to buy particularly raw materials from us, but if retailers list them as a requirement on purchasing specifications, it will pass up the supply chain to us. Everyone needs to agree to the overall goal, so that we can achieve results together. Graham Ellis, CEO of Ocean Harvest Technology, agreed that supply chain help was needed to enable fish farmers to change their business practices to use new feeds. “New ingredients may not find a niche immediately, even if they deliver outstanding benefits in mortality, prevent societal health issues by reducing antibiotic misuse, or correct an environmental disaster in progress. It's difficult to get them accepted, he said.

Cargill works with the ProTerra Foundation, whose MD, Emese Brosz, spoke about developing standards for non-GMO crops, food and feed, and their work to increase market uptake of certified-sustainable soy in fish feed. “Land conversion is the key risk, and this year there have been a higher number of fires in Brazil to clear land than in previous years, yet still people buy unsustainable, uncertified soy. Globally, only 6 percent of soy production is certified and just 3 percent has deforestation certification, but we are working to improve this percentage, she said. More than 7 million metric tons of soy is exported from Brazil to the EU each year and China buys even greater quantities. Brosz echoed the need for supply chain collaboration to help achieve further improvements, and the panel agreed that getting China to join the sustainability discussion would be a challenge. On-pack labelling was discussed as a potential means to get greater buy-in from consumers, but with a plethora of information already on packaging, such a move could lead to confusion. The rise of e-commerce offers one potential solution, as consumers often take more time to read information about their purchases online.

### **Goa: State looking to tap tourism potential of vast mangrove cover**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/state-looking-to-tap-tourism-potential-of-vast-mangrove-cover/articleshow/78543449.cms>

"The state government has formed a committee to prepare a draft plan for mangrove management, to tap its vast cover in the state for tourism. The committee, headed by Dr Simon D'Souza, will have to submit its report in 45 days. Apart from its tourism potential, it will also see what's the best way to protect mangroves as well as how they can be protected. A senior official said that in other states, governments have used mangrove cover for tourism activities, and that Goa too can make mangroves attractive to tourists coming to Goa. The committee can call records as necessary and analyse all reports, documents, studies and publications as available in respect of mangroves. It will also carry out field visits and consultations with stakeholders, and study the present law, rules and regulations. The state government has also formed two different committees to prepare a draft plan for the fishermen community in Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) areas, and for khazan lands.

The terms and reference of the latter is to focus on the revival of khazan lands. A senior official said that people have started cultivating in khazan land. "The committee will submit a report on how to revive khazan to derive benefits from it without damaging the environment, he said. A senior officer also said that under the fishing community plan, the panel would submit a report making recommendations on what kind of facilities are conducive for the fishing community. He said that currently, the CRZ notification does not specify houses for the fishing community. The state government has nearly completed the exercise of mapping bunds and sluice gates across the state. The details will be submitted to the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), which is preparing the state's draft CZMP.

### **Goa: Sale of fish along roadsides banned in Vasco from today**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/sale-of-fish-along-roadsides-banned-in-vasco-from-today/articleshow/78502451.cms>

"The Mormugao Municipal Council (MMC) on Monday decided that no vendor will henceforth be allowed to sell fish along roadsides. MMC chairperson Nandadeep Raut said that from Tuesday, fish will only be allowed to be sold at the fish markets. The MMC took the decision after Vasco's fisherfolk community protested by shutting the fish market on Monday and demanding that a meeting with stakeholders be convened immediately. "We will not tolerate people selling fish at every nook and corner of Vasco. We lose our business because of this. We have already lost a lot of business since many fish selling points have mushroomed in Vasco, said Caridade Pereira, a fisher vendor who headed the fisherfolk delegation at the

meeting. Vasco MLA Carlos Almeida, who chaired the meeting, directed police and Raut to make arrangements to stop the sale of fish outside the market. He assured the fisherfolk that necessary action would be taken against those who continue selling fish illegally. “In the pandemic, many of those who lost their jobs and businesses, including taxi drivers, took up to selling fish. We permitted them as we did not want crowding at once place. But, now this will not be permitted, said the MMC chief.

### **Goa: MMC not to allow illegal fish sale along the roadside**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/MMC-not-to-allow-illegal-fish-sale-along-the-roadside/166101>

"The Mormugao Municipal Council (MMC) and Vasco MLA Carlos Almeida have assured the fisherwomen from Vasco fish market that the civic body would not allow illegal sale of fish along the roadside in the municipal areas. They informed that the work to erect a temporary shed for the fish vendors from market will commence shortly as the work of the new fish market complex project is expected to begin within 15 days. On Monday, a group of around 30 fisherwomen from Vasco fish market gathered at the Deputy Collector's office to meet the officials to put forth their grievances and to know about the arrangements made by the authorities for them after the work of new fish market complex commences. The meeting which lasted for almost an hour was attended by Vasco MLA Carlos Almeida, MMC chairperson Nandadeep Raut, Deputy Collector Mormugao Sachin Desai, MMC Chief Officer Arvind Bugde, Councillor Fredrick Henriques, Vasco Police Inspector Nilesh Rane and others. After the meeting, Caridade Pereira, President of the Vasco Fish Market Association informed that fisherwomen's demand was to stop the vendors who sell fish illegally at the roadside at cheaper prices. “We have been assured by the officials that from Tuesday onwards vendors selling fish illegally along the roadside and outside fish market will not be allowed.

If my demands are fulfilled by the authorities then my association will fully back the new market complex project, Pereira said. Pereira warned that if MMC fails to fulfil their promises and if the vendors are seen selling fish illegally along the roadside in municipal area then the fisherwomen from fish market will go on strike. Vasco MLA Carlos Almeida said, “The new fish market complex is needed in Vasco. People are facing problems because of the existing infrastructure. I am thankful to the MMC for utilising the fourteen finance funds for this project. There was a major issue during the discussion that some vendors were selling fish at roadsides illegally. It was decided in the meeting not to allow such things in the municipal areas. The people who are selling along the roadside now do not have permission to sell fish". MMC chairperson Nandadeep Raut said, “Since the pandemic due to loss of livelihood many have resorted to selling fish, fruits, veggies etc along the roadside. But now the situation is returning to normal therefore such activities cannot be allowed. I feel that the new market complex project work is likely to start within 15 days. Fisherwomen have been assured by the authorities that

from Tuesday onwards MMC will not allow vendors to sit along the roadside and sell commodities illegally. Raut urged vendors not to sell fish, fruits and veggies illegally along the roadside and these commodities should be sold by the registered vendors only. He added that on Tuesday MMC will inspect the sites where the temporary shed could be erected for fisherwomen.

**Goa: In attempt to protect livelihood, Goan fishermen hold awareness programme across state**

<https://www.thegoan.net/goa-news/%EF%BB%BFIn-attempt-to-protect-livelihood-goan-fishermen-hold-awareness-programme-across-state/59391.html>

"Goenchea Raponkarancha Ekvott (GRE) along with other societies have kick-started awareness programmes in different parts of the State as an desperate attempt to protect their livelihoods, as the government has failed to curb bull-trawling and bottom-high speed trawling by Malpe fishing trawlers in Goan territorial waters since last year. The awareness programmes were held at Caranzalem, Nerul, Baga, Morjim, Arambol, Talpona, Canacona and Betul on Sunday. In a press release, GRE General Secretary Olencio Simoes accused Fisheries department for being a mute spectator towards thousands of Malpe boats fishing within the State territorial waters, even after Malpe boat crew members heckled the Goan fishermen in the sea and destroyed their nets which they cast for fishing. "The State and the Central government in 2016 and 2017 respectively had banned the use of bull or pair-trawling in the territorial waters and the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). This kind of fishing gears are banned in neighbouring states of Karnataka and Maharashtra, but these Malpe trawlers from Karnataka use this kind of destructive fishing only in Goan territorial waters because the Goa government has failed to implement the law in totality.

"These Malpe boats sweep the seabed within minutes thereby depriving the fishermen of Goa from their daily catch, besides completely destroying the nursing grounds of several species of fish. If action is not initiated immediately and if they continue to enter Goan territorial waters then our Goan traditional fishermen and small boat owners will not have fish to harvest for the rest of the season and this will be detrimental for the future of fishing community of Goa, said Simoes. Custodio D'Souza, president of Old Cross Fishing Canoe Owners Co-operative Society (OCFCOS) has demanded the Fisheries department to immediately depute fisheries surveyor and inspect hundreds of Malpe boats anchored at Khariwado bay. "These boats were fishing within 20 meters of our territorial waters and were caught in the storm and were forced to anchor at Khariwado bay. Therefore, GRE will continue with awareness programme all along the coastline of North and South Goa till the State administration and Fisheries department ban these Malpe boats operating in our territorial waters and if government fails to do so then government will be blamed for any law and order situation in the State, said D'Souza



### **Goa: Poor demand sees fishermen avoid tuna catch**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/poor-demand-sees-fishermen-avoid-tuna-catch/articleshow/78325346.cms>

"Owing to the poor response received for tuna from the markets in Kerala, some fishermen have started to avoid catching this fish. Due to lack of interest among Goan consumers, this fish species is usually exported to Kerala. "This is the season for tuna catch, but since Goans don't consume it much, we sell it through agents to Kerala. The rates of tuna have fallen drastically over the past few days as a result of which, we are not even able to cover the fuel cost of the vessels, general secretary of the All Goa Purse Seine Boat Owners' Association, Sebastiao Cardozo, said. The fish which would otherwise be sold to the Kerala market at Rs 100 per kg is now going at Rs 40. Moreover, with some of the fish markets closed in Kerala because of the pandemic, some agents are hesitant to accept large quantities of tunato be sold in the southern state, he said. "Each of our agents has 10 to 12 vehicles of fish stranded in Kerala. We are therefore forced to bring down the price and sell it for Rs 40 per kg. To avoid further loss, we have decided not to catch tuna as of now, Cardozo added. Some fishermen, however, said that they may continue to catch the fish irrespective of the challenges. "The rates have lowered but that will not deter fishermen from netting the fish. We are handing the catch directly to the agents, president of Cutbona Boat Owners Association, Savio D'Silva, said.

### **Goa: Invites applications for private fishing jetties**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/state-invites-applications-for-private-fishing-jetties/articleshow/78305695.cms>

"In a bid to relieve pressure from the existing notified jetties, the state government has proposed to notify private fish landing centres in Goa. Applicants that desire to notify any area as private landing centre where the activity of unloading of fish, along with its other auxiliary activity such as net mending, repair of vessel is carried out, has to make application to directorate of fisheries along with all the details of land he owns or taken on lease. Along with the application, the applicant has to provide a report, which will include all details, like total area to be notified, different kinds of auxiliary activity to be carried on proposed landing points, mechanism for reporting entry and exit of vessel, fish catch data and coastal security measures. The layout and plan with proper demarcation of area for various activities must be furnished. Fishing vessels which are registered with the fisheries department only shall be allowed to land at private landing centres from a coastal security point of view. CCTV cameras that cover the entire landing centre 24 by 7 have to be compulsorily installed by the applicant. The CCTV footage data has to be stored for a minimum period of two months and the same submitted to the coastal security police as and when asked for. Besides, the applicant has to provide an online application based viewing rights to the coastal security police and other security agencies, like the district collector, department of fisheries, coast guard, captain of ports, etc, at all times as and

when sought for. The owner of the landing centre has to also maintain the record of the crew working in the proposed landing centre. Also, the movement of vessels and other activities conducted have to be recorded in the register and must be produced before any officer of the directorate of fisheries for inspection.

### **Goa: Fishermen upset over govt's inaction on Malpe trawlers**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/Fishermen-upset-over-govt%E2%80%99s-inaction-on-Malpe-trawlers/165554>

"Goenchea Raponkarancho Ekvott (GRE) along with other fishermen groups are upset over the State government's inaction over the bull trawling done by the Malpe trawlers in the Goan territorial waters. The fishing groups warned the government to act quickly on this issue failing to which they will be forced to take law in their hands. On Monday, speaking to the media persons, here, GRE General Secretary Olencio Simoes warned that the State government's failure to take action against the outside trawlers (Malpe, Karnataka) fishing in the Goan sea water will force the Goan fishermen to come on the streets. Simoes mentioned that despite the Central and State governments banning the use of pair trawling in the territorial waters and in specific zone, presently over thousand trawlers from Malpe, Karnataka are operating in the Goan water without giving any importance to the Goa government. These Malpe boats use China engines with high speed which tend to have destructive effects on the marine life's habitat. A member of Old Cross Fishing Canoe Association Custodio D'souza pointed out that how the State government has miserably failed in acting against the bull trawling by Malpe fishing trawlers in Goan sea water.

### **Goa: GRE accuses government of failing to curb bull trawling by Malpe trawlers in Goan waters**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/GRE-accuses-government-of-failing-to-curb-bull-trawling-by-Malpe-trawlers-in-Goan-waters/165531>

"Accusing the State government of failing to curb bull trawling by Malpe fishing trawlers in Goan territorial waters since last year, Goenchea Raponkarancho Ekvott (GRE) president Agnelo Rodrigues on Sunday flayed the Goan purse seine boat owners for being silent on the issue. In a press release, Goenchea Raponkarancho Ekvott stated that the Fisheries Department in 2016 and the Central Government in 2017 banned the use of bull or pair trawling in the territorial waters and Indian Exclusive Zone (EEZ), but still today over thousand Karnataka trawlers are operating within the territorial waters of the State and continue to use these banned destructive gears without fear of law or Goa government. "These Malpe trawlers not only use destructive gears to fish but also high speed China engines which completely clear the seabed within few days, thereby completely destroying the nursing grounds of several species of fish

and marine ecology, Rodrigues alleged.

“If the Malpe boats are not stopped immediately and continue to enter Goan territorial waters then our traditional Goan fishermen and small boat owners will have no fish to harvest for the rest of the season. If this continues, then it will be detrimental to the fishing community of Goa since today most fishermen are returning home empty-handed he claimed. General secretary Olencio Simoes demanded immediate action from the Fisheries Director and Fisheries Minister against these Malpe boats entering Goa stating that if they are not impounded then it is certain that Goa which is second the State for fish exports will head towards fish extinction of wild fisheries and soon Goa will join other countries such as Norway, Denmark, Oman, New Zealand, Australia etc, where fisheries had come to halt due to such destructive gears. “If action is not initiated immediately then Goan fishermen will be forced to take law into their hands, GRE warned. “These Malpe trawlers have not only overexploited our fish catch but have also destroyed our nets while fishing. Hope necessary action will be taken, Goenchea Raponkarancho Ekvott added.

### **UN says global goals to protect nature need women to succeed**

<https://news.trust.org/item/20200915173711-66lp0/>

"Women - who gather much of the world's wood and water, and carry out a large share of its farming - have too little say in how land is used, one key reason countries are failing to halt rapid losses of nature, environmental officials said on Tuesday. Giving women a bigger voice in decision-making ""is essential to achieve our biodiversity goals"", said David Cooper, deputy executive director of the U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The United Nations released a sobering update on global efforts to protect forests, plants, wildlife, fish and other forms of nature, noting that none of the 2020 goals countries set themselves a decade ago had been fully met. ""The capacity of ecosystems to provide the essential services on which societies depend continues to decline,"" with women and poor communities worst-affected, the report noted. Losses of native plants and forests, which help support rainfall and stem erosion, have hit crop yields and access to water, fuel-wood and plants used as natural medicines, it said. About half of the world's people are expected to live in water-scarce areas by 2050, especially in Asia, it added, while floods and soil erosion are increasing as land degrades.

Inger Andersen, executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme, said women often controlled seed stocks and made plant-based medicines, and harm to nature curbed their ability to manage health, nutrition and farming. ""To a poor woman in a rural setting who is managing this (loss), it becomes very real,"" she told an online briefing. While 164 countries recognise women's rights to own, use and make decisions about land equally with men, only 52 guarantee those rights in both law and practice, the report said. Julie Weah, executive director of the Foundation for Community Initiatives in Liberia, said that in her experience women were denied ownership of and participation in the governance of natural resources in their

communities. "Even if they are on (committees), they are not occupying decision-making positions," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "If they play a key role in deciding how to manage our wildlife and biodiversity, we'll see a wider change," she predicted, noting that women often have the interests of their children and the wider community at heart. Women in Liberia who helped shape decisions on how to spend money from logging concessions, for instance, have in some cases devoted it to scholarships for girls, and stepped up on reporting illegal mining and logging, she said. In the Peruvian Amazon, indigenous women are taking the lead in tree planting and joining forest-monitoring patrols in bigger numbers, said Josh Lichtenstein, a Latin American forest and indigenous expert with the Rainforest Foundation US. Widows of murdered indigenous land protectors in Peru's Amazon also have led a groundbreaking push to bring to account their killers, with the case set to be heard before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in October, he noted.

"Women have a much closer relationship with biodiversity than men do," he said in an interview. "Men hunt and plant crops but it's the women who go into the forest to gather medicine, gather food, gather water." "It's the women who have a lot of the traditional knowledge of plants and biodiversity that indigenous communities rely on." In some places, women are already playing a role in efforts to protect nature - and reaping the benefits, the report said. In Pakistan, an effort to plant a billion trees in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province created jobs and was expected to have a positive impact on women, who are responsible for collecting forage, fuel-wood and water, the report noted. In the Pacific island nation of Samoa, a women-led mangrove restoration effort has boosted stocks of fish and crabs and provided better incomes, it added. And in Cambodia, the government has created community fishing zones that allow local people - a third of them women - to manage their own fish stocks, the report noted. Anne Larigauderie, executive secretary of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, said giving women, youth and indigenous people a bigger voice in decisions about using land and natural resources helps "increase your chances of long-term success".

### **Goa: Panels formed for preparing management plans on Khazan lands, mangroves & fishing community in CRZ areas**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/Panels-formed-for-preparing-management-plans-on-Khazan-lands-mangroves-fishing-community-in-CRZ-areas/165197>

"In a major move, the State government has initiated a process to prepare plans for management of Khazan lands, mangroves and for the fishing community living in Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) areas. The Environment Department has constituted three committees (with same members), headed by former National Institute of India (NIO) scientist Simon D'Souza for preparing the draft reports – 'Khazan land Management', 'Mangrove Management'

and 'Comprehensive Plan for fishing community living in CRZ areas. The report has to be prepared and submitted to the government within 45 days. The committee has to call for relevant records and analyse all the reports, documents, studies, publications, available on the subjects for using it as a base for preparing the draft plans. It has to also study the present laws, rules, regulations that are in force with regards to management of khazan lands, mangroves and CRZ, with particular to fishing communities along the coastal belts. The department has made it mandatory for the committee to undertake site visits and hold consultations with the stakeholders, seeking inputs.

The 11-members committee comprises former Director of Department of Science and Technology, Former Chief Engineer of Water Resources Department, former NIO scientist, member of Energy Research Institute, Secretary of Heritage Network Group and other invitees. Khazans, the centuries-old marvels, are considered as the most threatened amongst all natural ecosystems of the State. It is estimated that about 4,00ha of Khazans are lost over the last thirty years. The Government is now looking at protecting these marvels, which are spread across 18,000 hectares (Ha), which is about 5 per cent of the State's total geographical area. The unregulated urban development, increased pollution, altered distribution and with increased tourism, has resulted in the most destructive human impact on mangrove forests. Goa has witnessed a sharp decline of mangrove area over the last three decades- from 20,000 ha in 1987 to 2,200 ha in 2015. However, despite all odds, the dedicated efforts by the forest department have given some results, with mangrove cover witnessing growth of nearly 10 sq kms since the last three years.

### **Goa: CM announces Rs 163 cr plan for fisheries sector**

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/atmanirbhar-bharat-goa-cm-announces-rs-163-cr-plan-for-fisheries-sector-120091401139\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/atmanirbhar-bharat-goa-cm-announces-rs-163-cr-plan-for-fisheries-sector-120091401139_1.html)

"Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Monday announced an action plan to boost fishing and said Rs 163.1 crore had been proposed for the state in the current financial year under the Centre's Atmanirbhar Bharat plan. The state will provide Rs 48.58 crore out of this, the CM said. Sawant's announcement comes in the backdrop of Prime Minister Narendra Modi announcing the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), which aims to bring about a 'Blue Revolution' through sustainable and responsible development of the fisheries sector. Taking to Twitter, the CM said, ""State plan action includes 24 beneficiary oriented schemes of which nine schemes are towards development of inland fisheries and aquaculture including technology infusion, such as construction of brackish water ponds, construction of Biofloc ponds, Recirculatory Aquaculture System (RAS) Open sea cages, Reservoir cages etc, 15

schemes under Post Harvest Management, marketing and its infrastructure and development of Deep sea fishing." ""Under non-beneficiary components, three schemes have been proposed which include engaging of 20 Sagar Mitra for multipurpose support services and construction of state of art Wholesale Fish Market,"" he further tweeted. Out of the outlay of Rs 163.1 crore, the Centre's share is 82.87 crore, the state will give Rs 48.58 crore while Rs 3.62 crore will be beneficiary share.

### **Goa: Collector acts tough, says fish sales only if norms followed**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/Collector-acts-tough-says-fish-sales-only-if-norms-followed/165090>

"Three days after the Corporation of City of Panaji (CCP) Mayor complained about violation of social distancing norms at Caranzalem beach during fish sales, the North Goa collector has warned the fishermen that the fish sales would be allowed only if social distancing norms are followed. The North Goa Collector R Menaka convened a joint meeting to discuss the situation after the violations of COVID-19 norms had gone viral on social media. Panjim Mayor Uday Madkaikar said the Collector has informed them the district administration has taken strong cognizance of violations of social distancing norms. "The Collector has said that selling of fish would be permitted only if social distancing is maintained, Madkaikar revealed. Herald was the first paper to carry the photograph of fish sales at Caranzalem wherein hundreds of people gathered to buy fresh fish. At the meeting, the Office of North Goa Collectorate has issued directions to fishermen selling fish at Caranzalem beach to maintain social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Mayor of the Corporation of City of Panaji (CCP) Mayor Uday Madkaikar had last week written to Collector R Menaka seeking intervention after a photograph published in Herald exposed negligence at Caranzalem beach. The fishermen would be selling their catch whilst people in large numbers gathered for purchase throwing social distancing norms to the wind.

"The photograph published in the Herald had gone viral. We too observed that fishermen and people at the beach did not observe social distancing. This could trigger more cases of COVID-19 in the present time when the number is already rising. I had thereafter written to the Collector (North) to issue directions, the Mayor told Herald. The meeting, chaired by Collector was attended by the police, Deputy Collector, CCP Mayor, Commissioner, ward corporator, fishermen association, fisheries department, health officer among others wherein Menaka directed the fishermen to sell fish by maintaining social distancing. "The fishermen are allowed to do fishing but the sale will be permitted only if they maintain social distancing, an official told Herald.

### **World News: World misses 2020 biodiversity goals: UN draft report says**

[climatechangenews.com/2020/09/08/world-misses-2020-biodiversity-goals-leaked-un-draft-](https://climatechangenews.com/2020/09/08/world-misses-2020-biodiversity-goals-leaked-un-draft-)



[report/](#)

"Over the last decade, governments have failed to meet any of the internationally agreed 2020 goals to halt plant and wildlife loss, according to a leaked UN draft report. A draft version of the fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, seen by Climate Home News, reported that none of the 20 Aichi biodiversity targets set in Japan in 2010 have been fully met. It identified failure to account for the role of women as a significant barrier to progress, along with funding shortfalls and harmful subsidies. Prepared by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the report provides a summary of the state of nature and biodiversity worldwide. The final report is due to be released next Tuesday after being reviewed by negotiators, with reflections on the way forward and how Covid-19 recovery packages could help achieve biodiversity goals. It comes as governments are preparing to adopt a new set of biodiversity targets beyond 2020 in Kunming, China. The summit was due to take place in October 2020 but has been provisionally rescheduled to May 2021 because of Covid-19. A proposal to protect at least 30% of the world's land and seas has formed the basis of the negotiations.

Observers to preparatory talks expressed concerns little progress has been made on mobilising finance to meet the new goals, and fear a repeat of the Aichi failure if more resources are not pledged. The draft report assessed progress towards meeting each element of the Aichi targets. Among the 44 sub-targets assessed, 20 are ranked as "poor, 19 as "moderate and only five as "good. It found that biodiversity is not yet being brought into mainstream decision-making, harmful subsidies have not been removed on a meaningful scale and biodiversity continues to decline in places used to produce food and timber. The loss and degradation of habitats "remains worryingly high, it said, including in primary forests and wetlands. Last year, a major scientific report by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (Ipbes) warned species extinction was accelerating, with ecosystems deteriorating at rates unprecedented in human history. Although most countries have adopted national targets in line with the Aichi goals, "the collective ambition of national targets does not add up to the global ambition and data gaps remain in biodiversity-rich developing countries, the draft added. For example, a study of 106 small-scale fisheries worldwide found the harvesting of clams and other invertebrates by women had been largely ignored, leading to underestimation of the total catch and of the species targeted by fishers. "The essential role of women in underpinning actions for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity have been consistently undervalued, the report concluded.

Conversely, a programme in Niger to improve agricultural productivity and rehabilitate land that targeted women as well as men was highlighted for showing good results. The region saw the gradual return of wildlife such as rodents, birds, reptiles and mammals. Unless gender issues better inform future policy decisions, it could undermine long-term efforts to halt the decline and extinction of species and allow ecosystems to recover by 2050, the report said. Meanwhile,

financial resources for implementing the Aichi goals have increased but remain “inadequate and funds are “especially lacking in those countries richest in biodiversity and in threatened species. The CBD warned that failure to meet the Aichi goals threatened the achievement of the 2030 sustainable development goals and could undermine efforts to curb greenhouse gas emissions. Nearly a third of emissions cuts required to meet the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming “well below 2C could come from nature-based solutions, it said. It is not too late to reverse the trend if conservation efforts are scaled up and protected areas expanded, the draft said. However, it will require “a reinvention of the ways in which we collectively produce, consume and live. This, it added, should include maintaining and improving food security without converting large-scale forests and ecosystems into agricultural land, encouraging moderate meat consumption, greening urban areas, better protecting freshwater ecosystems and addressing climate change.

#### **Goa: Increase in plastic trash landing in fishing nets worries fishermen**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/Increase-in-plastic-trash-landing-in-fishing-nets-worries-fishermen/165012>

"The increasing amount of plastic trash getting caught in the fishing nets along with the fish is giving hard times to the fishermen of Goa. The fisher folk say many times plastic and fish land in equal measure in their nets and they have to spend extra time in segregating the trash from their prized catch. The fishermen say that they are catching fish for the last 25 years but have never seen this amount of plastic being netted. They said that there is a gradual rise in trash for the last 10 years. It has been increasing by the year, especially during the monsoon season. This year, the plastic trash levels collected are higher than the last year. The point also came that once segregated, the netted trash is just left on the beaches in the evening. But due to the high tide at night, major portion of this waste is washed back into the sea again. But when it comes to plastic in the sea and related problems, it is for us humans, to ensure that we don't litter on the shores. It is the duty of every Goan not to throw plastic on the seashore and in the water also. Goans like to eat fish the most and if this situation goes on increasing then what will happen to Goans, just think of it. It's in our hands to decrease the level of plastic waste in our State and in our country too.

#### **Goa: Unusual sea surge keeps fishermen on toes in Benaolim**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/unusual-sea-surge-keeps-fishermen-on-toes-in->

[benaulim/articleshow/77986780.cms](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/fishing-boat-owners-fly-workers-to-go/articleshow/77986780.cms)

"An unusual swelling of the sea at around noon on Monday posed a challenge to traditional fishermen at Benaulim who attempted to pull their canoes onto the shore while they were being dangerously tossed around by large waves. The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) had warned of a sea surge from 11.30am on September 7 to 11.30pm on September 9. Three of the canoes that had ventured into the sea earlier in the morning returned at around 11.30am. Waves breaking near the shore were so strong that the fishermen could not control the vessels and managed to bring them to a stop close to one other. An all-terrain vehicle was then brought to the beach, to which one canoe was tied. Later, workers from other fishing boats and locals who were visiting the beach to buy fish, lent a hand to pull the vessels ashore. It took over two hours to bring the three motorised canoes onto the beach.

#### **Goa: Desperate to start, fish boat owners fly workers to Goa**

[https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/fishing-boat-owners-fly-workers-to-go/articleshow/77987650.cms'](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/fishing-boat-owners-fly-workers-to-go/articleshow/77987650.cms)

"Boat owners in Goa have taken matters into their own hands to start the delayed fishing season. Handicapped by the lack of migrant workers who had returned to their villages due to the pandemic fishing boat operators have managed to bring some of their workforce back by air. "There is no public transport, nor do we have money to make necessary arrangements, one of the workers, Mital Sarkar, said. "We informed the boat owners that if they want us to come back, they will have to plan our return. For him and his companions, travelling by air was like a dream come true, he said. "We are illiterate and some of us do not even speak Hindi, said another skilled worker, Dhiraj Kumar Guru. "It's very tough for us to go through all the documental procedure, and that is why we insisted that the boat owners do the necessary. He has now resumed work at the Vasco jetty. Workers from Andhra Pradesh, Chennai and West Bengal are among those that have been flown in to Goa. Sebastian Cardozo, secretary of the All Goa Purse Seine Boat Owners Association, said that only those boat owners who can afford to bring their workers by flight are doing so. "There are workers that specialise in net-mending who must be on board while fishing, he said.

At the Cutbona jetty, only 25% of the boats have managed to start operations, even though it has been over a month since the season has commenced. "About 40% of the boats are operating at the Vasco jetty as the owners have managed to bring their workers from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, etc, by private buses and airlines, said Jose Philip D'souza, president of the Goa fishing

boat owner's association. For the plane trip, some boat owners have paid around Rs 10,500 per head. While up to Rs 7,000 has been spent on the flight ticket, Rs 1,500 has been spent on taxi fare to get them from their respective homes to the airport, and Rs 2,000 for the Covid-19 test. Similarly, for bus transport, they have paid around Rs 8,000 per worker, of which Rs 5,000 was spent on the bus commute, Rs 1,000 for food, and Rs 2,000 for the Covid-19 test. TOI had reported on September 1 that purse seine boat owners had started to send buses from Goa to bring back migrant workers to be deployed on their fishing vessels. Harshad Dhond, president of the all Goa fishermen's association, sent three buses to his workers' native place, and is expecting to start operations after the 100-odd migrants arrive. "By mid-September, we can expect at least 50% of the workers to arrive at the Malim jetty. However, this is only with boat owners who can afford to pay for the commute of their workers. Over 40% of the boat owners operating from Malim may not be able to do so, Dhond said. Despite these efforts, only 20% of the total fishing activity in the state has successfully started.

Some boat owners are still struggling, and are hopeful that the government would come to their rescue. "We have been plagued with financial problems and there is no help from the fisheries department to assist us in bringing back our workers. Many boats are therefore anchored at the jetties. The Goa government must intervene by bearing at least half the cost of transport to bring them back, said Francis D'souza, chairman of the Mandovi fishermen marketing cooperative society. Top officials from the fisheries department also said that the mechanised fishing sector is affected due to the lack of labour. "They have not informed the department about bringing any of their workers by flight. They have not sought any financial assistance for it either, they said.

### **Goa: With less crew, purse seiners sail slow into new fishing season**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/with-less-crew-purse-seiners-sail-slow-into-new-fishing-season/articleshow/77880164.cms>

"On the opening day of the fishing season, only 5% of purse seine boats from the Cutbona jetty were able to undertake a deep sea journey. The boat owners had previously decided to postpone the fishing season by a month to September 1 as most of its migrant crew members were yet to come to Goa from their native places. "Only about 20-30% of migrant workers have returned to join the fishing boats. Due to this, we have not been able to start operations on a full swing, Sebastiao Cardozo, general secretary of the All Goa Purse Seine Boat Owners' Association, said. At the Vasco and Malim jetties as well, only a few purse seine boats were able to venture into the seas with the available crew. As of now, only trawlers and canoes are able to carry out fishing activities. TOI had reported on Tuesday that many boat owners have arranged for buses to pick up their workers from other states. For some boat owners, the cost comes to almost Rs 6,000 per person as they pay for fuel, food and the Covid-19 test on arrival. The boat owners however are hopeful of trains and interstate transport resuming in the Unlockdown 4.0. "Even then, it may take until September-end for the operations to normalise,

Cardozo said. Sources from the directorate of fisheries said that they have started issuing licenses to boat owners that are able to venture into the sea. "The full fledged operations however are yet to take off, an official said.

### **Goa: Purse seiners to start season gradually**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/purse-seiners-to-start-season-gradually/articleshow/77860870.cms>

"Owners of big fishing vessel, who could not commence activities till September 1 as most of their workers had returned to their respective states, are now hoping to begin the season. However, with a lot of the labour force yet to return to Goa, fishing activities are not likely to kick-start all at once, they said. "We had decided that bigger boats would start from September 1. However, many of our workers have not yet arrived, said president of All Goa Fishermen's Association Harshad Dhond. The crew usually returned August onwards. But this year due to transport-related issues many could not come back. Individual boat owners therefore resolved to send buses to bring back their workers.

Since most of the crew members are from Jharkhand, sending a bus there takes three-and-a-half days each way. Besides the fuel cost, the boat owners are also paying for the food and Covid-19 test at the state border. "The Goa government will have to help us since we have taken the responsibility of bringing the crew back to the state, president of Cutbona Boat Owners Association, Savio D'Silva, said. "Those who can afford to send buses to pick up migrant labour can start fishing activities. Purse seine fishing will therefore start gradually and won't take off in a full-fledged manner. Right now, Goa's fisheries sector is very unpredictable, Dhond said. He has sent a bus at the cost of Rs 2.5 lakh on Wednesday and is expecting it to be back by Wednesday. While mechanised fishermen intended to start the season earlier, unfavourable weather conditions forced them to postpone the fishing activities to the last week of August. Traditional fishermen were also affected due to the rough seas that prevailed through most of August. Compared to these vessels, purse seine boats require a greater manpower of 20-25 crew members and stay out at sea for longer durations.

### **Goa: Reginaldo alleges rampant illegal sand extraction across the state**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/Reginaldo-alleges-rampant-illegal-sand-extraction-across-the-state/164615>

"Aleixo Reginaldo Lourenco has alleged of large scale illegal sand mining going on across the state and has demanded action on illegal sand mining activity. Reginaldo has warned that these illegal activities will destroy bunds and agriculture fields. Reginaldo has written to the CM demanding action against those involved in alleged illegal mining. "'Agriculture is the main source of livelihood of my constituency. Sand is being continuously illegally extracted from the

various rivers of Goa and is an unlawful act which is punishable under Section 21 of the MMDR Act. The said Act makes sand mining an offence when there is no permit license for such extraction and the complaint in this regard has to be filed by an authorised officer"" noted Reginaldo. The illegal sand mining in Goa has resulted in the collapse of many bunds embankment and causeway destruction of fisheries thus putting an end to the livelihood of traditional fishermen. ""And the worst, it will change the river hydrology but will also deplete the ground water levels. An inquiry in all such cases should be impartially conducted on the illegal extraction of sand. It is given to understand that for rampant sand mining, suction pumps are being used freely in many Goan rivers. Any illegal extraction of sand must be treated as theft of government property and the police should file FIR on all such illegal extraction of sand and culprits should be booked"" demanded Reginaldo.

### **Goa: NRE proposes govt to set up model shrimps & fin fish hatchery in Benaulim**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/NRE-proposes-govt-to-set-up-model-shrimps-fin-fish-hatchery-in-Benaulim/164472>

"Niz Ramponkarancha Ekvott (NRE), comprising of traditional ramponkars, magkars and cantalkars from Benaulim, on Friday proposed to the Director of Fisheries to set up a triangular partnership model with a state-of-the-art shrimps and fin fish hatchery, in Benaulim. The organisation with 577 registered traditional fishermen as members, handed over a proposal with a detailed project report on how the 10 acres of land in Benaulim can be best utilised with the triangular partnership model, wherein the government, the bidder for the project and most importantly the local traditional fishermen, can benefit from it. "Keeping in mind that having younger generations participating in the fishing activities will only boost the economy, for this a long term planning to preserve the traditional fishermen community is the need of today. In an attempt to generate interest among the new generation, to promote them to indulge in fishing activities and referring to the government advertisement on expression of interest towards setting up a state-of-the-art shrimp and fin fish hatchery, at Benaulim has been proposed, stated Edel Barretto of Niz Ramponkarancha Ekvott. "The association has proposed that the government should go for a joint venture triangular partnership, including the government (60 per cent), the private partner/investor (20 per cent) and the fishermen community of Benaulim represented by NRE (20 per cent) stake, the NRE mentioned.

"Considering that the entire land available is approximately 45,000 sq mts plus, although the development of prawn hatchery can be done in three to four acres of land (approximately 16,000 sq mts), the expression of interest talks of redeveloping of 10 acres of land which is (approximately 40,468 sq mts), the fishermen community have come up with the detailed presentation to set up the state-of-the-art fishing activity village covering about 4,000 sq mts, which should be part of the 10 acres of land redeveloping project, said the association. Captain Venzy Viegas from Benaulim, who has helped the association in preparing the comprehensive



proposal said, “This is a unique proposal that has been placed by the NRE before the government. “The government after government have been saying that they want to protect the interests of fishermen and this is the time to show or do that, said Venzy, adding that the next generations of fishermen will take up fishing for their living and the tradition will continue.

### **Goa: State proposes policy to boost sea cage farming**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/state-proposes-policy-to-boost-sea-cage-farming/articleshow/77711161.cms>

"Mariculture, a specialised branch of aquaculture, may soon get a boost in Goa. The department of fisheries has proposed the Goa State Mariculture Policy 2020 to enable fish farmers in the state to take up this initiative. Sea cage farming is still in its infancy in Goa with no open sea cage farms installed in the state besides a pilot project initiated by the department of fisheries at Talpona, Polem, Nuvem in Canacona. Mariculture involves the cultivation of marine organisms for food and other products in an enclosed section of the sea such as cages, pens, or in tanks, ponds or raceways which are filled with saline water. The department has formulated a leasing policy to introduce systematic management strategies both for conservation and sustained fish production and to encourage artisanal fishers to take up offshore open sea cage culture so that they shift from capture fisheries regime to culture fisheries regime. “There is a need felt to consider open sea cage farming as a commercial activity so as to augment the seafood production in a sustainable manner. However, Goa has no water leasing policy for this new technology and as such it becomes necessary to formulate a policy for leasing the open waters to meet the requirement of the sector, the notification read.

Zonation of open water bodies with the help of competent bodies/research institutions will be drawn as and when required. Common property use conflicts will be drawn out so that mariculture activities as such will not hinder navigation, fishing and other users. The leasing policy and management will rest with a single entity so that full potential of the objectives may be established. Carrying capacity, environmental protection and conservation of aquatic ecosystems will also be chalked out. Purchase of species seeds would be from recognised list of marine fish hatcheries prepared by and approved by the department of fisheries. Species selected for farming in floating net cages requires a fish variety that meets the criteria of high valued species, hardy and tolerant species, ability to accept external source of food. The sea cages being situated in the sea can either be at risk due to natural factors or can be a source of risk hence adequate safety measures are required to be taken to prevent accidents including loss of life.

### **Goa: Traditional fishermen of S Goa want control of SGPDA market**

<https://www.heralddgoa.in/Goa/Traditional-fishermen-of-S-Goa-want-control-of-SGPDA-market/164362>

"Traditional Goan fishermen have hit the nail on the head. They have rightfully demanded that the SGPDA market which was built at the initiative of the late general secretary of Goenchea Ramponkarancho Ekvott Matanhy Saldanha, should be handed over to them. Implicit in their demand was to free the market from the control of outsider fish traders. South Goa Fishermen Federation of Wholesale Fish Market (SGFFWFM) which is a association of boat and traditional fishermen of South Goa on Tuesday submitted a memorandum to Wilfred D'Sa, chairman of SGPDA, to this effect Agnelo Rodrigues, president of Goenchea Ramponkarancho Ekvott (GRE) said that the SGPDA wholesale fish market was built to serve the fishermen of South Goa and therefore the fishermen of South Goa are the rightful owners of this area. Therefore, GRE has demanded that this market should be handed over to the traditional fishermen of South Goa or to the South Goa Fishermen Federation of Wholesale Fish Market, which comprises of all fishermen of South Goa.

Furthermore, Viney Tari, president of Cutbona Fishing Co-op Society Ltd has said, "Today, due to drop in catch and less demand we are completely running at a loss and if this carries on then we will have to shut down our business. The running cost per voyage/trip for boat owners varies from Rs 30,000 to 4 lakh depending upon the size and engine of the trawlers and today if we can't recover this cost then it will be suicidal for the mechanised sector of Goa. Later, Olencio Simoes, general secretary of Goenchea Ramponkarancho Ekvott said that the government should follow the Prime Minister's call of "Vocal for Local and safeguard the interest of the fishing community of Goa as traditional fishermen are facing severe hardships. They can't even recover their daily expenses incurred during a fishing trip. Therefore, to safeguard their interests, the SGPDA should immediately act and take necessary decision to safeguard this traditional occupation before it gets extinct.

### **Goa: Demand-supply manipulation**

<https://www.heralddgoa.in/Edit/Goa%E2%80%99s-demandsupply-manipulation/164308>

"In free markets a price of a product is determined by the forces of demand and supply, but the operative word is 'free'. Is India really operating in a free market environment, the government seems to be always on the lookout for Foreign Direct Investment but never fixes our complicated and unpredictable regulations that are driving businesses out of the country or are on the verge of closure if not already. Closing of any business puts pressure on the customer who

eventually pays the price of having fewer players to choose from in the marketplace. Less competition also results into cartelisation and the customer always ends up paying a higher price, because the industry becomes susceptible to tampering of demand and supply, clandestinely done by manipulating supply. Goans will understand this subject better if we take the example of how the Goan fishing industry operates. Before we discuss competition in the fishing industry, let's ponder on the following fact. Fish is a natural resource available in the common waters of Goa, collectively owned by the people because the sea can never be a private property of a few people. If fish breeding is done by a private person in his own backyard or in leased private water bodies the owner has the choice to sell it to Goans or deprive them and sell it to someone even on planet Mars, no questions.

Same goes to rice or cashew cultivators because their produce is grown in their own private or lease property and they are free to sell it to anyone that pays them the right amount. But that is not the case with fish caught at sea. The Goan waters are the collective property of the people of Goa and Goans have the first right over the catch, over and above the fishermen that are engaged in catching the fish. Here is some fish for thought; how come the owner of the fishing boat gets the full right over the fish caught, should it not be the labourers that are involved in casting the net. Sound weird, but that is exactly the point, the owners of the resource in this case the Goan people have been conned and deprived from their own supply as the fish catchers are allowed to not only hoard but also export fish far and wide, thereby artificially tampering the supply of fish in the Goan marketplace. It is time ownership of fish is to be ascertained. An advice for AAP the political party, if interested in making inroads in Goa, they should systematically make this an issue and make sure Goans are not deprived from their most essential food. At least work on fish since the party has already diluted their core anti-corruption stand. Let's assume we address the above supply issues of fish, does not mean we ignore the demand side of this problem.

Demand created by tourists seems genuine, that does not mean we deprive fish to Goan residents to feed the tourist. Many might argue that nobody is stopping Goans from going to the market, but it comes at an inflated price because of the tourist demand. Why should a Goan squeeze his pocket and pick the tab for a tourist that ends up eating his share of the pie. Remember the resource still belongs to the Goan people and the next in line could be the fish catchers, tourists that visit Goa and then if stock still exists can be used by the processing industry and even allowed to export. Just because nobody has applied their mind on this does not mean we allow everybody to catch fish at a pittance of a license fee. Free markets are the most effective way to arrive at a price mechanism but that is applicable when strict regulation does not allow artificial supply disruption and subsequent price manipulation. Many governments have lost elections in India when price of onions have shot up 5x in a matter of months to coincide with elections. This is usually done by people controlling the trade by drying up the supply through hoarding. Because onion is an essential commodity in India most running governments bite the dust and lose badly only to find out the price falls as soon as elections are over. No such luck in Goa, the

hoarders in the fish trade have mastered the art of manipulation by importing sometimes even poisoned fish from Andhra to meet the shortfall.

This brings us to the most important question, is the fish caught by Goan fishermen not enough to feed Goans. Why are details of fish catch or fish exported not available in real time for public scrutiny on government website? Just because the fisheries department is lax, does not mean we allow the stakeholders to bypass the local market and sell our quality Goan fish to starred hotels or export it out of the country and to rub salt in the wounds import substandard fish from other parts of India and sell it in the local market. We are just not learning what this pandemic is trying to tell us; 'You cannot think global at the cost of local'. It is time Goans force the government to invest more in the local 'ramponkars' who are capable enough to catch quality fish and distribute plentifully to Goans under the watchful eyes of the authorities. Unfortunately these local fishermen have their backs to their walls with the government not giving them priority in assigning them proper market infrastructure to sell their catch. Add to that in Benaulim beach, huge government infrastructure is being planned to be given away to private hands. The more fishing infrastructure goes into private hands the more we will see quality fish stocks vanishing from the local markets. The Governor is projecting himself as someone who wants to keep an eye on the government performance, to prove his intentions the least he can do is to get himself briefed by the CMs to what is so fishy in the fish industry. That would be a something worthwhile than to pull up the Chief Minister just for the sake of cutting him to size and messing up his confidence level.

**Goa: Can now order fish online, and get it delivered to their doorstep!**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/entertainment/events/goa/goans-can-now-order-fish-online-and-get-it-delivered-to-their-doorstep/articleshow/77559388.cms>

"During the lockdown, Aftab Mohammed from Margao who runs a fisheries business got a lot of requests for delivering fish. He decided to take it a step further and came up with a new concept of online fish delivery within the state. ""We are launching our store and web portal tomorrow. We have started taking pre-orders and have been receiving a lot of inquiries,"" he tells us. They are launching a walk-in store in Margao tomorrow where one can exclusively shop for fish! In addition to that, they deliver frozen fish to key locations in the state,"" he tells us, adding, ""We were into fisheries and have an export plant. During lockdown, we started getting orders for fish, since everything was shut and we were catering to whoever we could. That's when the idea came up and we decided to formally launch a website where people can place their orders.""

**Goa: With rough weather, lack of labour, trawlers yet to fully venture into sea**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/with-ough-weather-lack-of-labour-trawlers-yet-to-fully-venture-into-sea/articleshow/77493353.cms>

"Even ten days after the annual fishing season began, the directorate of fisheries has not

been able to issue many fishing passes to trawler owners to venture into the sea. This is mainly due to the rough weather over the past week which has kept most trawlers anchored, besides the lack of labour force to carry out the operations, an official from the fisheries department said. “Only about 10% of the total labour force involved in fisheries is currently in Goa to carry out fishing activities. SOPs have already been released on how to carry out the operations and we have fisheries officers, police personnel and coast guards posted at jetties to ensure that the guidelines are followed, an official from the fisheries department said. For now, only small canoes have been fishing as and when it is possible.

The trawler owners are plagued with hurdles in carrying out the operations. Francis D'Souza, a trawler owner from Malim jetty said that none of the trawlers or purse-seine boats from the jetty have ventured into the sea since the season commenced on August 1. The maintenance of a single vessel costs anywhere between Rs 80,000-90,000 per month, he said. “The boat owners are yet to take a decision on whether or not we must resume operations in the face of rising Covid-19 cases in Goa. Even a single case could result in the jetty being sealed; it is too risky for us to start full-fledged operations. We may have to wait until September to arrive at a decision, D'Souza said. In some cases, the labour force has started arriving into the state by road travel. However, the operations have been halted due to the rough weather. As a result, not a single vessel has ventured into the waters at the Cutbona jetty, president of the association, Savio D'Silva said. “About 40 people arrived at Cutbona from Odisha on Monday. On smaller boats, we can resume operations with about 50% of the labour force once the weather improves, he said. Cruz Cardoso, a boat owner from Vasco said that his crew has arrived on Monday from Karnataka. “Maximum operations are currently shut at the Vasco jetty since the sea is rough. We are readying ourselves to start operations as soon as the entire crew arrives. he said.

**Goa: Provide fair swab testing facility for our workers at respective jetties: Purse seine boat owners**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/Provide-fair-swab-testing-facility-for-our-workers-at-respective-jetties-Purse-seine-boat-owners/163846>

"The All Goa Purse Seiners Boat Owners Association (AGPSBOA) has urged State government to provide swab testing facility for its workers, who would be returning back from their native places to resume fishing business, at respective jetties at reasonable rates. Nearly 1500 mechanised trawlers continued to remain off-sea even as the new fishing season, officially kicked off on August 1, in absence of labour shortage coupled with poor weather conditions. Majority of skilled labour workers at the jetty are from Karnataka and unskilled are from Jharkhand and Orissa, who are stuck in their native States due to COVID pandemic. In a letter to Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant, Association president Harshad Dhond said the fishing sector is reeling under tremendous financial and labour pressure. “Our season officially started from August 1 but due to pandemic the industry, which is traditional and provides daily diet to

people, has taken severe hit, he said. Dhond said the industry is in very precarious situation with having to fight for basic survival on all fronts. Stating that the association intends to get back its labour force following due Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) laid down by government, Dhond urged the Chief Minister to provide swab testing facility at the respective jetties at Panjim, Betul and Vasco. “We also request to provide the swab testing facility at very reasonable rates as our financial condition is very bad and the prevailing rates are unaffordable as we are desperate to start our business back, Dhond urged. The Government is currently charging Rs 2,000 for swab test for asymptomatic patients.

### **Goa: Private entity sought for Benaulim hatchery’s revival**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/private-entity-sought-for-benaulim-hatcherys-revival/articleshow/77360209.cms>

"The state government intends to set up a state-of-the-art shrimp and fin fish hatchery on a Public Private Partnership (PPP) basis by redeveloping the existing hatchery spread over 10 acres at Benaulim. The directorate of fisheries has invited an expression of interest (EOI) for the project. “It is expected that the private partner will design, build, finance and operate the proposed project on a long term concession basis and transfer the facility to the government at the end of concession period, the circular inviting EOI signed by fisheries director, Shamila Monteiro reads. However, the department's plan has raised eyebrows among villagers and also the 28-odd hatchery staff, some of who said that they are yet to be paid April, May and June salaries. Former Benaulim sarpanch, Roylea Fernandes said, “The hatchery should be utilised by local youth as a start-up, and community involvement should be the basis of the project. The hatchery was set up by the department in 1992 but was closed down in 2008, even though it was considered the best in India as it had a mortality rate of seeds at just 2%. Since then, its infrastructure and equipment has been slowly rotting away, neglected by the government and department.

The Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC) had proposed to set up an aquamarine amusement park at the spot in 2015, but it never saw the light of the day. About the PPP, Monteiro said, “It is similar to the early prawn hatchery where seeds will be sold to the farmers, but this time around they will also include fish. The department has invited an EOI as it involves expertise and investments among other aspects.

### **Goa: Govt to draft special SOP to monitor fish-related activities across jetties**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/Govt-to-draft-special-SOP-to-monitor-fishrelated-activities-across-jetties/163594>

"Ahead of new fishing season from August 1, the Fisheries Department is set to draft a special SOP to monitor fish-related activities across all the jetties as a precautionary measure in



the wake of COVID-19. Fisheries Minister Filipe Neri Rodrigues on Wednesday held a meeting with Chief Minister Pramod Sawant over various issues pertaining to the department including construction of wholesale fish market at Margao. During the meeting, the CM granted approval for drafting new SOP taking all the concerned departments on board including police to man the jetties during the oncoming season. “Fishing season starts from August 1 and there is a lot for preparation. We have sought for monitoring of the jetties through the police particularly because of COVID-19 situation, to ensure there is no chaos and disturbance during the trade. CM has assured us that SOP will be in place, the fisheries minister told reporters. He said that the SOP will also ensure all necessary precautions like social distancing, wearing of masks and proper hygiene besides other safety measures are maintained. As the season is about to commence, Rodrigues expressed concern over shortage of labour force, nearly all of whom have left for their native States during the lockdown. Sawant also discussed the proposed wholesale fish market to be constructed under the Central Sponsored Scheme. Rodrigues showed the plan prepared by GSIDC and financial involvement in the project to which he sought CM's approval.

**Goa: After fishing ban lifts, CCP to sanitise Panaji fish market daily**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/after-fishing-ban-lifts-ccp-to-sanitise-fish-market-daily/articleshow/77229222.cms>

"With the fishing ban ending on July 31, related activities are expected to soon resume in the state. The Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP) will start sanitising the Panaji fish market on a daily basis from August 1 as a precautionary measure against Covid-19. Until now, sanitising was done only twice a week. TOI had earlier reported that there is already a drop in footfalls at the fish market after the building housing it was sealed following reports of Covid-19. There are now three more positive cases reported in the building on Tuesday, taking the total to 13. “The building has been sealed. Even the people that have been tested negative for Covid-19 have been quarantined inside, Panaji mayor, Uday Madkaikar said. Those who tested positive have been admitted to Covid hospitals in North and South Goa, he said. “There is nothing to worry at the fish market. We have made arrangements wherein vendors sit at a distance from one another. Also, only some vendors are inside the market while others are hawked outside. Now, we will regularly sanitise the fish market, Madkaikar said.

**Countries are lagging far behind goals to protect land and ocean ecosystems: SDG report**

<https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/united-nations-land-and-ocean-sdgs/>

"The latest United Nations analysis of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) shows that countries are failing to protect the world's ocean and land environments. With 10 years to go until 2030 the endpoint of the SDGs, after which they'll be reassessed and updated most markers of ocean and land integrity are declining amid reckless industrial activity that destroys ecosystems and over-exploits natural resources, according to the Sustainable Development

Report 2020, which reviews countries' performances on the 17 SDGs so far. Overall, not a single country has achieved the 2020 targets for SDG 14: Life Below Water. As a result, the ocean is in dire shape. Ocean acidification is rapidly increasing, fish populations are declining, and small fishermen who form the backbone of many local economies are marginalized and denied fair income. “Despite the critical importance of conserving oceans, decades of irresponsible exploitation have led to an alarming level of degradation, the report notes. Even though the proportion of the ocean shielded by an officially designated “marine protected area has more than doubled since 2010, increasing to 17% of all national waters, the majority of key biodiversity areas are outside such kinds of guardianship that would prevent the most destructive actions from taking place.

International fishing treaties follow a similar pattern. While countries have cracked down on illegal fishing and worked together to sustainably manage fisheries, the number of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels has continued to decline. As of 2017, 34.2% of fish stocks were unsustainably exploited. The report notes that because the COVID-19 pandemic has reduced international trade, countries have been given a chance to craft better marine policy. “The drastic reduction in human activity brought about by the COVID-19 crisis, while rooted in tragedy, is a chance for oceans to recuperate, the report says. “It is also an opportunity to chart a sustainable recovery path that will ensure livelihoods for decades to come in harmony with the natural environment. Only a handful of countries have achieved the 2020 targets for SDG 15: Life on Land, which, in isolation, means very little because of the interconnected nature of the global environment.

In fact, across terrestrial environments, 10 million hectares of forest are being lost annually, an estimated 31,000 species face extinction, and land equivalent to the size of India and Russia combined has been degraded. Further, the ongoing encroachment of human activities into animal habitats, combined with the illegal harvesting of animals and wildlife, has raised the likelihood that more zoonotic diseases like COVID-19 will infect humans in the years ahead. The COVID-19 pandemic offers a chance for countries to break with reigning economic models and invest in green economic recoveries that phase out harmful industries and promote sustainability. Many countries have begun to craft plans that reimagine social contracts and their relationship with the natural world. For example, the European Union has prioritized “circular economy, zero pollution, biodiversity and sustainable food in its recovery plan. At the core of this effort needs to be a rapid expansion of land and marine protected areas that greatly limits human activities in key biodiversity areas and sets the stage for regenerative economies, according to the report. Only then will plant and animal species be given the time and space to recover.

### **Goa: Fishermen net bumper catch of solar shrimps in Goa**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/fishermen-net-bumper-catch-of-solar->

[shrimps/articleshow/77188008.cms](https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/Wholesale-fish-traders-have-total-monopoly-brute-dominance-over-multicrore-fish-trade/163346)

"A week before the 45-day ban on mechanised fishing comes to an end, traditional fishermen in Colva netted around 350kg of solar prawns. This is the first catch and in the coming days, many traditional fishermen along the coastline will venture out for their share of shrimps. For the traditional fishermen, this is a crucial period to fetch some revenue as once the trawlers venture into the sea, they harvest most of the shrimps, a fisherman said. "Solar shrimps are seasonal and they surface for around a fortnight and then disappear, the fisherman added. As the word spread that prawns were available at the Colva beach, a large number of people rushed to purchase their share at Rs 250 per kg. The remaining quantity of solar shrimps were taken to the Colva market where they were sold out within no time.

### **Goa: Wholesale fish traders have total monopoly & brute dominance over multi-crore fish trade**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/Wholesale-fish-traders-have-total-monopoly-brute-dominance-over-multicrore-fish-trade/163346>

"Traditionally, the Margao market was of the Ramponkars, Magkars, Catalkars and Goan traditional fishermen (khari). Today, the wholesale fish market has been gulped down by the traders and their yes men. On the face of it the Wholesale Fish Market is controlled by the South Goa Planning and Development Authority (SGPDA). However, the reality is different. The market is now controlled by the wholesale fish traders and they are influencers of the decisions of the PDA. A huge gap is seen in the statements of the wholesalers and the actual reality that happens on the ground. The ground situation is this. The wholesale fish market will open today for trade. 100s of trucks filled with fish will come to the market but only few will get a place inside the market. What happens to the others? They will find a way to sell fish outside the market, untested, will make a killing and flee. The Wholesale Fish Traders Association led by Moulana Ibrahim claimed that there will be no sale of fish during the market closure period and claimed unanimity from the entire association. That statement had nothing to do with reality. As the market remained shut several fish traders parked their vehicles on the sides of the roads and sold their fish. There was no testing of the fish. When the SGPDA said that testing of fish is necessary, the traders said the markets should remain shut. At the same time trucks were allowed to enter. AND SGPDA said that they couldn't do anything to stop the trucks entering the state. In effect, the wholesale traders got their trucks in and sold outside the shut markets, conveniently without formalin checks.

This certifies the fact that there is absolute control of the traders over the trade. Traditional fishermen, sons of the soil are naturally upset. Jerry D'Mello, a traditional fisherman said ""The testing of fish is necessary. Today, traders coming with trucks are selling fish outside the market, which has no testing. How do they get away with this?"" asked Jerry. A Goan fish trader Malcolm said, ""This is because there is no coordination between the departments that are

responsible for hosting the sale and giving safe fish to the people of Goa. Traders and traditional fishermen of Goa can't be weighed in the same scale. The traders coming with fish from other states are ready to pay big money because they are in a cut-throat competition. ""Traditional fishermen when given incentive will grow and the monopoly of the traders will be over"" he said. It is a fact that besides the SGPDA, there were some unknown unregistered persons who were collecting money from the trucks coming for trade.

An average calculation, considering 7 tonnes of fish in a truck; and a lesser amount of fish coming from Andhra and Orissa through small rickshaws and mini trucks, reveals the size of the trade at the Market which happens in a matter of hours. At an average pricing of 300 rupees per kilogram and 70 vehicles per day the trade runs to several crores and the SGPDA is getting literally peanuts out of the same. There has been an absolute monopoly of the fish traders in the wholesale fish trade of Goa, which has resulted in the natural death of local fishermen and their business. The pattern of business by traders is clear-flooding the market with fish which leaves little room for others to survive. It may be recalled that Goa and Goans were shaken after traces of formalin in the fish coming from outside the state was found. After several hardships, there was a testing facility installed on the border. Herald has recently exposed in its spot report, from the Goa Karnataka border, how this testing is a mere lip-service bordering on a sham.

### **Goa: Ban fish import till Covid crisis over**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/ban-fish-import-till-covid-crisis-over/articleshow/77096166.cms>

"The local fishermen (ramponkars) associations of South Goa have vociferously demanded that no fish vehicles from outside the state be allowed into the state until the Covid crisis gets over, and that until then, the local catch be allowed to be sold in the wholesale fish market of Margao. This demand was put forth by a delegation of various ramponkars' associations at a meeting convened by the South Goa Planning and Development Authority (SGPDA) chairperson Wilfred D'Sa on Tuesday. "The government should first control the Covid situation and only then think of allowing outside fish into the wholesale fish market. All the fishermen associations made this stand clear to the SGPDA at the meeting, Olencio Simoes of Goenchea Ramponkarancha Ekvott who was a part of the delegation told TOI after the meeting. Pointing out that the fishing ban period would be ending soon, Simoes suggested against making any hurry in opening the wholesale fish market. "Let's wait until the season starts. Once the ban period is over there will be more fish in the market, he said, stressing that maintaining social distancing was practically impossible in the fish trade.

The ramponkar associations took exception to the SGPDA's plan of allowing 20 vehicles from outside the state and 15 of locals to enter the wholesale fish market. "The only solution to prevent transmission of the outbreak is to stop any form of import of fish in Goa right now, Simoes said,. The SGPDA's meeting with ramponkars was a step towards putting in place a mechanism to ensure social distancing in the wholesale fish market once it is reopened. Last week, at a meeting held by the South Goa collector Ajit Roy with the wholesale fish traders association and the SGPDA, it was decided that the wholesale fish market would remain closed for a week and that an action plan for imposing social distancing measures would be submitted to the collector soon.

### **Goa: Cutbona boat owners to start work on Sept 1**

<http://goacom.com/cutbona-boat-owners-to-start-work-on-sept-1/>

"The Cutbona Boat Owners Association and Fishermen Society together held a meeting to finalise the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and unanimously decided start their business operations from September 1 instead of August 1. This included the fishing boat owners and purse-seine fishermen. Chairman of Mercantile Boats Owners Association Antonio Fernandes and Cutbona Boat Owners Association President, Roque Dourado, agreed to start the fishing season a month later. Velim Sarpanch and fellow boat owner, Savio D'Silva added that they have placed the demand not to allow labourers for work without a Covid-19 negative certificate. He further stated that the labourers will be strictly made to show their ID and aadhar card while entering and exiting the jetty. All the fishermen are expected to work with strict compliance to the SOPs and limited number of labourers.

### **Goa: Untested wholesale fish being sold outside the market**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/Untested-wholesale-fish-being-sold-outside-the-market/163054>

"On day one of market opening, 20 trucks were checked for formalin at the market point. But many more trucks were untested. Fish from these trucks were in turn sold to retailers and other fish sellers who in turn sent the stock to other markets. The remaining unsold fish was then iced and brought back to be sold the next day. The Vice-President of the Margao Wholesale Fish traders Association Imam Shaikh admitted this, "All the trucks could not be checked on the first day. Some of them stock was picked up from the wholesale trucks, directly by retailers and sent to other markets. That stock was not tested.(By the Quality Control of India team which is also stationed at the Polem check post) He also said the fish still left over, was iced and brought back to the Margao wholesale market to be sold the next day. During that time this fish was tested. The Association has earlier been on record claiming that 70% of the fish remains unsold at times. If that is the case, then on some days, even 70% of the unsold fish is actually sold the next day. However, for the last 3 to 4 days, several small and medium-sized vehicles, which came to the

market sold their fish outside the market and fled, leaving ambiguity in the minds of the people. Selling outside the market areas does not come under the SGPDA.

This area comes under MMC. At 2 and 3 am, there are no MMC officials to keep a tab on the trucks outside the market. The police have been told to keep an eye on the same but the effectiveness of the entire exercise is debatable. On the first day of the market opening the SGPDA Chairman Wilfred D'sa said that 20 vehicles were tested and all 20 were found negative. The traders said that the fish tested negative reinstates the trust over the fish that comes to Goa and sold wholesale. The Herald investigation at the border has revealed how the vehicles are let off without checking. Questions are also being raised on why the Quality Council employees who are in-charge of testing are conducting tests behind closed doors.

### **Goa: First Ensure Formalin-Free Fish, Then Register Sellers**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Edit/FIRST-ENSURE-FORMALINFREE-FISH-THEN-REGISTER-SELLERS/162578>

"On the face of it, the move to regulate and monitor the fishing sector in the State is welcome. It is required, and should possibly have come years earlier. It is now mandatory for fish traders and vendors across the State to register with the Fisheries Department to carry on their business. What the government has now done is that fish traders, sellers in the market and other places, mobile fish sellers with baskets, sellers on bicycle, sellers with two wheelers, sellers on three wheelers and sellers on four-wheelers have to register. The idea is to have a data base of the sellers, determine from where the traders get their fish during season or when fishing is banned and monitor fish import. The last part is rather important as two years ago fish imports erupted into a major controversy in the State, when the formalin in fish issue broke. Exactly 24 months later the promised laboratories for formalin testing are still not up and fully equipped, and the random testing that is done is taken to be merely a perfunctory task that does not inspire confidence in the people. If the fishing industry is to be regulated, and it should, it is at the fishing jetties and at the borders from where the fish-laden trucks come that should be monitored. It is here that the fish should be checked for quality and tested for chemical additives in preservation so that the Goan people are assured of safe fish.

There are various issues in the fishing sector that need regulation. There have been complaints that though the government provides subsidies to the trawler owners, which come out of the taxes that the Goan people pay, the benefits in terms of cheaper fish do not percolate to the local consumers. The complaint is that the trawler owners sell their fish outside the State, rather than within it. The retail price of fish varies from market to market and changes on a daily basis depending on the catch. Even on the same day, the price commanded in the market will be different from that quoted by the sellers who go to people's houses. Regulating this price, if this is what the department also wants to achieve, is going to perhaps be the most difficult of tasks, as the move has not gone down well with the fish sellers who were caught by surprise, and have



raised their objections.

How will making the fisherwoman who, with basket on her head goes door-to-door selling fish, register herself help monitor the fishing industry and the price? Surprised fish sellers, for whom this has been a traditional family business for generations, say they have never registered with the government and clearly state that their fish comes from the trawlers during the season and in the off-season they get by selling the smaller variety that is available. Others also state that they have their own canoes and depending on what they catch and yet others depend on the traditional ramponkars for their supply which they then sell. The fish sellers may allege that this is a way of the government to get them to buy fish from the traders who get their stock from outside the market, that remains to be seen but they have a valid point when they ask how registration will help. That is a question that perplexes the mind. Let the Fisheries Department and all the government authorities concerned with this, first ensure that the fish being brought into the State from outside and sold in the markets is free of formalin and of any other chemical additives that may be used for preservation. If that can be assured and ensured, then the Department can go ahead with the registration of the fish sellers.

#### **Goa: Govt makes 'registration' mandatory for fish traders, vendors**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/Govt-makes-%E2%80%98registration%E2%80%99-mandatory-for-fish-traders-vendors/162596#.XwB470kd6Ao.twitter>

"In a bid to regulate and monitor the fishing industry, the government has made it mandatory for fish traders and vendors across Goa to get them registered to carry on the business. However, the move is not welcomed by the fishing community, who has raised apprehension about possible attempt to hand over the entire business in the hands of 'fish mafia'. They also sought to know the benefits the small fish seller will get by registering. As per the notification issued by the Directorate of Fisheries, the fish traders will have to register with department by paying fees of Rs 2 lakh per year and Rs 20,000 as security deposit. This notification will come into effect from August 1. Fish sellers in the market and other places have to pay a fee of Rs 100; mobile fish sellers with baskets have to pay a fee of Rs 100; Fish sellers on cycles Rs 200; fish sellers with two-wheelers Rs 500; Fish sellers on three-wheelers Rs 1,000; and fish sellers on four-wheelers Rs 5,000 for registration. Speaking to HERALD, Director Fisheries Shamila Monteiro said that registration of fish traders and vendors will help us to monitor and regulate the business. "Currently, we have no data of those selling fish or trading fish into Goa.

The registration will help us to have a clear data base, she said. "Also, it will help us to know from where these traders get their fish during the season and fishing ban period. Further, we will be in position to monitor fish import, she added. The Director also said that the department would now be in a better position to regulate the fish prices, as they will be able to ascertain at what price the seller or trader buys the stock. Fish stocks normally arrive in Goa early morning

each day from other States on the eastern coast, including Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha during the monsoon period when the fishing ban is enforced; whereas during the non-fishing ban season, the fish comes from Western Coast like Konkan belt, Karwar, etc. However, the move has not gone down well with the fishing community. Fish sellers say that the decision is very surprising as they were never registered with the dept. “We are into fish selling business for ages now. My mother, grandmother and great grandmother was selling fish. And now I am into the business. We never registered with the department. It is our traditional business and source of livelihood, said Maria Fernandes. She explained that during season, they buy fish from trawler owners, and now during the off-season, they are selling local small fish.

“What benefit we will get by registering with the department? she questioned. Elsewhere, Chopdekar couple, who are also into the fish business, sought to know the kind of benefits they will get. “We have our own canoe. We don't go to buy fish from anyone. When there is no catch, we have nothing to sell, said the wife, while adding, ‘When the catch is plenty, I go house to house, while my husband goes to the market’. “This is nothing, but the government wants to force us to buy fish from big traders, who get fish from outside Goa, and it is chemical-laced, she claims. Amar, an original native of Karwar, but residing in Goa for more than 10-12 years, sells fish door-to-door on his cycle. He says he purchases fish from market and sells it. “I cannot sell at market price since I have to earn something. Prices vary from traders, market vendor, door to door seller, and others. How can you regulate prices? Everyone has to benefit, he said.

#### **Goa: Marina in Zuari will affect fishing**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/marina-in-zuari-will-affect-fishing/articleshow/76778782.cms>

"Traditional fishermen in Zuari bay have expressed apprehensions about the adverse impact a marina in the river would have on their fishing activities and have claimed that hundreds of them stand to lose their livelihoods. In a statement, the fishermen, under the banner of the All Goa Small Scale Responsible Fisheries Union, alleged that the marina in the Zuari would have long-term and irreparable impacts on the ecosystem. Fishermen along the northern banks at Odxel, Nauxim, Cakra and Siridao and at Sancoale and Chicalim in the south have been traditionally carrying out fishing activities since times immemorial. An area of one lakh square metres will be taken up by the marina while a vast area will be reclaimed on the waterfront. This will result in different types of impacts, some of which will be long-term and irreparable, the union stated. Zuari river is a known fish biodiversity hotspot, with many species of shellfish comprising bivalves, crabs and other species. The union demanded the scrapping of the project in the interest of protecting the ecology and people's livelihoods.

#### **Goa: Testing of fish at wholesale market: SGPDA**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/testing-of-fish-at-wholesale-mkt->

[sgpda/articleshow/76539988.cms](https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/SGPDA-frames-guidelines-for-wholesale-fish-market-operations-162214)

"The South Goa Planning and Development Authority (SGPDA) at its emergency meeting held on Tuesday, approved a set of guidelines for traders doing business in its wholesale fish market. The move comes ahead of a hearing in the high court over a petition filed by the wholesale fish traders who were aggrieved over some conditions set by the SGPDA to reopen the wholesale fish market. Among the set of guidelines approved are revised parking rates for vehicles entering the wholesale fish market. While earlier, the vehicles were charged Rs 20 to Rs 30, the new rates will be Rs 50 per hour for rickshaws, Rs 300 for four-wheelers and Rs 500 for six-wheeler vehicles, SGPDA chairperson Wilfred D'Sa said. "We have asked FDA to conduct tests on the fish arriving at the market, D'Sa.

#### **Goa: SGPDA frames guidelines for wholesale fish market operations**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/SGPDA-frames-guidelines-for-wholesale-fish-market-operations-162214>

"The South Goa Planning and District Authority in a special meeting on Tuesday, decided the rates and finalised the guidelines for the operation of the wholesale fish market. The timing of the market was also decided wherein it will be kept open from 5 am to 10 am. However, there was no clear headway on when the wholesale market would open. Fatorda MLA Vijai Sardesai said that the Market should open soon. The meeting was urgently convened after the Advocate General of Goa asked for the details in the case filed by the fish traders. SGPDA was informed that the traders have 25 vehicles, which will come to the market. The rates that were decided for the same are: Rs 300 for mini-pickups per hour, Rs 500 for heavy trucks and Rs 200 for mini-rickshaws. SGPDA Chairman and Nuvem MLA Wilfred D'Sa further announced that a small shed will be erected and that they will give space in the market for Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to conduct checking of the fish.

The Chairman added that an inspector will be appointed to check for formalin in fish. The Authority will also vacate an office space in the market to create an office for the FDA. SGPDA also decided to ban thermocol boxes and also to ban middlemen from trading in the market. The Authority further decided to completely close the retail trade within the wholesale market. "No other persons or associations will be allowed to take money from traders and vehicles", said D'Sa. A space in the market has also been demarcated for traditional ramponkars, who come with their fish at the market. SGPDA has also written to the Margao Municipal Council (MMC) and the PWD to keep a check on fish trade that is done outside the market area.

#### **Goa: A fresh look at fishing: Promote wetlands for inland fishing**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/A-fresh-look-at-fishing-Promote-wetlands-for-inland-fishing/162184>

"In a post COVID world where many 'normals' are changing, it is perhaps time to look at Goa's primary food requirements and how we can look inwards, or 'inland to meet our needs. The freshwater fishing activity could be a two way beneficial activity; which might help in the revival and preservation of the biodiversity of the Goa as well as helping open avenues to many who can earn their livelihood by undertaking freshwater fishing and inland fishing commercially. Dr. Fr. Bolmax Pereira, Parish Priest of Chicalim and a research scholar and who has done his doctorate on Goa's Wetland spoke to Herald on this issue. He shared his study and observation and the solutions which could lead to protection of wetlands, biodiversity and also promote and help the freshwater fishing activities flourish in Goa. Fr Pereira said everything boils down to the protection and preservation of biodiversity of Goa. "We need to understand first that to think of freshwater fishing activity to take it to the next level; we have to understand about the topography of Goa. Further it is very important for freshwater fishing activity to be successful that our freshwater bodies should have water in them. Topographically Goa can be divided into three regions, viz hilly region, midland region and coastal plains he informed. It is in the midland region that we have the best opportunity for recharging of ground water table. The hilly region needs precautions such as considering the possibilities of landslides depending upon the type of soil and subsoil the hill is holding", he added.

Freshwater fishing, besides giving an economic boost, will help in revival of fresh water bodies and retaining the indigenous species of underwater vegetation and fish breeds. Fr Bolmax added, "We need to refer back and take references from the past. In the olden times when there was no rampant urbanization and when there used to be ample amount of rainfall and ample fresh water bodies with water in them; people used to get ample freshwater fish. This proves that the freshwater fish are available in the rivers, ponds and also during rains in the fields. "We are now dependent on the imported fish from outside. The fish mafia tends to control the fish supply. Then again there was also formalin issue some time back, which was reportedly used for fish preservation. We people stay dependent on "imported fish and in the name of development and urbanization, we have neglected what is traditionally ours. Freshwater fishing could be a part of the economic revival plan in the rural area. We have become used to the taste of sea fish. But still the freshwater fish is a delicacy and is largely consumed by the Goans. This is healthy fish and easily available, he added further.

Fr Pereira also mentioned that if government takes interest in such thing, then he feels issues on a larger scale will also be addressed. He gave the examples of how flooding of fields could be sold once the streams and water-bodies are cleaned. He also felt that there will be ground water recharging of rainwater harvesting. "The Western Ghat is a hotspot of biodiversity. By reviving the waterbodies, we will be protecting and preserving flora and fauna, vegetables, reptiles, amphibians, types of bird species, butterflies, insects etc, which has a major role to play in the nature. The idea of bringing freshwater fishing into mainstream would benefit in two ways making it a win-win situation wherein people will benefit economically as well as ecologically,

he added.

### **A fresh look at fishing: Promote wetlands for inland fishing in Goa, India**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/A-fresh-look-at-fishing-Promote-wetlands-for-inland-fishing/162184>

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### **Goa: Ponda fish vendors to be shifted again**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/ponda-fish-vendors-to-be-shifted-again/articleshow/76500242.cms>

"For the second time within a week, the Ponda Municipal Council (PMC) has decided to relocate the fish vendors. From Monday they will operate out of the underground parking lot of the municipal market complex at Upper Bazar. On June 15, they were shifted to the airport road, behind the market. Following complaints from those living in apartment near the road, the Ponda civic body decided to shift the vendors inside the market parking lot. It may recalled that ever since the lockdown, from March 24, the municipal fish market has been shut. The vendors then started selling fish at various points along the roadside. Expressing surprise over PMC's sudden decision to shift the vendors, some citizens said the airport road was a suitable place for fish vending as customers are able to maintaining social distance. The new place is a closed structure, which is risky and may lead to spread of the coronavirus, said locals. Several Ponda residents have demanded that the fish vendors be allowed to operate from areas where they were doing their business earlier.

### **Goa: As Karwar’s port expansion threatens jobs & fisheries, fisherfolk question ‘development’**

<https://pulitzercenter.org/reporting/karwars-port-expansion-threatens-jobs-fisheries-fisherfolk-question-development>

"Less than 100 km south of Goa, Karwar is a scenic town in coastal Karnataka along India's western coast. In the wee hours of the morning, when the temperature is balmy and the fresh air leaves a mixture of salt and sand on the skin, fisherfolk dot the 3-km pristine beach lining the town's western side. They stand next to their anchored boats, untangling fishing nets after the end of early morning labour. Around 10,000 fisherfolk depend upon the Karwar fishing harbour at the southern end of the beach, according to estimates by local community leaders. And Karwar is the perfect place for the job. The beach here is what scientists call a “sheltered one as it is



flanked by small islands. The islands slow down the waves, turning them from ferocious to the kind that roll off the sand with a whoosh. This sheltering effect makes the water a haven for fish to thrive in. Fisherfolk find bountiful catch here without having to venture too deep into the Arabian Sea. “The small islands surrounding this beach make it a bay with plenty of catch, said local marine biologist Prakash Mesta. Next to the fishing harbour stands the 28-year-old natural, all-weather Karwar port.

The commercial port is set to be expanded at a cost of Rs 1,993.54 crore (\$298 million) under the Ministry of Shipping's port modernization and development program, Sagarmala. The Rs 6.01 lakh crore (\$79 billion) program, which began in 2015, has identified 574 projects across India. New ports will be built and old ones, such as the one in Karwar, will be expanded. After the expansion, the Karwar port's annual capacity to handle cargo is expected to increase from the current 3 million tonnes (MT) to 4.5 MT, according to project documents. The port expansion can lead to an increase in air pollution, risks oil spills in the water, and may permanently alter the land around the port, the documents show. The Karwar port currently occupies three hectares of land, roughly the size of five football fields, according to this January 2020 Karnataka High Court order on a petition that sought to bring the expansion to a halt. The expansion is approved on another 17 hectares, according to project documents, or nearly six times as much land as it now stands on, and will encroach on the adjacent fishing village of Baithkol, home to over 6,000 fisherfolk, according to local leaders' estimates.

Among them is Sadanand Malshekar, a slightly built man who speaks softly. The 62-year-old told IndiaSpend that he learned fishing from his father as a teenager. This is what he has been doing for over four decades now. He stopped work for over a week to protest the Karwar port's expansion in January 2020. The expansion, put on hold by the Karnataka High Court (HC) shortly after the protests, threatens the only way of livelihood he knows. India's coastal regulation zone (CRZ) notification recognizes the right of fisherfolk such as Malshekar to the coast but gives the authority to regulate development along the country's 7,500-km long coastline to the central and state governments. Getting permission to construct along the coastline is a complicated affair, and one that puts indigenous communities with limited resources at a disadvantage, according to Vinod Patgar, a Karwar-based enviro-legal coordinator with the think-tank Centre for Policy Research (CPR).

In recent years, the right to grant permissions for most projects along the coastline has been delegated to the state governments; there is no central database where states reveal how many CRZ projects they have approved on their respective coasts. India's Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has given environment clearances (ECs) to 506 of the 540 proposed projects that sought approval and were accepted under the “Infrastructure and Miscellaneous + CRZ category from July 2014 to June 1, 2020, according to publicly available data on the ministry's Parivesh website. This is an approval rate of 93.7%. What makes the expansion of Karwar port stand out is that Karwar's coastline was designated as one of India's 13

Critically Vulnerable Coastal Areas (CVCA) in order to protect the “critical coastal environment, according to the central government's January 2019 CRZ notification. This designation meant no new project or expansion of old projects were to be permitted here. At the same time, local communities were to be involved in managing the coastline, a recommendation that the Karnataka state government disregarded 11 months later, in December 2019, when it approved the port expansion, the HC's January 2020 order shows. It will take 21 years, in the best-case scenario, before the Karwar port will have enough traffic to utilize the new infrastructure it is putting in place, as per official documents examining the environmental impact of the port expansion project; “flexibility to improve the project's viability has therefore been recommended.

IndiaSpend reached out to Devendra Kumar Rai, the director of the Sagarmala project, to understand the need for the expansion of the Karwar port. We will update this report when we receive a response. Port-related and other construction activity on Karwar beach have caused considerable damage to the beach ecosystem in Karwar, the HC's order cited above shows. “The dredging activity in the port has already led to a decline in the fish catch in the past few years, said CPR's Patgar. IndiaSpend reached out to Prasanna Patgar, deputy conservator of forests and regional director (environment) for the Karwar region, who is responsible for granting CRZ clearances. This report will be updated if and when he responds on why the port expansion project in a CVCA was approved. The story of the Karwar port's expansion is one that highlights the debate between the need for conservation and economic activity.

It is also a story of local jobs coming under threat and of local communities getting disempowered in favor of projects considered beneficial for the nation's growth.... Port: An economic need Around 95% of India's merchandise trade by volume passes through sea ports, according to government data. In terms of cost, transporting goods through waterways is more economical than doing so by roads or railways. India plans to invest Rs 100 lakh crore (\$1.3 trillion) over the five years to 2025-26 to develop roads, including 2,000 km of coastal and land port roads, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced in the budget for the year 2020-21. These roads will connect ports to major cities and mining areas, facilitating transport of resources and goods. India currently has 12 large and 205 small functional and non-functional ports. “Cargo traffic at major ports in the country was reported to be 699.05 MT for financial year 2018-19, even as cargo traffic handled stood at 585.72 MT (until January 2020 for 2019-20), said Gayathri Iyer, junior fellow, strategic studies, Observer Research Foundation. “It is important for India to invest in its maritime infrastructure to be able to attract direct port calls to its shores, Iyer told IndiaSpend, “and not be vulnerable to geopolitical risks emerging from Chinese investments in Colombo's Hambantota mega-port and Pakistan's Gwadar mega-port. The Sagarmala programme is “aimed at accelerating economic development in the country by harnessing the potential of India's coastline and river network, according to the central government's Sagarmala National Perspective Plan.

It is estimated that the programme will create 4 million jobs. Under the programme, 48 port projects are planned to come up in Karnataka at an estimated cost of Rs 24,772 crore (\$3.2 billion), Nitin Gadkari, Union transport minister who also oversees the shipping ministry, had announced in March 2018. These, Gadkari had said, would include projects to modernise existing ports, improve connectivity and develop coastal areas. Karnataka's 300-km coastline has one major port, the New Mangalore Port, and 12 minor ports. This means the state has one port every 23 km, on average. Of these, Karwar is the only all-weather port. The sheltering effect of the coastline that makes the Karwar harbour ideal for fisherfolk is also the reason why this area is ideal for a port, according to project documents. When the waters along India's western coastline get choppy during the monsoon months (June - September), the sheltering effect of the Karwar coastline helps ships stabilise as well as navigate. Industry observers like Iyer say that emphasis should not just be on building new ports, but on increasing capacity of existing ports in green ways. This is a sentiment echoed by the Karwar port authorities as well; they believe the expansion at Karwar is in line with the larger vision of Sagarmala.

“This [Karwar] port mainly caters to northern Karnataka, Captain C Swamy, director of Ports & Inland Water Transport (IWT), Karwar, told IndiaSpend. “It is strategically located. Since there is no expansion here [to handle additional cargo], most of the cargo of Uttara Karnataka goes to the New Mangalore Port [to the south] or the state of Goa [to the north]. Karwar port will need more breakwaters and jetties to accommodate more ships, said Swamy. “The depth now is 8.5 m. We will have to deepen it to 14 m so that bigger ships can dock at the port.

#### **Goa: SGPDA chief preparing platform for ‘formalin’ fish trader to start market**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/%E2%80%98SGPDA-chief-preparing-platform-for-%E2%80%98formalin%E2%80%99-fish-trader-to-start-market%E2%80%99/161599>

"Former Nuvem MLA Mickky Pacheco on Monday alleged that SGPDA Chairman Wilfred D'Sa is preparing platform for a prominent fish trader allegedly involved in the formalin row to start the SGPDA wholesale fish market during the fishing ban period. Reverting to the letter of the SGPDA chairman to Chief Minister asking for the inspector to check the fish at market, Mickky said, ""Wilfred is trying to fool Goans. Nuvem MLA & SGPDA Chairman Wilfred D'Sa has asked the CM to instruct the Directorate of Fisheries to depute an inspector on daily basis from 5 am to 1 pm in SGPDA wholesale fish market to do random checking of fish entering the wholesale market.

He also says “formalin testing kits will be kept for the public to check the fish purchased by them. Observe the timings that Wilfred has set for testing of formalin - “5 am to 1 pm. By this time the fish trader will sell his formalin-laced fish. ""Testing has to be done from 12 am onwards. It's clear that once the formalin testing process is shown to be in place, Wilfred will arrogantly try to open this market. No testing is going to work,"" he alleged. ""When the inspector declared the presence of formalin in fish, after the trader bribed the officials, the same

fish was later declared as having permissible limits of formalin. Fish from the east coast of India is banned by several States after testing positive for formalin so why allow this fish to be brought to Goa and sold to Goans," Mickky questioned.

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### **Goa: SGPDA?wholesale fish market to open on August 1**

<http://goacom.com/sgpda%E2%80%88wholesale-fish-market-to-open-on-august-1/>

"The South Goa Planning and Development Authority Chairman Wilfred D'Sa on Tuesday announced that the wholesale fish market will open on August 1. While replying to the allegations made by former Nuvem MLA Mickky Pacheco, the chairman said, "I have not been informed to open or close the market. I know what to do and when to open the market. Some persons have gone to the High Court against the requirements that have been published by the SGPDA to conduct business at the market. "People are worried to eat fish due to the Formalin scare. We will wait for the High Court decision, said the Nuvem MLA. "Pacheco wants us to

allow the Formalin fish to sell into the market and that is why he is suggesting a different time and not considering ours. We want to allow the Goan fishermen to sell fish which is safe for consumption, he added.

### **Goa: Unlock 1.0: Miseries unlocked for exiting migrants, many of them fish workers**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Cafe/Unlock-10-Miseries-unlocked-for-exiting-migrants-many-of-them-fish-workers/161588>

"It was supposed to be the last major exodus. But in the rush to hurry departures, even though the intent was to pack the last train to Jharkhand, the number that left was much lower and to top it all the holding shelter at the Fatorda stadium no longer existed, leaving these migrants stuck and roofless. Café maps the human aspects of this chaotic situation. The ordeal for most of them had begun on the evening of the previous day when the district administration, as alleged by several volunteer groups took contrary decisions on the Fatorda stadium serving as a holding ground for them and later collectorate officials allegedly decided to go home a little early (see box) and threw out of sync a system that the government and civic volunteer groups had meticulously cultivated to ensure that thousands of migrants had reached their home states on the Shramik trains.

Sunday's development, volunteers estimate, has once again left in the lurch thousands of migrants, a few hundred of who are from the fishing community as the 45-day ban on fishing comes into effect from June 15. Administration is making all the efforts to help all those who are in need. It must be understood that workers with trawler operators/owners are regular employees. The season has come to an end but they can't be considered 'stranded'. Public resources must be used for those who need help. MHA guidelines also say that employers should take care of their workers. However, those who are in real need will be helped. The administration has been doing it for the last two and a half months and we are fully committed to serve. Volunteers working with migrants employed in the fishing industry say the latter's plight is not a simple matter of earning a living and going home since the circumstances of them getting home has changed under Covid-19 conditions. For starters the fishing ban of two months was reduced to 45 days following a central government order allowing the extension. This meant that while some trawler operators wound up for the season by the end of May or the first week of June, many still have boats and their crew of migrant workers out at sea. So a sizable group of migrants is going to be leaving Goa after June 15.

"Although there are fishing cooperatives in Goa and there are unions most of the migrant workforce is unorganised. Moreover, a large number who are still in Goa are from Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, and Madhya Pradesh, which are faraway states. A lot of those from Karnataka and Maharashtra have made their way home. So the current reality being faced by those still here are multi-fold, explains a North Goa-based volunteer. Those who have a good rapport with their employers as many have been working with the same owner for years

together are going home in buses where the ticket to get them to their home state is Rs 6,000 per person. This is either being borne by the migrant worker or is being shared by the trawler owner and the worker. Those whose owners are not able to arrange such transport have been sent to the Fatorda stadium to board the Shramik trains. "But since the government is saying economic activities have started in the country and the Shramik trains are no longer required these people are stuck. One lot of trawler workers, who had come from Vasco, went back to their jetty after the police got their owner to take them back, says the volunteer. Another says that a group of 10 migrants from the fishing community in Anjuna, who were not allowed to stay at the Fatorda stadium and made it to the Margao railway station only to be driven away, were finally traced in Sanguem as they had decided to just keep walking.

Vinay Tari, a trawler owner from Betul, says trawler owners were called for a meeting with the government in the first week of June, where they were told to give the collectorate the list of their workers who wanted to go home and the same has been complied with. "We were also told to ensure that those who want to stay back are given a proper place to stay, and for my part, I have made arrangements for my workers in some quarters near my residential home, says Tari. Savio D'Silva representing Cutbona jetty says many workers have already been sent home via buses that began plying from early June itself. "We did not wait for government help, says the Velim sarpanch. Vasco MLA Carlos Almeida says migrants from the fishing community there are keen to go back to their home states because they are scared since the port town has seen Covid-19 cases that are spreading fast. "They have been saying that we would rather die in our own homes than die in Goa, says Almeida, adding that it is the responsibility of the trawler owners to ensure that their workers are housed in safe places till they can make their way home. Volunteers say that while some owners have been looking after their workers, they have witnessed many workers fishing sector workers are estimated to be close to 15,000 continuing to stay on the trawlers they work on or in the sheds at jetties, braving the wind and rains under tarpaulins and with no proper toilet or even facilities to charge their phones to be able to talk to their families back home. Fisheries director Shamila Monteiro says "no one will be allowed to stay at the jetties as the same will be sealed when the ban comes into effect on June 15. The onus of responsibility is on the owners to look after their workers. Literally and figuratively, these stranded workers who do the hard work of getting our fish to us, are all at sea, with no effective waves of sympathy coming towards them.

### **Goa: Market closed, wholesale fish traders threaten strike**

<https://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/goa-market-closed-wholesale-fish-traders-threaten-strike/1852265>

"The Margao Wholesale Fish Markets Association has called for a strike from Tuesday on import of fish, which may bring about a shortage of the item in several parts of Goa, especially since inclement weather at sea has kept trawlers off over the past couple of days. Margao



Wholesale Fish Markets Association president Maulana Ibrahim told reporters its members will go on strike from Tuesday as South Goa Planning and Development Authority (SGPDA) was not allowing them to open the wholesale fish market in Margao. The Margao wholesale fish market is the main centre where fish imported from various states arrives and then gets further distributed, he added. ""This may adversely impact its availability in the state as local trawlers have already stayed away from fishing due to the current weather at sea. Despite permission from the district magistrate, the SGPDA, which owns the wholesale fish market premises, has refused nod to open it,"" he informed. He also alleged some traders who started selling fish outside the market were assaulted by police.

### **Goa: Fate of wetlands: The absurd CRZ Amendment 2020**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Edit/Fate-of-wetlands-The-absurd-CRZ-Amendment-2020/161104>

"The coastal environmental laws were first ratified in 1991, then again in 2011, with the express objective to conserve and protect coastal stretches, its unique environment and its marine area, taking into account the dangers of natural hazards and sea level rise due to global warming. However, since its inception, multiple amendments with relaxations were issued over the last 20 years, thereby diluting the very essence of CRZ regulations. The latest dated May 1, 2020 is probably yet another nail in the coffin. With this, the CRZ regulations have lost the ecological sanctity that it was meant to uphold. The new alteration of CRZ laws only concerns river side spaces. Under CRZ 2011, two additional new clauses are applicable to Goa. (a) In paragraph 2, the inserted clause states: "Provided that in case there exists a bund or a sluice gate constructed in the past, prior to the date of notification issued vide S.O. 114(E) dated 19th February, 1991, the HTL shall be restricted up to the line long along the bund or the sluice gate; (b) Under paragraph 8.V relating to Areas requiring special consideration, in clause 3, for sub-clause (iv), now says: "(iv) the eco sensitive low lying areas which are influenced by tidal action known as khazan lands shall be mapped.

It further states: "the area under mangroves arising due to saline water ingress beyond the bund or sluice gate shall be classified as CRZ-IA irrespective of the extent of the area beyond the bund or sluice gate. Such areas under mangroves shall be protected and shall not be diverted for any developmental activities. Note that several pertinent issues have been flouted and hence the document does not stand scrutiny: (1) The term "sluice gate does not feature in 1991 and 2011 CRZ laws; using a localised structure to create a new amendment is rather bizarre. (2) The purpose of this amendment is devoid of reasoning or justification; in particular, it appears like an absurd idea that lacks scientific validity. (3) Special ecological importance bestowed on khazans in CRZ 2011 as sensitive ecosystems of Goa is completely diluted; (4) The condition of sluice gates needs to be checked; presently, some are functional, several are in disrepair and abandoned, and many have crumbled in totality. An inventory of sluice gates of Goa was

prepared by Nandkumar Kamat; this document ought to be consulted. (5) Saline water ingress into the khazans can be a natural phenomenon; but it is mostly man made as these dykes are breached deliberately so as to allow saline water into the fields for pisciculture. (6) Large areas of paddy fields are now occupied by mangroves known as adaptable colonisers on available mud flats. Such a man-induced natural process reflects a complete mismanagement of khazans. (7) New mangrove areas now sought to be protected are in fact former paddy fields; allowing mangrove growth at wrong sites (fields) means large cultivable areas would be sacrificed, and lost forever. (8) A scheme for restoration and conservation of khazans, bundhs and sluice gates would be welcome; the amendment is silent on the need to tackle such crucial issues. (9) Expert bodies as the GCZMA and GSBB have failed to intervene or provide guidance; professional expert members apparently remained stoically silent. As an example, consider the vast stretches of lowlands from Quelossim, Rassaim, Borim, Ambora, Camorlim, Raia, Rachol, Curtorim, Macazana, an extensive wetland with a length of about 26 km, and maximum width of 1.6 km. Innumerable sluice gates are located along the river banks, and also along the creeks and backwaters further inland, at various distances from the river. Here, location specific attention is needed: (a) At Quelossim, a sluice is found at the end of a creek 1.4 km from the river, and two more within the adjacent lagoon system; (b) At Rassaim, two sluice gates are seen at 240 m and 400m from the river; (c) At Borim, two structures are found along the river bank; (d) At Ilha de Rachol, a functional sluice gate is located along the river, and many more within the khazans, the farthest one being at Tembim in Raia, at 1.6 km from the river; (e) The Curtorim – Macazana stretch has multiple sluice gates interlinking lagoons, with a prominent one opposite the church at Curtorim. Commenting on all these is beyond the scope of this article.

To sum for entire Goa, (i) Sluice gates are located not only along river bundhs as stated in the new amendment, but also within lagoons, and far as 1.6 km in the interior; (ii) It is not known how many of these are maintained, or if they need repairs; (iii) Ground truth validation will be needed to verify their status; (iv) Fresh mapping is bound to be a complicated exercise. More importantly, considering a series of lock gates along the same creek complex, where will the CRZ/HTL stop? The amendment has conveniently disregarded a crucial component of CZMP, the hazard line, not yet made public. Saline wetlands of Goa, some below sea level, are highly vulnerable to regular flooding and over-wash due to tides, the impending sea level rise, and also annual submergence by excess rain water. Potential natural hazards predominantly along lowlands are the primary reasons why the hazard line came about. Interestingly, CRZ 2011 and CRZ 2019, under Annexure III(b), reiterate that the proposed constructions shall be placed beyond the hazard line or 100/200 metres from the HTL, whichever is more. Being defenceless, the entire khazan system of Goa falls within the hazard line, and hence out of bounds for any physical development. As such, the NDZ can extend more than 1 kilometre at places. Therefore, the issue of sluice gates as the CRZ limit will be of no consequence whatsoever.

**Goa: Anxious Goan fishermen wait for lockdown tide to turn**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/entertainment/events/goa/anxious-goan-fishermen-wait-for-lockdown-tide-to-turn/articleshow/76083847.cms>

"It's been a cruel summer for Goa's fishermen community, especially those who take trawlers into the deep seas to net their catch. First came the lockdown, when operations were suspended as social distancing shattered the entire chain that connected the fisherman to the end customer in the market. Now, with the rains about to arrive, the community is staring at the compulsory fishing ban that happens every monsoon during the breeding season. Labour will be the biggest issue, trawler owners predict "The fishing ban this year is from June 15 to July 31. We will either have to send our workers home or will have to take care of them for these 47 days of ban, says Simon Pereira, who owns many fishing trawlers. Most of his workers are from Odisha and Jharkhand and he's not sure if they will return once they go home. Some of those who went home before the lockdown haven't come back.

"Many trawler owners are planning to ask them to stay back and are thinking of providing them with salaries and food, he adds. His monthly expenses per boat, including wages, rations and maintenance of the vessel come to about `5 lakh. Association, tells us,"The initial lockdown saw the boats anchored for nearly a month. I have appealed to the government to send the workers home and also arrange for their return to Goa. The question is, will they come back?. More people now selling fish Paklo, who sells fish at the Malim Jetty, tells us that with rising joblessness, many people had now taken to selling fish. With hotels and restaurants shut, trawler owners are feeling the pinch, as fish which was usually sold to hotels is not being consumed by locals and has to be sold at throwaway prices. "Some types of fish like the horse mackerel or tuna is not consumed by too many Goans. We had to sell them at cheaper rates, adds Simon.

#### **Goa: 70,000 workers head home, demand for shelter homes falls**

[https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/70k-workers-head-home-demand-for-shelter-homes-falls/articleshow/76080454.cms?utm\\_source=twitter.com&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_campaign=TOIDesktop](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/70k-workers-head-home-demand-for-shelter-homes-falls/articleshow/76080454.cms?utm_source=twitter.com&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=TOIDesktop)

"Ever since the Centre allowed migrant workers to cross state borders and head home, more than 70,000 of them have left Goa for their respective states. Now with the wheels of economy slowly turning, some have opted to stay put and the number of inmates at shelter homes appears to be tapering off, government officials said. On Thursday, a Shramik Special train departed for Uttar Pradesh with just 980 passengers even though the train has a 1,500 capacity. On Tuesday officials could not find enough passengers for a Shramik Special train bound for Odisha and have decided to postpone other trains planned for the state. "Many workers are not going, especially those involved in fishing activity, since fishing has been permitted till June 15. Even construction workers are holding on, a senior government bureaucrat said. More than 8,000 fishermen from Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh remain in the state

and are likely to leave only after the fishing season comes to an end. Officials said that attempts to convince workers to stay back in Goa have partially paid off and the exodus is lower than earlier estimated. “It is better to retain these people in Goa. Some members have convinced majority of their workers to stay, director general of Goa Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ramakant Kamat said.

As of Wednesday, there were 3,100 migrant labourers and stranded people at relief camps and shelter homes in the state. “Initially these people were keen on going home because there was no work here, they couldn't afford to pay rent and they wanted to see their people. Now that work has started, they are ready to stay back, said an IAS officer involved in the exercise to ferry the workers home. This is not to say that Goa's industrial sector has not felt the impact of the 70,000 workers who have left. The hospitality sector will not feel the brunt, but the construction sector, logistics, transportation and smaller sectors are facing a shortage of workers. Kamat hopes that the current situation has been a lesson for those who criticise migrant workers. “We find in many places there is a shortage of labour. This is a learning curve for us and we should learn the value of the migrants to the economy, Kamat said. A Konkan Railway official said that with trains operating well below the passenger capacity, the need for Shramik Special trains is being reassessed. “The state government is assessing the requirements, the Konkan Railway official said.

### **Goa: GRE condemns decision to bring down fishing ban period from 61 to 47 days**

<https://www.heralddgoa.in/Goa/GRE-condemns-decision-to-bring-down-fishing-ban-period-from-61-to-47-days/161082>

"Expressing its shock and outrage over the recent development, Goenchea Raponkarancho Ekvott (GRE) has termed the reduction of the monsoon ban from 61 days to 47 days as a sinister plan to eliminate the fishermen of Goa. General Secretary and National Fishworkers Forum Vice-Chairperson, Olencio Simoes stated that the Ministry of Fisheries, , Animal Husbandry and Dairying Department of Fisheries order dated May 25, 2020 reducing the monsoon ban from 61 days to 47 days is bad for the fishermen and it will make Goa like Norway, Denmark, Oman, New Zealand, Australia etc where fishing was banned for several years due to overexploitation. Simoes reiterated that the action taken by Assistant Commissioner (AC) Dr. Sanjay Pandey is unjust in nature. He said it looks like the AC and his department plans to displace 80,000 fishermen of Goa and that Dr Pandey has no idea whatsoever about the current situation of the wild fisheries in Goa. He further referred to the order, which pointed out that as the Ministry of Home Affairs had banned fishing in EEZ from March 24, 2020 to April 10, the government was planning to compensate the fishing restriction due to COVID-19 and therefore reduce the fishing ban to 47 days and compensate the loss incurred to fishing boats owners.

“But sadly the new fishing ban will not benefit the traditional fishermen or the fishing boat owners as their canoes and boats are small in size and cannot sail due to the stormy weather. But

this ban will only benefit deep sea trawlers like pursiners and LED light owners in Goa"" GRE stated. Agnelo Rodrigues President of GRE added that the objective of the fishing monsoon ban, aims at conserving fish species during monsoon, which is the spawning season for many varieties of fish, including shrimp. "Monsoon is the breeding season of nearly 300 species but all this will be altered or destroyed. Instead of increasing the fishing ban the central government has reduced the ban even after knowing that there is a severe drop in catch of wild fisheries in Goa and India, said Agnelo. "Therefore we demand that the State government and the Fisheries Department work in the interest of the fishermen of Goa and not to reduce the monsoon ban to 47 days, failing which we will be forced to take to streets. Olencio added.

### **Goa: Annual fishing ban announced from June 1 to July 31 to facilitate fish breeding during the season**

<http://goacom.com/annual-fishing-ban-announced/>

"Around 1500 mechanised fishing vessels will stay off the high seas for a period of 61 days, with the State government imposing the annual fishing ban from June 1 onwards. Ahead of the monsoon, Fisheries Department has notified the annual fishing ban from June 1 to July 31 to facilitate fish breeding during the season. The department also issued a strict order banning fishing through mechanised fishing vessels during the ban period. Registered motorised canoes using gill nets have been exempted. The uniform fishing ban will be implemented in Goa, Maharashtra and Karnataka. The department's notification states, "In exercise of the powers conferred by Subsections (1) and (2) of Section 4 of the Goa, Daman and Diu Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1980 (Act No. 3 of 1981), the Government of Goa, having regard to the need to conserve fish, hereby prohibits fishing by fishing vessels fitted with mechanical means of propulsion and by means of trawl-net and purse-seine net. "Except fishing by registered motorised canoes using gill nets only, and fitted with outboard or inboard motors, of up to 10 HP capacity, as a means of propulsion, along the sea coast of the State of Goa and the territorial waters of the State of Goa, with effect from June 1, 2020 till July 31, 2020 (both days inclusive), the order states. Fishing activities in the State were banned from March 25 to mid April in view of the nationwide lockdown imposed due to the novel coronavirus pandemic. The Central government later exempted the traditional activity from the prohibition.

### **Goa: Reckless tourists damaging Malvan's coral reefs, finds NIO study**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/reckless-tourists-damaging-malvans-coral-reefs-finds-nio-study/articleshow/75807680.cms>

"Recreational scuba diving activities and other key assets of cuisine and pilgrimage have spurred a tourism boom, uplifting local communities in nearby Malvan. But unsustainable tourism is inflicting physical damage to corals surrounding the beach destination, a study says. While similar injury to Goa's coral reefs near Grande island due to scuba diving and snorkeling is yet to be assessed, the study conducted by National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) scientists, led by Baban Ingole, has recorded increasing degradation in the Malvan marine sanctuary. Backed by Maharashtra's science and technology commission, Ingole's team studied the four sites where tourists are taken during the October-May annual season, between 2016 and 2019. "The prevalence of coral physical damage in the MPA has increased from 4.83% in 2016 to 11.58% in 2019, which has resulted in cumulative physical damage of 33.08% in the last four years, the paper published in an international scientific journal, Marine Pollution Bulletin, says. PhD research scholars Kalyan De, Sambhaji Mote and Mandar Nanak, a NIO scientist comprised Ingole's team, and the study is still in progress. Coral reefs attract thousands of tourists for their exotic, complex and diverse nature of organisms. In Malvan, tourists who can access underwater biodiversity at a price cheaper by around Rs 500 to Rs 1,000 than other dive centres on the peninsula hardly show any concern to the beautiful ecosystem.

"Using public video content in a novel way, we analysed the videos posted by scuba divers on a videolog site (you tube), and realised that in 98.41% of the video clips, the divers had body contact and fin contact with corals, Ingole said. The media-crazy tourists were seen clicking photos, touching, sitting on and even walking on the coral colonies to balance themselves underwater. With four patch reef sites, including two high-density sites near Sindhudurg island, Malvan's marine protected area (MPA) sprawls over a 29.122 sqkm swathe. "The ecologically sensitive habitat is being incrementally damaged due to tourism and other human activities, and the rich biodiversity, including fisheries, is at stake. Though the forest department and state biodiversity board are trying hard to conserve it, lack of scientific data on carrying capacity makes it difficult to implement good management practices, said Ingole, retired chief scientist, biological oceanography, NIO- Goa. Degradation of coral reefs due to human and environmental stressors is a global problem. This could have been a lesson for policy-makers at Andaman and Nicobar Island, Lakshadweep, Gulf of Mannar and even Goa. But the various factors and economic compulsions pushing fishermen to turn to tourism in Malvan seem to override environmental or sustainability issues. Tourist footfalls in Sindhudurg district are projected at 6,41,427 for 2021-22 . Despite degradation of coral habitats caused by tourism, managers, as in the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, have put in place sustainable practices. Ingole said proper regulation and sensitisation of stakeholders is important. "Or else, the integrity of the coral habitat may be in grave danger, he concluded.

#### **Goa: Plans afoot to open Fatorda fish market**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/plans-afoot-to-open-fatorda-fish->



[market/articleshow/75747641.cms](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/ban-sale-of-fish-from-outside-goa-govt-urged/articleshow/75747641.cms)

"Moves are afoot to reopen the South Goa Planning and Development Authority's (SGPDA) wholesale fish market at Fatorda with reduced business hours and restricted number of vehicles. The authority has issued a notice in a local daily listing the conditions to be followed by the traders for letting them carry out the trade in the market. The notice stipulates that all fish-laden vehicles entering the wholesale fish market shall be duly registered with the directorate of fisheries and food and drugs administration. All fish traders associations and fish trading societies have to submit proper valid certificates of registration before entering the market, the notice says. Besides, all vehicles are required to submit to the SGPDA the details of the vehicle numbers and other details before entering the market. Vehicles will be allowed to enter the market only at periodic intervals to avoid overcrowding and ensure social distancing.

#### **Goa: Ban sale of fish from outside Goa, government urged**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/ban-sale-of-fish-from-outside-goa-govt-urged/articleshow/75747686.cms>

"The South Goa Mechanised Boat Owners' Society, along with trawler owners and traditional fishermen, on Thursday urged the government not to permit the opening of the wholesale fish market in Fatorda. They also want a ban on sale of fish from outside the state. Opening the wholesale market would be tantamount to allowing affected individuals from other states to enter Goa and endanger the lives of Goans, the society's chairman, Antonio Fernandes, said. Further, he urged chief minister Pramod Sawant to not even allow vehicles carrying fish to travel through Goa. "They enter the state stating that they are travelling to Kerela, but do business here, he said. They also claimed that they have just another fortnight left to do some business before the fishing ban kicks in on June 1, and hence, if the wholesale market is opened, it should be only for Goans. One fisherman, Anthony Rodrigues said that since the lockdown, Goan fishermen have been catering to the fish requirements of Goans. "The government asked us to sell our catch from our residences and we are doing so, he said. Meanwhile, South Goa Planning and Development authority chairman and Nuvem MLA Wilfred D'Sa said that his office had received a representation from fish traders to open the wholesale market, but that a decision is yet to be taken.

#### **Goa: Lockdown hits State fishing industry**

<https://www.heralddgoa.in/Goa/Lockdown-hits-State-fishing-industry-/16046>

"The lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic has hit the State fishing industry with the fish consumers now complaining of fish scarcity and inflated prices. The fish catch is less these days due to natural phenomenon such as rough winds, sudden change in weather conditions etc, whereas one section of the fishermen community claims that the rampant fishing activity in the

sea by utilising LED and bull trawling has led to diminishing of the fish species. It may be recalled that just a few weeks ago during the lockdown, the prices of the fish were very high and people were buying fish in kilos and were stocking it for weekly consumption. Jose Philip D'Souza, president of All Goa Fishing Boat Owners Association (AGFBOA) said that the more quantity of fish fishermen tend to catch, people get fish at the cheaper price. But if the fish catch is less than the demand of the fish increases which leads to increase in the fish prices. He further mentioned that the fish catch has gone low these days. The reason behind the less catch is due to rough wind currents, sudden change in weather conditions and this has affected the catch and the fish prices to rise. He also said that the middlemen, agents also tend to charge extra money over the fish catch and by the time it reaches the people, they have to buy it at a higher price.

Simon Pereira, former president of Trawler Owner Association of Vasco said that the fish catch has gone down since last few days and the variety of fish which we get, that variety is not consumed by the Goans so may be this variety is sent to other States where they are consumed. Pereira also added that due to the scarcity of fish, some people who can afford to buy, buy it in lump sum quantity and stock it for weekly consumption whereas the common people feel the pinch to their pockets to buy fish at exorbitant prices. Later, when contacted, Agnelo Rodrigues, president of Goenchea Raponkarancha Ekvott (GRE) said that the major reasons behind the fewer quantity of fish catch is because of rampant fishing done by using LED lights and bull trawling by some people. He also mentioned that most of the people involved in fishing activity only think about more quantity of fish catch but nobody gives a thought for doing a sustainable fishing so that fish can be available for future. If bull trawling and LED fishing continues, then in the next few years our younger generations will not be able to see Mackerel and other variety of fish on their plates. Government should go strict on such activities.

#### **Goa: With no transportation, fish abandoned on Hollant beach**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/with-no-transportation-fish-abandoned-on-hollant-beach/articleshow/75685459.cms>

"On Monday afternoon, a large amount of small fish was abandoned at Hollant beach, which comes under the jurisdiction of Velsao-Pale panchayat. Local fishermen said they had put out ramponn (traditional fishing nets) at around 9am and by 3.30pm they caught a huge amount of small fish. It would have filled 20 trucks, they said. Although the fishermen tried to release the fish back into the water, they were unsuccessful. The tide was low causing most of the fish to die. "We could not even take the fish to Margao as we feared that the police would beat us. We had no option but to abandon the fish on the beach, a fishermen told TOI. General secretary of Goenchea Ramponkarancha Ekvott, Olencio Simoes, said, "The local fishermen are badly affected due to the lockdown. Tonnes of fish had to be abandoned due to the market in Margao being closed. The government should at least open the wholesale market. Fearing that the fish would start rotting, villagers complained to the panchayat, who immediately alerted the Verna

police. Later, the fishermen and their workers cleared the fish from the beach.

### **Goa: Panjim fish market reopens**

<https://www.heralldgoa.in/Goa/Panjim-fish-market-reopens/160158>

"The Corporation of the City of Panaji on Sunday reopened the fish market after nearly 42 days due to COVID-19 pandemic lockdown. The CCP had permitted only 66 vendors to sell fish so that social distancing can be maintained. Being a Sunday huge rush was witnessed but the corporation handled the situation well. Queues were seen at the market and strict social distancing was maintained with markings in front of each vendor with barricades. CCP made it mandatory for the vendors to wear mask and gloves. The corporation officials made it compulsory for even customers to wear masks as per the MHA and the State government's order. Policemen and CCP officials strictly monitored the situation. Mayor Uday Madkaikar had said that the market will remain open from 6 am to 1 pm. "We have taken into consideration the demands of the vegetable and the fish vendors, who have been affected due to lockdown, Madkaikar said. Madkaikar said with markets shut there was no control over the fish rates as the vendors who commuted on vehicles charged exorbitant rates. He said the CCP took a decision to reopen the market to provide respite to the vendors and the people. "I request the people to not create rush and follow social distancing guidelines, he urged.

### **Goa: MoEF modifies definition of high tide line to spare Goa's khazan lands**

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/moef-modifies-definition-of-high-tide-line-to-spare-goas-khazan-lands/story-BBnqQubpwkzIV5VwqWZOHL.html>

"The Union Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change has amended the Coastal Regulation Notification 2011 to ensure that the High Tide Line (HTL) in Goa will be demarcated along the bunds (embankments) along rivers and creeks even if such bunds have since been breached or lie in a state of disrepair. The amendment came following a request by the Goa government. Prior to this, the HTL was demarcated depending on how far landward the saline water travelled during the high tide, which in case of a breached bund meant the HTL was demarcated further landward having huge implications on which land is defined as Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ). In a notification issued on May 1, the MoEF has added a clause to section 2 of the CRZ 2011 notification to allow for situation where "there exists a bund or a sluice gate constructed in the past, prior to the date of notification issued vide S.O. 114(E) dated 19th February, 1991, the HTL shall be restricted up to the line long along the bund or the sluice gate. "And in such a case, area under mangroves arising due to saline water ingress beyond the

bund or sluice gate shall be classified as CRZ-IA irrespective of the extent of the area beyond the bund or sluice gate. Such areas under mangroves shall be protected and shall not be diverted for any developmental activities, the amendment reads.

The amendment allows for an exception to be granted to the current rule which mandates that “the distance upto which development along tidal influenced water bodies is to be regulated shall be governed by the distance upto which the tidal effects are experienced which shall be determined based on salinity concentration of 5 parts per thousand (ppt) measured during the driest period of the year and distance upto which tidal effects are experienced shall be clearly identified and demarcated. The low lying lands known as ‘khazan lands, are protected from the high tides by a network of dykes and tide gates and have traditionally held multiple uses being used either as aquaculture ponds to breed fish and prawns in the monsoons, to plant rice during the winter growing season or to harvest salt in the summer, are now facing threats due to breaches in the dykes allowing for ingress of sea water as well as from reclamation for tourism purposes. Goa's khazan lands date back to 400 AD, when the earliest references are found in literature, to lands that were protected from the sea and tides through a network of bunds and sluice gates that controlled the flow of water and ensured that the lands were cultivable. The network is considered an engineering marvel.

According to government figures Goa boasts of 18,000 Ha. of khazans which is about 5% of the total geographical area of the state. Around 4,000 Ha. are estimated to have been lost over the last 30 years after they were inundated. Goa has been lobbying for this change ever since the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM) which has been tasked by the state government for drawing up the coastal zone management plan insisted that in areas where there was ingress of saline water would have to be marked as ‘tidal influenced water bodies' and lands up to 100m from the water line would be notified as Coastal Regulation Zone bringing fresh areas under the stringent CRZ regulations. In August last year the Goa Environment Department wrote to the Ministry of Environment and Forests explaining the issue. The Coastal Zone Management Plan is a mandatory requirement under the CRZ notification. Goa is the last state to approve its Coastal Zone Management Plan under the CRZ notification 2011 which has been pending since 2014. An earlier draft plan placed before the government was rejected with the government telling the NCSCM that it could not be finalised owing to discrepancies. The Coastal Management Plan will now have to be redrafted according to the new definitions.

### **Why we cannot lose sight of the Sustainable Development Goals during coronavirus**

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/04/coronavirus-pandemic-effect-sdg-un-progress>

"Our world today is dealing with a crisis of monumental proportions. The novel coronavirus is wreaking havoc across the globe, upending lives and livelihoods. The cost of the pandemic in terms of loss of human lives is painful, but the effects on the global economy and on sustainable development prospects are also worrying. The International Monetary Fund estimates

that our world has entered into a recession, and while the full economic impact of the crisis is difficult to predict, preliminary estimates place it at US\$2 trillion. The pandemic has exposed fundamental weaknesses in our global system. It has shown how the prevalence of poverty, weak health systems, lack of education, and a lack of global cooperation exacerbate the crisis. If there was any doubt that our world faces common challenges, this pandemic should categorically put that to rest.

The crisis has re-enforced the interdependence of our world. It has brought to the fore the urgent need for global action to meet people's basic needs, to save our planet and to build a fairer and resilient world. We face common, global challenges that we must solve through common, global solutions. After all, in a crisis like this we are only as strong as the weakest link. This is what the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the global blueprint to end poverty, protect our planet and ensure prosperity, are all about. Sadly, this pandemic hit at a time when the SDGs were gaining traction and a significant number of countries were making good progress. As the world is seized with containing the spread of the virus and addressing its negative impacts, the reality is that countries are resetting their priorities, and reallocating resources to deal with the pandemic. This certainly is the right thing to do because the priority now is to save lives, and we must do so at all costs. That is why we must all support the call by the United Nations to scale up the immediate health response to suppress the transmission of the virus, end the pandemic and focus on people particularly, women, youth, low-wage workers, small and medium enterprises, the informal sector and vulnerable groups already at risk.

Working together we can save lives, restore livelihoods and bring the global economy back on track. But what we cannot afford to do, even in these crucial times, is shift resources away from crucial SDG actions. The response to the pandemic cannot be de-linked from the SDGs. Indeed, achieving the SDGs will put us on a firm path to dealing with global health risks and emerging infectious diseases. Achieving SDG 3 (Good Health) will mean strengthening the capacity of countries for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks. This pandemic has exposed the crisis in global health systems. And while it is severely undermining prospects for achieving SDG 3 by 2030, it is also having far-reaching effects on all other SDGs. Emerging evidence of the broader impact of the crisis on our quest to achieve the SDGs is troubling. UNESCO estimates that some 1.25 billion students are affected, posing a serious challenge to the attainment of SDGs Goal 4 (Quality Education); and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) estimates some 25 million people could lose their jobs, with those in informal employment suffering most from lack of social protection. Unfortunately, these are just the tip of the iceberg.

Crucially, in many parts of the world, the pandemic and its effects are exacerbated by the crisis in achieving clean water and sanitation targets (SDG 6), weak economic growth and the absence of decent work (SDG 8), pervasive inequalities (SDG 10), and above all, entrenched poverty (SDG 1) and food insecurity (SDG 2). The World Bank estimates the crisis will push some 11

million people into poverty.

Even at this stage in the pandemic, we cannot deny the fact that the crisis is teaching us, as global citizens, the utmost value in being each other's keeper, in leaving no one behind, and in prioritising the needs of the most vulnerable. What is acutely needed is enhanced political will and commitment. Our world has the knowledge, capacity and innovation, and if we are ambitious enough, we can muster the resources needed to achieve the Goals. Buoyed by the spirit of solidarity, Governments, businesses, multi-lateral organisations and civil society have in the shortest possible time been able to raise billions, and in some cases, trillions to support efforts to combat this pandemic. If we attach the same level of importance and urgency to the fight against poverty, hunger, and climate change, we will find success in this Decade of Action on the SDGs. As the world responds to this pandemic and seeks to restore global prosperity, we must focus on addressing underlying factors through the Sustainable Development Goals. We must not relent our efforts, even amid this crisis. While some SDG gains have been eroded, this should not deflate our energy. They should rather spur us to accelerate and deepen our efforts during this Decade of Action to 'recover better', and build a healthier, safer, fairer and a more prosperous world.

**Goa: CM urges migrants to stay back as nearly 80,000 seek to go home**

<https://zeenews.india.com/india/coronavirus-covid-19-go-cm-urges-migrants-to-stay-back-as-nearly-80000-seek-to-go-home-2281280.html>

"Nearly 80,000 migrant labourers, mostly from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, have registered themselves with the Goa government to return to their native places, according to official figures. However, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has urged them to stay back as the coastal state will require manpower for the economic revival once the lockdown is lifted. As part of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) guidelines, the Sawant government has set up counters at the collectorates of North Goa and South Goa districts, municipalities and gram panchayat offices where migrant workers can register themselves to go back home. Till Monday, 80,000 migrant labourers registered themselves at these offices, as per the state government statistics. ""Goa will require manpower. I appeal to them not to go back to their states. They can stay back here as Goa is safe from COVID-19 infection, Sawant told reporters on Monday. After the Centre's decision to classify Goa as a green zone, the Sawant-led government has set in motion the process of economic revival of the state. The majority of the economic activities have resumed while following physical distancing norms, compulsory wearing of masks and reduced workforce. Goa Pradesh Congress Committee president Girish Chodankar said the exodus of migrant workers will have an impact on construction, fishing, industrial units and others, but this is an unavoidable situation. ""They (labourers) dont want to stay back. This is the right time for the government to map how much labour force we really require in the state, he said. Goa-based labour union leader Puti Gaonkar said if the migrant workers leave the state, it could be an



opening of employment opportunities for locals. ""There are enough young people in Goa who can do different jobs. I dont think there would be much impact if the migrant labourers leave the state, he said. Gaonkar said several industries were employing people without respecting the minimum wages rule, but now they will have to hire people by paying proper salaries.

### **Gujarat: Covid-19 lockdown: 10,000 fisherfolk are stranded along Maharashtra, Goa and Karnataka coasts**

<https://scroll.in/article/960695/covid-19-lockdown-10000-fisherfolk-are-stranded-along-maharashtra-go-and-karnataka-coasts>

"For over five weeks, even as the government exhorted citizens to wash their hands for at least 20 seconds several times a day, Yarayan Somesh had avoided using water, except when absolutely necessary. Stranded on a trawler docked off the fishing port of Veraval in Gujarat, ever since the countrywide lockdown was announced on the evening of March 24, this 18-year-old fisherman from Srikakulam district in Andhra Pradesh told IndiaSpend that he had just eight litres of water per day for all his needs – even while being surrounded by water. Somesh is one of an estimated 15,000 fish-workers who had found themselves marooned near landing points and harbours on India's western coast, battling physical hardships and psychological trauma when the lockdown was announced. Two have died on boats, and at least two others are known to have been injured. On April 28, Somesh, along with 4,000 other fish-workers, was repatriated to Andhra Pradesh in 54 private buses organised by the Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh governments.

There are over 10,000 others who are stranded along the coasts of Maharashtra, Goa and Karnataka and still need help, according to estimates by fishermen associations. These fishers represent the human face of the ongoing turmoil in the country's fisheries sector which contributes Rs 1.75 lakh crore – \$26.3 billion, nearly equivalent to the Centre's Covid-19 relief package for the poor – to India's gross value added. The sector is now staring at lost revenues and livelihoods. Livelihoods affected The lockdown is inflicting a daily loss of Rs 224 crore on the sector, the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, the country's only national centre for research on fisheries and fish-processing, has estimated in a new report accessed by IndiaSpend, which is yet to be made public since government approval is pending. The bulk of the losses will be borne by the mechanised fishing sector. The report estimated that the mechanised sector will see daily losses in the range of Rs 197 crore while the small-scale, non-mechanised fishing sector will experience losses to the tune of Rs 27 crore a day. "Fishing has come to a halt, exports have been derailed because countries are refusing to import seafood, restaurants are shut and hence, local demand has also dipped, Ravishankar CN, director of Kochi-based Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, told IndiaSpend, explaining the cascading effect of the lockdown and the Covid-19 pandemic. The effect on livelihoods would be pronounced due to the nature of the sector in India, Ravishankar stressed.

“Unlike other countries, fisheries in India is still a livelihood sector, with most people working on daily wages. It is not corporatised. As a result, daily-wage earners as well as small fishermen will be badly hit due to this disruption, he said. Fishers' associations also emphasise the impact of the lockdown and the pandemic on a workforce dominated by casually employed migrants, many from below-poverty-line families. On the Western coast, where the fishing season lasts till May 31, followed by the annual monsoon fishing ban until July 31, two months of the season have been wiped off, with no fishing, and consequently, no sales. On the Eastern coast, the ban, meant to encourage fish breeding, is from April 15 to June 15. Many fish workers employed on the West coast are unlikely to be able to work until August 2020. No government relief The industry would face a crisis if the government does not reach out with relief measures, of which there have been none so far, said Pradip Chatterjee, convener of the National Platform for Small Scale Fishworkers, an association with 50,000 fisherpeople from 18 states.

“We demand that the government pay Rs 15,000 per month per family to fish-workers to sustain them during this period, and financial assistance to help offset losses for the small-scale fishermen who own boats but will not be able to absorb these losses, said Chatterjee. Somesh, who spoke to IndiaSpend over the phone from the fishing vessel on which he lived with nine others before they were repatriated, said he has heard that workers would be paid their wages during the lockdown. “But till we get the money in our hands, no one is believing this. Chatterjee said that the association was receiving complaints from many fishworkers about unpaid wages. “As soon as fishing stopped due to the lockdown, many boat-owners stopped paying wages to their workers. This has had an immediate impact on the workers because they will be going back home empty-handed, he said. Stranded at sea “We were not given the option of returning to land when the lockdown was announced, Somesh told IndiaSpend. He and his co-workers had no choice but to remain on the 16-foot wide and 80-foot long fishing vessel, with a covered area the size of a small room and a lone toilet till the afternoon of April 28.

The vessel's owner, based in Veraval, delivered food – rice, pulses, vegetables, oil and spices – once a week, along with some 500 litres of water, which was not sufficient for their needs, Somesh said. “We got 70-80 litres of water every day between the 10 of us. Each of us had eight litres a day, with which we needed to bathe, clean and drink, he said. A person needs between 50 and 100 litres per day to meet their basic needs, a World Health Organisation estimate shows. There are no government figures for the number of stranded fish-workers. However, fishing associations and civil society actors estimated that at least 15,000 fishworkers had been living on vessels on the Western coast since the lockdown. While some media reports have said that 4,000 workers are stranded in vessels docked off Veraval, the Andhra Pradesh Traditional Fish Workers' Union, representing the predominantly Andhra workforce, said the number is over 5,000. Most of the stranded fisherfolk work on vessels that go to the sea for multi-day fishing expeditions, ranging between 15-20 days, said Velji Masani, a boat-owner, and president of the Akhil Bharatiya Fishermen's Association.

Most were out on fishing expeditions when the lockdown was announced and had to be summoned back by owners. While vessels have toilets and space for the fish-workers to rest and sleep, workers are not used to staying in them for more than a fortnight at a stretch, Masani pointed out. Many workers themselves opted to stay on their boats, not realising how long the lockdown would stretch out, he said. While stating that boat owners would pay workers for the duration of the lockdown, Masani pointed out that owners were also losing money, both because work had come to a standstill, and on the expenses they were incurring. “Each owner was spending approximately Rs 45,000-Rs 50,000 a month on getting food and water supplies to these workers. Owners are suffering tremendously too, he said. Not all boats have toilets, according to Somesh. “Some fish-workers either used the toilets on the vessels around them or went in the open, on the deck, he recalled, adding that workers were expressly forbidden from debarking when they dock at Veraval harbour, facing the landing point, to pick up their rations. When they stepped out on April 28, it was the first time in five weeks that any of these workers had stepped on land. Masani, whose association has been coordinating with about 800 boat owners whose boats and workers had been stranded along the Gujarat coastline at various landing points – from Porbandar to Mangrol, Okha, to Diu and further south, in Navsari and Valsad – said he worries that physical hardships aside, the lockdown is now having a deep psychological impact on fish-workers. Anxiety was a precipitating factor in the deaths of two fish-workers from Andhra Pradesh, stranded off the Veraval coast, according to Masani.

Forty-five-year-old T Jagannathan, hailing from Gara Mandalam sub-district in Srikakulam, who had stopped eating, and had become increasingly anxious about contracting Covid-19, died on April 9, TK Rahman, head of the TKFU said. K Raju, also from Srikakulam, who was only 22 years old, reportedly died of a heart attack on April 22. “His wife had recently delivered a baby, said Masani. “His colleagues told us that he kept expecting to be rescued, and became worried when this did not happen.” Two others are reported to have fallen off their vessels and grievously injured themselves. “As days stretch into weeks, the workers are getting restless. Often, some stop eating, and others fight amongst themselves. The frustration is starting to show, Masani said. Since their mobile phones worked, the stranded workers were able to speak to their families. However, they had little else to do, as they huddled together, five to 15 in a vessel, in the only roofed area, housing the steering wheel as well as other electronic equipment, to shelter from daytime temperatures crossing 30 degrees Celsius. State governments have neglected fish-workers during the lockdown, Chatterjee said. They had not adhered to the Union Health Ministry's directions to state governments asking them to ensure proper living conditions for migrant workers, house them in relief camps/shelter homes, and also arrange counselling for mental health problems. He said his organisation was planning to move the National Human Rights Commission to draw attention to the plight of fish workers.

However, following the two deaths, political pressure started building on the Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat governments, asking them to repatriate these fishworkers. Former Congress President Rahul Gandhi had asked the government to move the fishworkers to a relief camp,

whereas former Andhra Pradesh chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu had urged the Gujarat government to rescue the workers. Initially, media reports last week had indicated the governments were likely to repatriate the stranded Andhra Pradesh fishers by cargo ships, after conversations between the chief ministers of the two states. However, Masani said that local boat owners expressed their displeasure to the Gujarat government about this plan. “Cargo ships are expensive and they would take about eight days to reach, whereas buses would take about two days. Hence, we urged the government to consider buses instead of the ships, says Masani. Unorganised labour The fisheries sector is a major employer in India, providing a livelihood to over 16 million people. Over the past five years, the sector has seen a steady growth of over 6% in its production. In 2017-'18, it produced 12.59 million metric tonnes or MMT of fish, up from 9.40 MMT in 2012-'13, according to the Handbook on Fisheries Statistics, 2018, produced by the Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husband and Dairying. The report pegged the sector's contribution to the gross value added in 2017-'18 at Rs 1.75 lakh crore.

**Goa: Panaji’s fish market opens after 5 weeks, but no mask, no fi ..**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/panajis-fish-market-opens-after-5-weeks-but-no-mask-no-fish/articleshow/75512900.cms>

"After over a month of shutting the municipal fish market, the Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP) will resume open sale of fish on Sunday from 6am to 1pm. The directorate of fisheries had suspended the activity of open sale of fish mandating only home delivery of fish. Around 55 of fish vendors who earned their living at the city's busiest area, are being accommodated in the parking lane next to the fish market adjoining Royal Foods. And along the lines of rules mandated for purchase of commodities from fair price shops - where items are not being sold to buyers without a face mask the CCP has said that buyers without a face mask will not be sold fish. “We will put up a sign saying ‘No mask, no fish' so that people are informed, Panaji mayor Uday Madkaikar said. There is a fine of Rs 100 for not wearing face masks in public places in the background of the Covid-19 pandemic. The government has authorized municipal inspectors, talathis of every taluka, police constables not below the rank of head constable and village panchayat secretaries to impose such fines.

“People should understand the gravity of the situation and wear a mask on their own instead of waiting for us to inform them, Madkaikar said. Only two lines of fish sale are being allowed where vendors will hawking wares opposite each other on either side of the parking lane. The CCP has marked boxes in the entire lane designating spaces for the vendors while maintaining social distance. CCP has also barricaded the space in the presence of the Panaji police on Saturday to ensure that discipline is maintained. CCP inspectors will monitor the situation at the time of sale of fish to ensure social distancing is practised by buyers. Meanwhile, the state government has directed the directorate of municipal administration and directorate of panchayats to devise the modalities on how to open markets which are currently closed with all

safety norms in place, as the continued closure would adversely affect shop owners and the state economy.

### **Goa: Fisherfolk stare at difficult times as dry fish stocks lying unsold**

<http://www.navhindtimes.in/fisherfolk-stare-at-difficult-times-as-dry-fish-stocks-lying-unsold/>

"Fisherfolk, especially, those involved in dry fish business have said they are staring at difficult times as much of their dry fish stock lies unsold due to the lockdown. The fisherfolk mostly doing business of dry fish at Colva and Benaolim said they have incurred a loss of lakhs of rupees due to the lockdown. With the uncertainty over church feast fairs, they are also looking at a troubled future. Speaking to this daily, Colva-based fisherwoman Liberata Fernandes said, "The fish if not sold gets spoilt causing loss in lakhs of rupees. "This is usually the season when people stock up dry fish before the monsoon. But because of the lockdown, most of the fish we have already dried has not been sold. Already I have around Rs 8 lakh worth of dried fish with me. During the regular time, I would have sold all of it by now, she said. Another fisherwoman Fatima Goes said with church activities also on hold, they may be in for more losses. "The Margao feast which is usually held in May or early June also looks like it will not be happening. The fair that comes with the feast is one of the places where we get a lot of customers, but we don't know what will happen now, she added. Due to the restriction against the movement of traffic because of the lockdown, many vendors who would buy the dried fish from them also could not come. "Apart from the customers at church fairs, we would also get a lot of other fish vendors and customers from areas like Sanguem and Bicholim who would buy the dry fish in bulk from us to sell to customers in those areas. This time they have also not come to buy it from us, said Goes. The supply of salt which is the preservative in making of the dried fish has also been less, though the fisherfolk say they have old stocks to rely on. The appeal, however, is for help in any way possible. "When the lockdown was imposed many vendors at the Margao market had stocks of dry fish at their stalls but since then they are unable to get access to it. The government should allow them to at least take whatever is left rather than let it spoil. We have also incurred losses of lakhs of rupees and it would be of great help if the government could help us in this regard also, said Fernandes.

### **Goa: Migrants were seen fishing along with traditional local shellfish gatherers**

[http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/75460306.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cppst](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/75460306.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst)

"Harsh realities in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic have forced many economically backward families and others to engage in different types of activities to rake in some income. In estuarine areas, non-traditional persons have taken to fishing and harvesting shellfish. With police keeping clam gatherers away from the Chicalim bay, on Wednesday, a

sizeable number of migrants were seen fishing along with traditional local shellfish gatherers in the Zuari at Sancoale where low tide unveils a bigger river bed rich in both tisreo (clams) and kalvam (oysters). “This could be an indicator that presently poor and marginalised families may have been forced into this activity, risking their lives, human rights activist Cyril Fernandes said. A few women had brought their younger family members, some children as young as eight, to gather fish and clams. “This is an outcome of societal or government's failure to provide food security to these sections, especially migrants. Rights of these children need also to be highlighted , Fernandes said. Since Monday, police have been maintaining a watch at the Chicalim bay and driving away the hordes coming to harvest tisreo. The unsustainable activity is especially worrying as it may cause the brood stock, which has only recently re-emerged in good quantities, to be wiped out. “Our biodiversity management committee (BMC) is trying to control this and we have informed the police. Only those gathering shellfish for their own consumption can ensure sustainable extraction, BMC member Lawrence Fernandes said.

### **Goa: A day after warning, ‘tisreo’ gatherers raid Chicalim bay**

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/75438224.cms?>

"A day after the Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) of Chicalim prevented scores of shellfish gatherers from entering the bay in a bid to prevent over exploitation of marine resources, more than a dozen of them managed to extract clams on Tuesday at the spot till police arrived. The panel members called Vasco police after some persons, who were not local to the area, entered the water for fishing around the sandbar at Vareg island, which is a tisreo (clam) habitat. “They were stopped because of lockdown violation, but we want locals to benefit as they have a right to sustainably utilise village resources, chairman of BMC, Rui M Costa Araujo said. The police ordered the clam collectors to emerge from the water and allowed them to go after a warning. On Sunday, more than 500 persons had descended into the water and carried away huge quantities of clams. Villagers expressed regret about people's lack of awareness about the impact of overexploitation. “They don't understand the changed circumstances the reduction in fish yield due to pollution caused by industrial and other activity, chairman of the biodiversity heritage site committee Cyril Fernandes said. This committee has launched an initiative to seek a heritage tag to the village on the basis of a few assets, which includes the highly endangered window pane oysters and ancient caves, among others. Former sarpanch Inacio Caitan Fernandes said that the Covid-19 crisis may be driving people to look for ways to earn money.



“But it is difficult to explain to them problems of overexploitation of resources, as some think more about their financial problems, he said.

### **Goa: With exports on hold, tuna catch sees a dip**

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/75438201.cms?>

"Though the government is allowing transportation of essential commodities into the state during the lockdown, the catch of lesser consumed fish in Goa, like tuna, which is usually exported to Kerala, is seeing a decline. “What mackerel is to Goans, tuna is to Keralites, said Sebastiao Cardozo, general secretary of the all Goa purse seine boat owners' association. “The market is really bad. We cannot sell even 1,000 kgs of fish a day, like we used to prior to the lockdown. Fishermen are therefore limiting their activities to a few nautical miles only, he said. Deep sea fishing nets tuna, horse mackerel, catfish and other varieties that are not commonly consumed in Goa. The markets in Kerala have not opened fully as yet and hence the demand for fish exported from Goa is less. The less demand from vendors has translated into a lowered price to suppliers. “Fishermen, therefore avoid going into deep seas except for a few operating on a no-profit-no-loss model. Currently, we are getting only 60-65% of the pre-lockdown price for the exported fish, said purse seine boat owner Harshad Dhond. Catching the fish available in shallow waters like mackerel, kingfish, squids and others consumed in Goa is not a profitable venture for big boat owners. “We spend on diesel, ration for the crew and ice for the fish so they can sustain the journey. Taking such a big infrastructure into shallow waters to catch fish for local consumption is not economically viable, Dhond added.

Export fish landings in the state's fishing jetties have been on the rise over the past few years, with tuna accounting for maximum landings. A total of 8,861 tonnes of fish was unloaded in 2018, a massive jump from 1,368 tonnes in 2014, according to data from the directorate of fisheries. About 10 tonnes tuna still arrives at the Malim jetty every day. With the foreign export trade shut due to the lockdown, the fish is now only being supplied to Kerala. “There is a lot of fish in the sea but we are not venturing deep enough due these issues. A prolonged disruption in this trade will affect livelihoods and income of such fishermen who bank of the sale of local tuna, Francisco Fernandes, director of the Mandovi fishermen cooperative society limited said. The export fish cargoes delivered from the city must be loaded on insulated trucks in the night to ensure the freshness of the commodity. Boat owners said that there are constant checks at the Kerala checkpoint to ensure the hygiene and freshness standards. FDA and health officers in Kerala are keeping a check on the quality of the exported fish in view of the Covid-19 pandemic, owners said.

### **Goa: Boat Owners Association demands relief from government amid lockdown**

<https://www.sify.com/news/goa-boat-owners-association-demands-relief-from-government->

[amid-lockdown-news-national-ue3a4dgidfeib.html](#)

"The Goa Boat Owners Association has demanded relief from the government as people in the fishing industry are facing financial problems due to the coronavirus-induced lockdown. Harshad Dhond, President of All Goa Purse Seiners Boat Owners Association told ANI that the Goa fishing season has been bad this year because of seven storms and then the lockdown. Farmers are given compensation due to storm, but not fishermen, he added. ""During our main income period Aug-Nov, there were seven storms. We did fishing till January. Then lockdown started. Work re-started but we're in financial trouble now,"" said Harshad Dhond. ""We send fish to Kerala where markets aren't open, and we're selling at 50 percent rate and facing loss. Boats will close on May 31. We have to give salaries to our staff. Boat owners aren't in a position to do that. We request government for compensation,"" added Harshad Dhond. ""We transport fish to several states including Karnataka and Kerala. The affect of lockdown is clearly visible as the markets have closed,"" said Abdullah, a fish transporter. ""Everything is closed,"" said one of the labourers. Prime Minister had extended the nationwide lockdown till May 3 as a precautionary measure against the spread of the virus.

**Goa: Fish vendors to be allotted space near Panjim market**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/Fish-vendors-to-be-allotted-space-near-Panjim-market-/159960>

"After a successful attempt to provide space for local vegetable and fruit vendors, the Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP) has now decided to allocate space near market area, for traditional fishermen to sell their fish. The local vegetable and fruit vendors, who were otherwise selling their goods from Panjim Municipal Market, were on Tuesday allotted space near Inox. The vendors, who were provided space, with a minimum distance of 1.5 meters, were happy that they were able to sell their goods. Social distancing norms were also well maintained by the customers during their purchases. On Tuesday, several local fisherwomen called on Panjim Mayor Uday Madkaikar requesting that they should also be provided space to sell their fish. CCP has agreed to their request and decided to provide them space in the Municipal parking area adjacent to Dempo House. Addressing media persons, Madkaikar said that in the next two days, fisherwomen would be provided space with the proper demarcation. ""This will help them to sell fish and make their living and also the public will be able to buy at reasonable price. Currently, the prices of fish are exorbitant,"" he said. He added that vegetable and fruit vendors ensured that all the norms were followed, including wearing of masks and that the same will be applicable to those selling fish as well.

**Goa: Tech boosts sales of small-time farmers and fish vendors**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/tech-boosts-sales-of-small-time-farmers-and->

[fish-vendors/articleshow/75396875.cms](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/entertainment/events/goa/locals-make-a-beeline-to-the-curtorim-fresh-water-fish-harvest/articleshow/75396875.cms)

"Neela Naik, a young mother based in Kuwait called on an online fish delivery service in Goa requesting urgent delivery of fish to her residence in Goa as her four-year-old son refused to eat food as there was no fish available during the lockdown. In Panaji, a family reached out to the farmers of St Estevam via WhatsApp to supply them with locally grown brown rice instead of venturing into a superstore located minutes away from their home. With the lockdown in force, there may not be right logistics to supply fresh harvest to the markets, but that hasn't stopped farmers and fishermen from reinventing their business model to solve the food problem during the pandemic. Thanks to social media, they can form the right relationships with their potential consumers to sell their food starting a new wave of farm-to-fork service. John Desa procures fish from trawlers owned by family members and friends and sells it directly to the consumers through the app La Socorina which is available both on IOS and Android. In addition, the fish availability is advertised through WhatsApp and their Facebook page in the same name. He also manages the La Socorina fish store at Cortalim where people start making a beeline maintaining social distance outside the shop from 6am onwards even though the shop opens at 8 am. "Demand is so high these days due to the lockdown that we get calls from all over India and abroad by family members of people living in Goa requesting delivery of fish to their loved ones in the state, Desa said. In one of the many lanes of Campal, Avertino Miranda parked his car loaded with sealed packets of rice and sweet potatoes. His message went around through WhatsApp asking people to look for a green coloured car selling the produce. Nestor Rangel Ribeiro, who is planning to sell hundreds of mangoes in the coming weeks, said that the civic forces have been very cooperative during the lockdown. "We get stopped sometimes by the police or questioned by the municipal officials while en route but when we show them the car full of rice, they allow us to go ahead and sell it. he said, adding that he has also procured a travel permit for the vehicle as per the government rules.

**Goa: Locals make a beeline to the Curtorim fresh water fish harvest**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/entertainment/events/goa/locals-make-a-beeline-to-the-curtorim-fresh-water-fish-harvest/articleshow/75414178.cms>

"The draining of lakes to harvest fish is an annual affair in the village of Curtorim, which is blessed with three lakes. This year due to the coronavirus pandemic and the fact that people are skeptical about the quality and safety of fish available in the market there is a high demand for the locally sourced fish. This was quite evident at the Curtorim Church Lake. The harvest had a variety of fish such as chonak, kerr, kadd and tigurr in plenty of supply. Goans from as far as 20 kms came to buy fish and the place was abuzz with activity. "I have been looking forward for this annual harvest for a few weeks now and we have stopped eating fish at home due to safety concerns and the source of the fish because of the pandemic. I've come here since I know this is local fish and I trust its quality, says Micheal Fernandes, from Margao. While people who had

never brought fish from lake harvest before were also found prowling for fish in this early morning market. “There is a fear of eating beef or chicken and we are not sure of the fish available in the market either, so a few friends suggested that I come here. Some of my neighbours too have asked me to buy fish for them, says Jessica Dias. Prashant Naik from Loutolim, too stood in the queue for his turn to buy chonak. “In the last few days my family has been craving for some fish and this is one place I trust to buy the best fish. In fact I've asked my wife to make the masala and keep. Today's meal is going to be the best meal of quarantine.

### **Goa: Fisheries industry stares at Rs 110 crore loss due to lockdown**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/fisheries-industry-stares-at-rs-110cr-loss-due-to-lockdown/articleshow/75282496.cms>

"Goa's fisheries sector has suffered losses of around Rs 110 crore after fishing activity came to standstill during the initial 15 days of lockdown. Fishing activity resumed in full swing after the Central government allowed fishing and commercial fishing activity with necessary hygiene precautions, ten days ago. “We have intimated the Central government about the state's loss on account of the fishing ban during the 15-day period, a fisheries official said. Goa exports fish and there are about 16 seafood and marine products' exporters. Export of sea food to Kerala and Karnataka has not stopped, but other exports have ceased since the lockdown, he said, adding, “There is abundance of fish available for local consumption and all cold storages have been full, he said. Goa also procures fish from Maharashtra and Karnataka. The official also said that Goa's losses will be limited as mechanised fishing will be stopped for the season by May-end with the annual 61-day fishing ban coming into force from June 1.

The two months see complete cessation of mechanised fishing while traditional fishermen continue to go into the sea. A source said during the initial lockdown period, fishing activity had not stopped completely. “Many continued their activity clandestinely. This was more so in the Salcete belt, he said. The official said they were informed of these violations, but they could not do anything about it “for obvious reasons. Another official said, “Local fish vendors have been the worst affected during the ongoing lockdown as most markets are still closed while many fly-by-night operators have been selling the sea catch. This, he said, happened because government encouraged home delivery of fish. “At many places, vendors are seen sitting by roadsides or at any other open space to sell fish. Mostly, these are new operators, he said. Traditional fish vendors will continue to suffer until the lockdown is not lifted fully, he said.

### **Goa: Dwindling dry fish trade hits livelihoods**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/dwindling-dry-fish-trade-hits-livelihoods/articleshow/75209551.cms>

"The lockdown has hit the already dwindling dry fish trade in the state, leading to a fall in export to other states. According to recent estimates, dry fish produce worth over Rs 3 crore was spoilt and livelihoods of around 50,000 fish vendors, especially women vendors, has been affected. "Since March 22 transportation has not been available to deliver the produce to wholesalers in the state and outside. These fish vendors or the fishermen don't have proper storage facilities and within one month the dry fish starts to spoil, said Arijili Dasu, a fishermen activist to TOI. Andhra Pradesh produces around five lakh tonnes of dry fish in a year, the major part of which is exported to the eastern and north-eastern states and some tribal pockets in Malkangiri in Odisha and Chhattishgarh. Around 10 per cent of the produce is consumed locally – mostly in tribal areas of the Agency. "Normally we start drying fish while on the boat itself. Once we land it takes a couple of days to process the dry fish. If processed properly, the fish can last up to 15 to 25 days without cold storage facility or refrigeration. Since we don't have any proper storage facilities at all the four dry fish producing harbours – Visakhapatnam, Kakinada, Nizampatnam and Machilipatnam in the state, all our catch has been spoilt, said M Bulaya, a fisherman. Fishermen associations have written a letter to Giriraj Singh, Union minister of fisheries asking him to provide compensation of Rs 10,000 to fish vendors and fishermen associated with the trade. "Whatever they have caught before March 22 and produced after March 22 got spoilt. There has been no fresh catch since the last week of March and from April 16 the mandatory fishing ban has been imposed. It means these fishermen and fish vendors would be out of business for over 90 to 100 days, said Dasu.

#### **Goa: Fish, poultry sectors begin regular ops**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/fish-poultry-sectors-begin-regular-ops/articleshow/75240657.cms>

"With fishermen having returned to the sea and the supply of chicken being strictly monitored after the bird flu outbreak in Karnataka and Maharashtra, the fish and poultry sectors have begun to function seamlessly, even before the lockdown relaxations on April 20. "We have opened up fisheries since April 11. Retail sale of fish at jetties is not being permitted. The government will have to take a call on the open sale of fish since markets don't come under our purview, said fisheries director, Shamila Monteiro. The fisheries department is currently engaged in carrying out awareness drives on sanitation and social distancing at the jetties and fishing spots across the state. The transportation of chicken is also ongoing, provided traders carry the necessary documents for transportation of the birds. Besides the supply of these essential commodities being continued, the department of animal husbandry has issued 492 passes with validity upto May 3, to people to feed stray animals ensuring that they don't starve during the lockdown.

### **Goa: Fisheries Dept ropes in blue revolution beneficiaries to sell fish**

<http://www.uniindia.com/fisheries-dept-ropes-in-blue-revolution-beneficiaries-to-sell-fish/west/news/1959959.html>

"The Department of Fisheries of Goa Government has roped in blue revolution to sell fish in the state. According to a statement, Fisheries Department, under central scheme on Blue Revolution Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries, introduced a scheme "Financial Assistance for the purchase of Motorcycle with Ice Box in 2016-17. Under the scheme, a total of 39 units-- 28 units in North Goa and 11 units in South Goa.-- in the state were provided with financial assistance. Presently as the whole state is under lockdown, the department roped in all 39 beneficiaries, besides the eight mobile fish stalls operated by self help group to sell fish directly to the people in various villages of the state by adhering to all the advisory or guidelines issued by Government of Goa from time to time.

### **Goa and Kerala: Fishermen crossing into Karnataka waters, violating ban'**

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay.aspx?newsID=698376>

"There is ban on deep sea fishing in Karnataka due to the coronavirus pandemic lockdown. However, it has come to light that fishermen from Goa are engaging in deep sea fishing in the northern territorial waters of Karnataka. In addition, it has been alleged that fishermen from Kerala have also been fishing on the southern territorial water area of Karnataka. The fishermen of Karnataka are questioning the administration whether the acts of Goa and Kerala fishermen amount to violation of lockdown rules or not. In Karnataka, only traditional fishing is allowed as of now. However, fishermen from Goa are carrying out light fishing in areas of Gangolli in the taluk for the four or five days during the night, it is alleged. It is also learnt that from the south, fishermen of Kerala are also violating the territorial water boundary and entering the waters of Karnataka. Mohan Karwar, president of Karwar Purse Seine fishermen's association says, ""Deep sea fishing is allowed in the state of Goa.

I have information about Goa fishermen carrying out banned light fishing in the territorial waters of Karnataka for the past four or five days."" Ramesh Kunder, president of Gangolli Purse Seine fishermen's cooperative society questioned the authority saying, ""We are aware that the fishermen from Goa and Kerala are entering into territorial waters of Karnataka. Do they not have the restriction that is put on us?"" Responding to the issue, R Chethan, SP, Udupi district coastal protection police force said, ""We do not have any information of fishermen from Goa and Kerala carrying out fishing in waters of Karnataka. If our fishermen or any other person has information in this regard, they can pass on the same to us. We will investigate the matter. We have nine coastal protection force police stations at Mangaluru, Hejamadi, Malpe, Gangolli, Bhatkal, Honnavar, Kumta, Belekeri and Karwar in the three districts of Udupi, Dakshina Kannada and Uttara Kannada. Patrolling is carried out everyday in all the places."" Checkposts



have been opened at inter-district and inter-state borders. People are allowed only if it is really needed, he said.

### **Goa: Mobile vans bring solace to fish-loving Goans**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/mobile-vans-bring-solace-to-fish-loving-goans/articleshow/75190159.cms>

"Mobile vans selling fish have turned out to be saviours of fish-craving citizens in the lockdown as these vehicles have been authorised by the fisheries department to move across villages and towns to sell fresh catch. The vans are stationed at Mapusa, Navelim, Quepem, Sanguem, Ponda and Vasco. The operators purchase fish from the individual jetties close to their jurisdiction or from traditional fishermen, and move around selling the fish. Each of the vans has an average of 500 kgs of fish per day, deputy director of fisheries, Chandrakant Velip said. "While we have allowed mobile vans to function, they have been instructed to strictly follow the guidelines of social distancing, wear masks and gloves and take necessary precautions, he said. The open sale of fish has been prohibited by the fisheries department in view of the coronavirus precautions, and vendors are only permitted to carry out door-to-door sale of fish. "There are eight vans operating at present. If there is heavy demand for fish in areas close to their jurisdiction, the mobile van can carry out sale over there to cater to the public. The Mapusa mobile van was permitted to sell fish at Altinho in Panaji this way, Velip said.

### **Goa: With markets closed, fish being sold on streets**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/with-mkts-closed-fish-being-sold-on-streets/articleshow/75169946.cms>

"As the fish markets are closed, fish is now being sold along the roadside by the traditional fishermen at different locations in Calangute and Candolim. Traditional fishermen, who are otherwise busy with beach shacks and water sports, are venturing into the sea for fishing during the lockdown. This week, the fish is being sold at reasonable rates as compared to last week. A portion of four mackerels were being sold for Rs 200, while a portion of medium sized prawns was also being sold for Rs 200. Kingfish was available with the prices varying as per the size. A portion of around four to five large slices of kingfish were priced between Rs 600-800. However, sources said that the demand for fish has been sluggish as not many people are leaving their homes, and restaurants, barring a few, are closed.

**Goa: Goenchea Raponkarancho Ekvott (GRE) has demanded that only traditional fishermen be allowed to carry out fishing activity in Goan waters**

<https://www.heralddgoa.in/Videos/ONLY-TRADITIONAL-FISHERMEN-BE-ALLOWED-FISHING-IN-STATE-SAYS-GRE/159285>

"With the Centre lifting the ban on fishing activity, Goenchea Raponkarancho Ekvott (GRE) has demanded that only traditional fishermen be allowed to carry out fishing activity in Goan waters considering the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. ""The fisheries department is aware that the fishing community has a large number of migrants and there is a high possibility of community transmission of coronavirus in the State, said GRE General secretary Olencio Simoes. "Hence, we have demanded that only traditional fishing should be allowed and all commercial fishing which requires more crew members, especially purse seine boats, be banned as most of their fish catch is exported to other states or countries. "Mere lifting of the fishing ban without any proper guidelines will be detrimental to the State and there could be surge in COVID-19 cases in Goa,"" said Simoes. Simoes said that a circular was issued, asking fishing vessels or fishermen to follow several conditions.

""We wonder who will monitor these conditions. Since March 24, the state had issued a ban on fishing, which is blatantly being violated. Therefore, the lifting of ban only favours a few like the purse seine owners, LED light and bull trawling owners,"" Simoes added. Simoes said the fisheries department should instruct the health department to build awareness campaigns and provide fishermen with necessary safety gears like masks, gloves and sanitisers to the entire fishing crew, while also sanitising the landing areas, jetties and fish markets. ""The fisheries department must keep strict vigilance on trawlers using LED lights equipped with generators, bull or pair trawling and high-powered engines as these trawlers have also violated the fishing ban which was implemented during the lockdown. "If this continues, we will run out of fish stocks. Fish exports should stop, so that the people of Goa will get abundant and cheap fish specially during the lockdown,"" said Simoes

**Goa: Trawlers use LEDs, busted**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/trawlers-use-leds-busted/articleshow/75113425.cms>

"During a raid conducted by the harbour police on Sunday, 10 fishing trawlers at Khariawada jetty were found with banned fishing equipment like LED lights. The team headed by Siddhant Shirodkar, inspector at the harbour police station, found LED lights, generators and other banned fishing items in 10 trawlers at the jetty. As the police do not have authority to seize trawlers, they took photographs of the evidence and alerted the fisheries department to take

further action against the errant fishermen.

### **Goa: Seafood set to return as trawlers and rampons venture back into sea**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/seafood-set-to-return-as-trawlers-and-rampons-venture-back-into-sea/articleshow/75113423.cms>

"A day after the directorate of fisheries exempted marine fishing activity from lockdown restrictions following the green signal from the Union home ministry, the fishing community of Goa has ventured back into the sea . Most boat owners have immediately resumed fishing activities, since their crew, who were at sea during the lockdown, returned by April 1 and were stationed at the jetty after anchoring their vessels, said Francis Dsouza, president of the Mandovi fisheries cooperative society. Almost 50% of the trawlers have left Malim jetty, while others could not because of lack of sufficient ice from the ice factory. This was also the case at Cutbona where trawlers were raring go but none were able to do so for want of availability of ice for the vessels. President of Cutbona Boat Owners Association, Savio D'Silva, said that as most of the ice plants were shut during the lockdown period, sufficient stock of ice wasn't available at the plants to meet the demand that arose suddenly. D'Silva said that the situation would normalise by Monday. This has come as a welcome relief for many boat owners since they were worried about the fate of their crew, who had limited rations.

"The labourers on the jetty were at risk of contracting Covid-19 since they were on land and could come in contact with others. The crew will be safer at sea and can carry out fishing activities seamlessly. Operations will start in full swing in the next two days, said boat owner Francisco Fernandes. Besides fishing trawlers, traditional fishermen are also ready to venture into the waters. However, only some ramponkaar took to their nets on Easter Sunday, which was the first day of the lifting of the ban. "The main ramponn fishing has not started yet during the day owing to the high tide. But locals have been taking advantage of the ban and fishing on the beach, for their own consumption. , said Caetano Souza, a traditional fisherman from Caranzalem. The fisheries department issued a circular on Saturday asking fishing vessels and fishermen to follow 14 conditions while carrying out fishing, as well as fish sale. The fishermen are to adhere to strict guidelines maintaining social distance, wearing gloves and masks and using sanitisers.

### **Goa: Fishermen adrift as lockdown brings woes to the fore**

<https://www.heralddoa.in/Review/All-at-sea-Goas-fishermen-adrift-as-lockdown-brings->

[woes-to-the-fore/159231](#)

"Before the ongoing lockdown, the fishing community in Goa was facing a rough time and it appears that their situation has only worsened given the stringent restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While the commercial fishing industry has been witnessing a free fall as fish has disappeared from the west coast, the only silver lining is that the prolonged lockdown might resurrect the fish population. With the Fisheries Department banning fishing due to the COVID-19 lockdown, fishing boats of various sizes across Goa are tied up in docks, throwing thousands of fishermen out of work devastating coastal communities altogether. In fact, a circular issued by Director of Fisheries Dr Shamila Monteiro on March 29 mandated all the mechanized vessels to not to venture in the sea for fishing and to anchor the boats at safe zones along with crew after unloading their catch when they return to the jetties on March 31. Later, it issued another order banning all fishing activity and movement of trawlers. However for the disgruntled fishing community, from the traditional motorised boat owner to the trawler owner, the question that remains unanswered for most of them is why the government has banned fishing activities at this time.

This decision had led to a lot of opposition from locals as well. Finally, on Saturday, April 11, the Centre amended the COVID-19 lockdown guidelines, allowing fishing, marketing, sale and other activities with a condition to strictly maintain social distancing, it remains to be seen how swiftly the State government acts and modifies its orders to allow the same. It had recently allowed the sale of fish that had been stocked and kept in cold storage with emphasis on hygiene and social distancing. There is another problem on the horizon and that is what next given that the 61-day-long fishing ban period will begin in June. Normally after the fishing season comes to an end by May the fishing vessels owners have to secure their boats from small to big either by anchoring at the safe jetties or have to pull them up on the land. But with scarcity of labourers and the unavoidable practice of social distancing to avoid being coming in close proximity with possible COVID-19 infected persons, it is going to be a huge task for all these fishing vessels owners, be it anchorage or attending to minor or major mechanical and other issues that are mostly undertaken during the monsoon. What's worse is that given the fact that the government is facing a financial crisis of its own, no financial package or other incentives are going to come in near future say financial experts.

Sympathizing with the traditional fishermen, activist Abhijit Prabhudesai, emphasised that, the traditional fishermen should be the focus while formulating future policies by the Department of Fisheries in Goa. ""There is over exploitation of the marine resources, which belongs to all of us, through large-scale industrial fishing, and the Fisheries Department has to seriously lead a crackdown on LED fishing, and bull trawling and other forms of unsustainable fishing have to stop"", Prabhudesai said. ""We are expressing our concerns all the time not to over-exploit the natural resources, may it be fish, minerals or anything else for that matter, or a day is not far when super powers in the world will go to war over food, water and other natural resources,

which also includes fish", Prabhudesai emphasised. "Even the excessive use of chemical fertilisers, pesticides and detergents together with chemical effluents from industries get washed away into the oceans. If this is not brought under control, it definitely would affect the lives of fishes, from shrimps to the larger sea creatures", explained Prabhudesai. Custodio D' Souza, a traditional fisherman and chairman of 'Old Cross Fishing Canoe Owners Co-operative society, Vasco blamed the greed of the huge trawler owners for the present state of the barren sea, these are worst days for the traditional fishermen of Goa and if they don't learn from the past mistakes, there won't be any fish left in the sea during the years to come" warned D' Souza.

"However we survive through the year because of the catch we get during the monsoon season", "we expect the authorities to act in such a way that the marine resources are preserved and saved for posterity" added D' Souza. Olencio Simoes, General Secretary of Goenchea Ramponkarancha Ekvot (GRE) and Vice Chairperson of the National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF), spoke about the demands of the traditional fishermen of Goa. "GRE has demanded a financial package of rupees 20 thousand to all of the traditional fishermen of Goa, as they are the most affected during the lockdown" he said. Pointing out that the lockdown period has adversely impacted livelihood of the traditional fishermen community, he said the financial package is justified given how that there will be a fishing ban during the upcoming monsoon too, while also listing out various naturally occurring disasters over the last two years including cyclonic winds. He also claimed that purse seine trawlers, bull trawling and LED fishing has devastated the fish stock on the west coast of India starting from Gujarat to Kerala and have filtered out the smallest of the smallest species of fish even from the floors of the Arabian sea along this coast while the authorities have kept themselves looking the other way. "As we speak, there will be hundreds of trawlers fitted with high speed engines and 50 KVA rated power generators to illuminate LED light which attracts fish from even up to 5km radius, they fish from 12 nautical miles off Goa and up to 200 nautical miles, this is happening at the moment. The traditional fishermen is facing the brunt of the lockdown while some big players have found out ways to dodge the ban", Simoes complained bitterly.

Whatever may be the argument and the counter argument but the Arabian sea on the entire coast of west India is facing fish famine for last couple of years, the effect is so much such that hundreds of fishermen both traditional and the small sized trawler owners have stopped venturing into the sea as they say that it is not possible to gain any catch as there is no fish in the sea up to where they can reach. There was also large consensus that the Fisheries Department has to pull up its socks and act urgently. Speaking about the department, Simon Pereira, a former president of the Vasco trawler owners association also observed that when the lockdown was announced, certain things were not very clear and this led to confusion. "Later, one order was issued stating there was total stoppage and directing boats to anchor, but there were certain trawlers which were already in deep sea and were out of contact. This communication gap between the trawler owners and the workers also became the problem. Pereira further added that workers, helpers who migrants working on these fishing boats suffered along with the trawler

owners and due to the complete shutdown, there was food supply scarcity as well. Essential grocery items became unavailable. And workers being a responsibility of the trawler owners, they had to suffer by shelling out money from their pockets to give salaries to these workers and helpers. Each trawler owners had to spend almost 4 to 5 lakh to give salaries to the workers and helpers on their boats.

“I feel the government should think about us and come up with relief package for trawler owners also, Pereira added. Speaking about the financial package, Jose Philipe D'souza, president of All Goa Fishing Boat Owners Association (AGFBOA) said that he had appealed to Chief Minister Pramod Sawant about this. “The fishing boat owners have faced loses during this statewide lockdown period. All boats are anchored at Vasco jetty. There are thousands of labourers who are doing manual job on fishing boats, and during some medical problems, they complain to the boat owners. Many of them who are from other States have got stuck in Goa due to statewide lockdown, he added. He went on to elaborate how the fishing industry had suffered during the lockdown period. “Many people have deprived of fish. On Purse seine boats, there are around 40 workers who remain in the sea for a few days. The total salary of these labourers per boat goes upto 5 to 6 lakh, which the owner had to pay. We suffered last year for three months due to the cyclonic conditions and now we are suffering due to the lockdown. Common people have suffered because there was shortage of fish supply and more demand and people had to purchase fishes for exorbitant prices. Once the government allows boats into the sea for fishing activities then people will get fish at reasonable prices, he added. He further stated that he had asked the Fisheries Minister to call a joint meeting of the fishermen associations and bodies to decide on fishing activities so that people can get fish.

“I am of the opinion that social distance and guidelines put up by the government need to be followed strictly. Precaution is better than cure. I feel that the CM should consider our demand of the financial assistance to fish boat owners. We need to support the government in this testing time, he concluded. Another area of concern is the losses suffered by those involved in fishing. Further, the price of fish being sold has increased a lot compared to the regular season rates. In some places, it has even increased by 100 per cent and that's a certainly a pinch out of one's pockets and savings.

#### **Goa: Cutbona trawler owners in fix over Fisheries advisory**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/Cutbona-trawler-owners-in-fix-over-Fisheries-advisory/159107>

"The Director of Fisheries in an advisory to fishermen issued on Monday has only instructed on how the sale should be carried out despite stating that “open sale of fish is prohibited. Besides, it has remained silent on earlier orders banning fishing activity or trawlers going out to sea. Due to this, trawler owners at Cutbona jetty are in a quandary as the privileged few having political connections are allegedly unloading their fish just next to the Cutbona jetty with the



police turning a Nelson's eye to their activity. The truck that was seized by Cuncolim police a few days ago was transporting fresh fish and not frozen one from cold storages as permitted by the government. The fish in the seized truck was subsequently auctioned but the successful bidder's name was not declared. "The successful bidder was the same person who was transporting the fish, alleged a trawler owner and member of the Cutbona Boat Owners' Development Board, who preferred not to be named fearing harassment from the authorities. More significant is the fact that the fish auctioned was not tested for contaminants especially as a truck load of frozen fish taken from Goa to Kerala was dumped because it was "contaminated as it was laced with formalin.

It is learnt that one person, who runs a famous restaurant at Benaulim and has more than 10 trawlers, has been unloading his vessels across the Cutbona jetty at Mobor. There are some trawler owners, who unload their vessels next to the Cutbona Jetty in front of the residential houses existing therein. It is alleged that police are aware of these unloading but are not taking action but only patrol the jetty as the restaurant owner has powerful connections while those anchoring in front of the residential houses are close to Fisheries Minister Filipe Neri Rodrigues. It is pertinent to note that the Fisheries Director on March 24th had issued a notice stating that "all fishermen of the State are requested not to venture into sea for fishing until further notice. However on March 29 the director issued an order allowing vessels to unload their catch at the jetties till April 2. But this order also stated that trawlers that unload at the jetty and leave it "will not be allowed to return to the jetty till lockdown is lifted by government. And till date, the department is silent on these two orders and that is why there is no movement at Cutbona jetty. To make matters worse, the order issued on April 5 by Fisheries Secretary P S Reddy has further worsened the fate of the smaller trawler owners and they allege that the order was specifically issued only to help select few trawler owners.

The order says: "Most vessels unloaded during lockdown store in cold storages/processing plants and further goes on to say that societies should contact these plants and sell the fish in insulated trucks or mobile vans in Goa. However, trawler owners alleged that only one – the hotelier – has stored his catch at the processing units because he has taken one such unit on lease and added that the order was for this person to sell his catch.

### **Goa: GRE demands economic package to fishing community**

<http://www.navhindtimes.in/gre-demands-economic-package-to-fishing-community/>

"Goenchea Raponkaranchi Ekvott (GRE) has demanded that the state government give economic package to the fishing community and monthly allowance of Rs 20,000 up to three months in advance in view of total lockdown to contain the spread of novel Corona virus (Covid-19). GRE general secretary, Olencio Simoes in a press statement has said that the total lockdown in India till up to April 14 has impacted on lives and livelihoods of thousands of people in Goa and fishing community members are not exception to the same. "Therefore it is the need of the

hour that government should Immediately announce a economic package specifically for the fishing community keeping in mind that the monsoon ban season is arriving and will also affect the livelihoods of thousands of fish workers, the Cyclone Kyarr which has already created destruction to our livelihoods and huge losses to our fishing gears. And if the government fails to adhere to our demands, then it will be suicidal to the fishing community of Goa, said Simoes. GRE has placed some demands before the government which includes to release pending petrol subsidy and other subsidies of the year 2017-18, for providing all essential commodities to societies so that it can be distributed to the workers/crew members, non-motorized fishing and only traditional form of fishing without motor should be allowed rapon, mag, catnip, pagel etc, to supply adequate number of masks with proper instructions for use and use of soap water and sanitary equipments, build awareness campaigns in fishing community hubs in collaboration with local fish worker organizations and sanitizing all fishing jetties and landing sites of fishermen on regular basis.

GRE general secretary further told that the government should have comprehensive approach to address the pandemic through necessary health precautions as well as devising immediate economic and social security measures to the un-organized workers as they too serve as the backbone of the economy. "Stern precautions need to be taken up by the government to contain Covid-19 as the fishing community in Goa has numbers of migrants and there is a high risks of community transmission of the virus to the state of Goa, he said. Meanwhile, GRE has demanded the state government to check the crew members of Covid-19 and have further felt the need to quarantine both boat owners and crew members, since the lapses can pose fatal to the people of Goa when they consume fish. The GRE also have demanded immediate action on illegal fishing activities like LED lights equipped with generator, bull or pair trawling and high powered china engines within 12 nautical miles.

#### **Goa: Govt allows fisheries cooperatives to resume fish sale, no word on export**

<https://www.indiatoday.in/business/story/goa-govt-allows-fisheries-cooperatives-to-resume-fish-sale-no-word-on-export-1663764-2020-04-06>

"The Goa fisheries department has decided to allow the sale of fish in the state from Monday, with certain riders, including strict implementation of social distancing guidelines the curb the spread of coronavirus. Fish is the key kitchen staple of people in the coastal state and its sale was banned since the enforcement of lockdown last month. Goa Fisheries Minister Philip Neri Rodrigues told PTI that the stock of fish caught before the imposition of ban is lying at different cold storages in the state. ""We also understand that people want to eat fish. They have stayed away from eating it for so long. So, to keep the balance, we have allowed the fisheries cooperative societies and associations to sell fish,"" he said. However, the traditional fish markets will continue to be closed to contain the spread of coronavirus, he said, adding that they are trying to work out modalities on how to allow people to buy fish without the markets being

opened. At least 500 tonnes of fish stock is lying in cold chains and needs to be sold before it rots, Rodrigues said. All Goa Wholesale Fish Markets Association president Ibrahim Maulana said they welcomed the state government's move to shut the fish markets in a bid to check coronavirus spread. ""But, the issue is about the fish stock which is already in the cold chains,"" he said. Nearly 80 per cent of fish netted off the Goa coast is meant for export, while only 20 per cent is consumed in the state, he informed. ""When we sell fish, we will have to see how much of it will really be bought in the markets,"" he said. To avoid the rush, fish vendors should make packets of one kilogram each and hand it over to the buyer rather than selling it in open, he suggested.

### **Goa: Migrant fish workers stranded during Covid-19 lockdown need more govt support**

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/india-coronavirus-dispatch-1-undiagnosed-case-can-infect-16-000-in-14-days-120040700193\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/india-coronavirus-dispatch-1-undiagnosed-case-can-infect-16-000-in-14-days-120040700193_1.html)

"Migrant fish workers stranded during Covid-19 lockdown need more govt support: Often, migrant workers bear the brunt of unplanned measures, such as the current lockdown, as they are "dispensable. The department of fisheries of Goa stated that "all the vessel owners are hereby informed that the fishing vessels after unloading their catch shall leave jetty with crew members to safe zones offshore and remain anchored. Effectively, this meant that the crew will not be allowed to get out of the fishing vessels as long as the lockdown is in place.

### **Goa: Traditional fishermen seek economic package**

<http://www.navhindtimes.in/traditional-fishermen-seek-economic-package/>

"Amidst the lockdown in view of the COVID-19 pandemic, and an impending 61-day fishing ban, the traditional fishermen have sought an economic package, while also demanding with the government to exempt them from the lockdown. In a memorandum to the Chief Minister, Pramod Sawant, the fishermen's organisations have drawn attention to a directive for the traditional fishermen not to go out for fishing during the lockdown and also to a directive for the workers on mechanised boats to remain where they are. They also pointed to the fact that fish is a source of nutrition to a large number of people in Goa and "we can get it fresh as against canned food which even the WHO guidelines are vetoing. The fishermen have demanded a special package keeping in mind the arriving monsoon fishing ban period and the impact on the livelihood of thousands of fish workers and those dependent on the occupation. That apart, they have demanded release of pending petrol subsidy and other subsidies for the year 2017-2018. They have also urged the government to allow only non-mechanised forms of fishing using ramponn, mag, catai and pagel during the lockdown, as these forms of fishing can be done by adhering to social distancing norm and can cater to the requirement of fish, which is a staple food for many a Goans. Further, they have demanded that all essential commodities be provided to

fishermen's societies so that it can be distributed to the workers/crew members.

They have also sought that all fishing jetties and landing sites of fishermen be sanitised on a regular basis. They have stated that “the government of India guidelines speak of ban on fishing. Yet, those on boats who cannot inherently maintain social distancing by the very nature of the particular fishing are left vulnerable offshore, and those who can maintain social distancing through traditional fishing have been deprived of undertaking fishing and earning their livelihood. The fishermen have charged that “mismanagement and bad planning have left the fish landing sites ill- equipped to handle boats returning with fish. But the people have been able to return. Most of the men on the boats, if not all, do not have homes in Goa. They will need to be provided with shelter. So, also, those on the seas need to be able to come on shore and should be provided shelter. As we see it, there are at least 1200 boats and 8-10 people on every boat. They have not been contacted by the government. This directive to stay offshore, therefore, is endangering vulnerable lives, and putting them at a greater risk right now.

### **Goa govt allows fisheries cooperatives to resume fish sale, no word on export**

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he said. Nearly 80 per cent of fish netted off the Goa coast is meant for export, while only 20 per cent is consumed in the state, he informed. ""When we sell fish, we will have to see how much of it will really be bought in the markets,"" he said. To avoid the rush, fish vendors should make packets of one kilogram each and hand it over to the buyer rather than selling it in open, he suggested.

### **As lockdown hits dining table, Goans seek approval for traditional fishing**

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/as-lockdown-hits-dining-table-goans-seek-approval-for-traditional-fishing/story-U2sBMvj8S9oCHbVexKixwO.html>

"The countrywide lockdown to check the spread of coronavirus has left fishermen in Goa, India, all at sea and taken fish, a staple of the state's diet off dining tables, leading to calls that traditional fishermen be allowed to continue operations to protect their livelihoods as well as help locals get fish on their plates. In a letter to chief minister Pramod Sawant and other authorities, a civil society group has sought that "only non-mechanised forms of fishing like rapon, mag, catai and pagel form of fishing be allowed, as these forms of fishing will help to adhere with social distancing norms and will also cater to the requirement of fish, which is a staple food and source of nutrition of many a Goan. "There has been, a directive not to go fishing to even the traditional fishers during lockdown and on the other hand a directive for fishworkers on mechanized boats to remain on the boats and to be anchored off the shore till the end of this lockdown, said the letter signed by more than 200 people led by activists and those involved in the fishing industry.

"Not even the Government of India guidelines speak of ban on fishing. Yet, those on boats who cannot inherently maintain social distancing by the very nature of the particular fishing are left vulnerable offshore, and those who can maintain social distancing through traditional fishing have been deprived of the possibilities of fishing and being enabled to earn their livelihoods and also to provide fish to the consumers, the letter reads. There are more than a thousand trawlers in operation from fishing jetties in Goa besides 1500 smaller motorized and non-motorized boats that are used for fishing in the state. During the lockdown, locals have tried to rely on fish and prawns harvested from fish farms and ponds or on dried salt fish that is usually reserved for use during the monsoon when fishing is banned. The Goenchea Raponkarancho Ekvott, a union of traditional fishermen too has sought that the ban on traditional fishing be lifted. "During the period of the lockdown the economic and the nutritional needs of fish worker households, and of others, will be severely affected. Fish is an important food source for coastal people. If they do not have access to it, it will affect their food availability too. Non-motorized fishing and only traditional form of fishing without a motor should be allowed like Rapon, Mag, Cantai, Pagel etc., Agnelo Rodrigues, the president of the Goenchea Raponkarancho Ekvott, said. More than one lakh tonne of fish are caught in Goa annually, one-third of which is exported.

### **Inland fish satiates citizens in times of scarcity in Goa**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/inland-fish-satiates-citizens-in-times-of-scarcity/articleshow/74868613.cms>

"In the wake of the nationwide lockdown and the suspension of fishing activities in the state, ramponkars of Curtorim have come to the rescue to fish-deprived citizens. While fishermen in Goa have been told not to venture into the sea until further notice in view of the novel coronavirus, these traditional fishermen have managed to accumulate some catch to be sold by village vendors. "Fishing activity cannot be stopped. People need fish to eat. They cannot go hungry. We are therefore managing somehow, MLA Alexio Reginaldo Lourenco said. They are getting a mixed variety of inland fish and prawns, he said. Lourenco also said that necessary precautions are being taken right from fishing to selling. "The boats are being sanitised. We are maintaining a metre's distance while giving out the fish. In cases where people rush, we have been intervening and acting quickly, he said.

However, not all traditional fishermen have been as lucky. Nerul-based ramponkar Ozer Mendes said that the other traditional fishermen in his area were lathi-charged by police for attempting to venture into the waters. "Are we supposed to end our livelihoods and die? he said. General secretary of the Goencha Ramponkaranchem Ekvott (GRE) said that survival for traditional fishing community has become difficult. "Our families are hungry because of suspension of fishing activities. Fish is also an essential commodity so we should be permitted to carry out fishing activity, he said. A notice was recently issued by the state fisheries department. "In view of the prevailing situation in the country due to the health emergency posed by Covid-19, all fishermen are requested not to venture into the sea for fishing until further notice, it stated.

### **Over 100 migrant workers from State stranded in Goa**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/over-100-migrant-workers-from-state-stranded-in-go/aarticle31200951.ece>

"Over 100 migrant labourers from Kallakurichi district, who were working at an ice factory in the Malim Fisheries Cooperative in Goa, are now stranded there, unable to return to their home towns as a result of the 21-day nationwide lockdown to contain the spread of COVID-19. According to S. Devendran, a migrant worker from Sankarapuram taluk in Kallakurichi district, the workers, including those from Kallakurichi and Villupuram districts, were employed at the fisheries cooperative in Malim, where the daily catch was loaded into lorries and sent to various destinations. In view of the lockdown, fishing activity had come to a standstill, and the workers had been stranded here for the past few days. "Around 20 to 30 workers have been accommodated in a godown in the fisheries cooperative, while a few others have taken rooms on rent. We have only minimal savings, and with our rations running out, we don't know how long we can manage. Our request to the government is to help us immediately,



said P. Tamilselvan, another labourer.

Describing their plight, M. Sankar, a migrant worker, said most of them were living in cramped accommodation with poor facilities. “We don't have any medical assistance in case we fall ill. While we were getting ready to return to Kallakurichi, train services were completely stopped. With fishing activity also coming to a standstill, we don't know how long we could manage here without wages. When contacted Kallakurichi Collector Kiran Gurralla said the administration was in touch with the workers. “We have requested them to stay back as the Centre has restricted movement of migrants across borders to contain the spread of COVID-19. The administration will take up this issue with the authorities in Goa and ensure that basic facilities are provided to the workers, he said.

### **Goa: Curchorem fish vendors demand market shed completion**

<http://goacom.com/curchorem-fish-vendors-demand-market-shed-completion/>

"Curchorem fish vendors have demanded resumption of the fish market renovation, which has been halted since last one month. According to the traders, after demolishing the old shed which was in dilapidated condition, the new shed has been erected and covered with roofing sheets; and now it is almost one month that no finishing work has been carried out even after completion of platforms inside the shed. “We cannot use the platforms, because the interior finishing work still has to be done including electrical work, construction of drainages and footpaths along the side of the market. Almost one month has passed, no work has been carried out there, a fishmonger said and demanded the completion of the shed at the earliest. When asked why the renovation work has been halted since last one month, Curchorem-Cacora Municipal Council Chairperson Balkrishna (Pinty) Hodarkar said that the contractor has almost completed his work as per tender and a new tender has been floated for the remaining work at an estimated cost of Rs 30 lakh. This, he said, would include footpaths and construction of new shed for the vendors who sells dry fish, fruit and vegetables; besides, renovation of shops of meat sellers. Hodarkar assured to complete the entire work before commencement of the monsoon season. On the seating arrangement, he said that the traders must do it themselves. “The platforms will be allowed only to keep fish, vegetables or fruits, and each one must do their own arrangement, Hodarkar said when brought to his notice the complaint of traders that no seating arrangement has been done for them inside the shed.

### **Rs 3,500 crore for 500 km coastal road till Goa**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/rs-3500-crore-for-500-km-coastal-road-till-go/articleshow/74524851.cms>

"If all goes as planned, by 2025, Mumbaikars will be able to ride on a 500km scenic marine highway between Revas port towards Alibaug up to Redi port near Goa along the Konkan's beaches and forts. The MVA government in its maiden budget allocated Rs 3,500 crore to develop the existing single-lane state highway (MSH4) into a concrete two-lane marine highway on the lines of the US pacific coast highway. The widening work includes the addition of 30 km of bridges over creeks and rivers. Justifying the project, which has been in the planning stage for about seven years now, deputy CM Ajit Pawar said while presenting the budget that the economy of the Konkan region depends on orchard development, tourism and fisheries, and hence a marine highway assumes significance to facilitate effective transportation. The current single-lane road runs parallel to the coast along residences and markets. The proposed development will increase the road's width from 18-20 metres to 45 metres.

### **Traditional fishermen in Goa have given a one-month deadline to implement ban on LED fishing**

<http://www.navhindtimes.in/ramponkars-threaten-major-agitation-over-led-fishing/>

"Traditional fishermen in the state have given a one-month deadline to the fisheries department to implement ban on LED fishing and bull trawling failing which they have threatened to launch an agitation against the department. Interacting with media persons after meeting Fisheries Minister Filipe Nery Rodrigues in Panaji, general secretary of 'Goenchea Raponkarancha Ekvott' Olencio Simoes said that rampant illegal fishing by trawlers has caused damage to the rivers and the sea and also adversely affected the livelihood of ramponkars – the traditional fishing community. "Use of LED and bull trawling is finishing our traditional business. We will wait for one month and see what progress is made in implementation of the ban; else we will have no option but to organise a bigger agitation than that of 2016, Simoes said. It may be noted that in May 2016, hundreds of fishermen had blocked road at fisheries department and the river channels of Mandovi and Sal demanding a ban on LED fishing. When they had refused to clear the way, police had to resort to lathi-charge on the protesting fishermen. Simoes questioned as to why the department has failed to implement the ban even after four years.

He said it is because of illegal fishing that the prices of fish have increased. "If the government doesn't take the required steps then we will have our own action, he thundered. Simoes alleged that department officers are 'hand in glove' with the fish mafias and added that it is because of a few handful of mafias that the fishing industry is on the verge of collapse. Speaking to pressmen, the Fisheries Minister said that his department does not have the required resources to initiate action against the trawlers that are involved in illegal LED fishing and bull trawling. "The traditional fishermen say that because of advanced technology in fishing, marine life will be

finished. It will result in the worst time for the fisheries sector. As of today, my department is not capable, I am saying...with that mechanism...with those facilities, to seize the vessel and take control of illegal fishing, Rodrigues said. The minister said that director of fisheries Shamila Monteiro has been asked to collaborate with other agencies like coastal police, Coast guard and Captain of Ports department to implement the ban in real spirit.

"The crewmembers on vessels conceal the LEDs at the jetty points; we need to go and seize them. We need to go and search the vessels for which a mechanism will be worked out in the next 15 days. I have given direction to the director that if required, we can take experts on board. We will see that we maintain discipline in fishing activities, Rodrigues said. He said that the department will target the 'high-end trawlers' that are alleged to be involved in illegal LED fishing and bull trawling.

### **Goa wants armed cops at sea to prevent illegal fishing**

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay.aspx?newsID=675534>

"Armed policemen could soon guard waters off the state coast, to prevent fish from being poached by raiding parties of fishermen from neighbouring states who use illegal and non-sustainable techniques like bull-trawling and LED fishing, Goa's Ports Minister Michael Lobo said on Tuesday. Lobo's call for armed guards to protect the state's marine bounty from illegal fishing, came amid warnings by experts of an impending fish famine off Goa's coast due to overfishing and marine pollution. ""We (currently) do not have mechanism in place. Boats from other states come and do fishing like this. Our (patrol) boats need to be equipped with armed policemen because those who are doing illegal fishing with bull trawling and LED fishing gear carry weapons on them,"" Lobo told reporters. Fisherfolk in Goa have been demanding a ban on fishing with the help of LED lights, which attracts entire swarms of fish with the help of its powerful glow underwater and marine scientists have suggested, the practice abets indiscriminate fishing, which would eventually lead to a fish famine in the waters off Goa. Bull trawling according to experts, is another indiscriminate practice, which is frowned upon by traditional fishermen, because it involves two trawlers fishing with a common net virtually dredging all fish, including baby fish, in its path from the water surface to the bed. ""Bull trawling and LED fishing has been banned by the central and state governments after a study. If this is not stopped there will be no fish left,"" Lobo also said

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#### **Goa: In 2019-20, five vessels seized for illegal fishing**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/in-2019-20-five-vessels-seized-for-illegal-fishing/articleshow/74071892.cms>

"A total of five fishing boats from neighbouring states were impounded in the financial year 2019-20 for illegally fishing in Goa's territorial waters and the exclusive economic zone. The exclusive economic zone comes under the jurisdiction of the government of India. With LED fishing banned in Karnataka and Maharashtra, trawlers from these states are coming into Goan waters to fish, ports minister Michael Lobo had said in November 2019. As a result, the state government was in the process of notifying rules to impose stringent fines on bull trawling and LED fishing. Currently, the fisheries department conducts routine sea patrolling up to 12 nautical miles along the Mandovi-Zuari coast to curb illegal fishing and showcause notices are issued to owners of fishing vessels caught. The authorised officer appointed under Section 3 of the Goa Daman and Diu Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1980, impounds vessels caught fishing in the territorial waters of the state under Section 18 and Section 19 of the act. If the state's fishermen are caught carrying out LED fishing the, their fisheries subsidies are withheld and fishing licences suspended for a duration depending on the gravity of the offence. In 2017, officials from the department were deputed to inspect fishing vessels twice a week at the Cutbona jetty to check if they were using LED lights, fish light attractors or any other light equipment.

#### **Goa: Fish catch in state fell 40% in 2019: Economic Survey**

<http://www.navhindtimes.in/fish-catch-in-state-fell-40-in-2019-economic-survey/>

"Year 2019 was the worst ever for the fishing industry in the state with annual fish catch

plunging nearly 40 per cent to 75,748 tons from 121,115 tons in the previous year, according to the Economic Survey 2019-20. The Survey disclosed that, annual catch of through open-sea fishing (marine) as well as inland rivers decreased significantly by 38 per cent and 27 per cent respectively. The Economic Survey does not explain the reason for the sharp fall but it is attributed to series of cyclones that struck the country. According to local fishermen, fishing activities were disturbed several times due to four cyclones in the Arabian Sea in 2019, Vayu, Hikka, Kyarr and finally Maha. Besides adverse conditions caused by cyclones, competition from trawlers coming from outside states was also responsible for the plunge in fish catch, according to fishermen. On the export front also the industry faced setback in 2019, with export of marine products in 2019 decreasing 15 per cent from 44,444 tons in 2018 to 37,938 tons in 2018-19 (provisional). The Survey reveals that exports in value terms fell marginally from Rs 623 crore in 2018 to Rs 620 crore in 2018-19.

Sea food exporters in the state said that, the formalin-in-fish controversy took a huge toll on fish exports as the state government stopped inter-state fish movement. The Goan sea-food exporting industry relies heavily on fish coming in from outside states and purchased more than 60 per cent of its raw material from neighbouring states of Maharashtra, Kerala and Karnataka. According to stakeholders in the local fishing industry, the state's fishing economy is fragile. It lacks supporting infrastructure to boost earnings for fishermen, such as facilities in jetties and cold storage to store excess catch. The other problem is rampant over fishing by outside fishermen who also indulge in LED fishing. Measures taken by the state to support fishing activities are the amendment of the Goa Marine Fishing Regulation Act 2019, for fishing in inland waters. Previously inland fishing was regulated by the Inland Fisheries Act, 1897 and by the Goa Daman and Diu Fisheries Rule 1981, which has been repealed. The other measure to increase fish catch is to extend the fishing ban period to two months of the year, viz. June and July. The Survey says, "extension of the fish ban helped to regenerate of stocks and increase production, although the statistics tell another story.

### **UN outlines 2030 goals to save planet's biodiversity**

<https://www.climatechangenews.com/2020/01/13/un-outlines-2030-goals-save-planets-biodiversity/>

"At least 30% of the world's land and seas should be protected in the next decade to prevent the destruction of the planet's biodiversity. That is one of the proposals by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) for a global framework to protect the Earth's plant and wildlife. The draft text published by the CBD on Monday outlines a 10-year strategy to halt the decline and extinction of species and allow ecosystems to recover by 2050. Governments are due to adopt a new set of biodiversity targets during talks in Kunming, China, in October to replace the 2020 goals agreed in Aichi, Japan, in 2010 – most of which have been missed. The draft text will form the basis for negotiations this year. Under the Aichi goals, governments

agreed to prevent the extinction of know threatened species by 2020 and to improve their conservation status. But a major report by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (Ipbes) in May last year warned species extinction was accelerating with ecosystems deteriorating at rates unprecedented in human history. The report found one million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction, with climate change identified as the third biggest driver after changes in land and sea use and the direct exploitation of organisms.

The Kunming meeting will be a key moment for the world to define a global strategy for protecting biodiversity. Governments are under pressure to make the summit what the 2015 climate talks in Paris were for global climate action. Monday's draft text presents a number of targets in brackets, which will be discussed and likely altered by governments. One of the proposed goals is for protected areas and other conservation measures to cover “at least [30%] of land and sea areas with at least [10%] under strict protection by 2030.

### **Goa: 11 trawler owners penalised for fishing illegally in Goa waters**

<http://www.navhindtimes.in/11-trawler-owners-penalised-for-fishing-illegally-in-goa-waters/>

"Over the last two years, the state fisheries department has taken action against 11 trawler owners for carrying out illegal fishing in the state waters. In the year 2017-18, licences of seven fishing vessels were suspended by the department, while in 2018-19, four vessels were seized for violating the norms by carrying out illegal fishing. The fish catch from these four vessels was subsequently auctioned by the department. “The vessels were caught while fishing close to banks of rivers. As per the law in force, trawlers and mini purse seine boats are banned from carrying out fishing within five kilometres of the coast, said a senior officer of the department. He said that a notarised undertaking was taken from the owners of the vessels stating that they will not engage in illegal fishing again.

The officer claimed that the department has not come across illegal fishing activity involving the use of LED lights and bull trawling. “We have two patrolling boats; however, we can operate only one boat at a time, as we don't have the required manpower. Our jurisdiction for patrolling is up to 12 nautical miles but we mostly concentrate on River Zuari, as most of the violations are reported there, the officer said. The officer said that the coastal police are monitoring the waters and have been assisting the fisheries department in the enforcement of laws. He said that no communication has been received from any authority from the neighbouring state of Maharashtra with regard to St Andre MLA Francisco Silveira, who has been penalised Rs 3.08 lakh after a trawler owned by him was caught carrying out illegal fishing using LED lights in Malvan area of Sindhudurg district in the neighbouring state. Earlier, it was reported that Maharashtra fisheries department will recommend the Goa fisheries department to immediately cancel the licence and



registration of Silveira's vessel.

### **Goa: Govt eyes bigger catch from inland fisheries**

<http://www.navhindtimes.in/govt-eyes-bigger-catch-from-inland-fisheries/>

"In order to help double fishermen's income by March 2022, the department of fisheries has planned to promote crab culture by putting mangroves to use and also promote aquaculture in inland and brackish water areas besides laying emphasis on improving the fishing infrastructure. As per the strategy document for Goa, prepared by the Goa state-level coordination committee with valuable inputs from experts from various agencies across the country with an aim to double the fishermen's income, there is a good potential for freshwater fish/ prawn culture in about 115 fresh water perennial and seasonal bodies with an area of 1585 hectare including the Anjunem reservoir and Mayem lake. The document says that the North Goa areas have approximate 2000 hectare marshy and khazan land suitable for shrimp farming. The department of Fisheries plans to promote crab culture, besides farming of mussels and oysters in saline backwaters and mangroves. The state government has set up a diagnostic laboratory in collaboration with ICAR and NIO to ensure sustainable eco-friendly aquaculture under brackish water development, the document adds. According to the strategy document for Goa, there was 1.01 lakh tonne inland fish production in the year 2016, while 4403 tonne of marine fish production comparatively less than that of the year 2015, during there was 1.08 lakh tonne of inland fish production and another of 4648 tonne of marine fish production. The document highlights various options including enhancement of fisheries resources for livelihood improvement through coastal mariculture in coastal waters of Goa and shell fish culture along with the fresh water aquaculture technologies.

It also has plans to deploy artificial fish habitats in coastal waters of Goa for enhancement of fishery technology. Emphasis would also be laid on the techno inputs in distribution of ornamental fish seeds production apart from the timely fishing zones advisories for enhancement of fisheries resources. The department of fisheries is also committed to empower fishermen with efficient and eco-friendly fishing gear materials to improve sustainability in fishing operations and along with the assured improvement of marketing efficiency for fisheries resource using value addition and state regulating marketing channels. Deputy director Chandrakant Velip said that awareness about new schemes is being done at different levels to achieve the target. Incidentally, Velip was at the South Goa district biodiversity management committee meeting held at Raia, explaining about these innovative ideas to him achieve the collective goal of doubling the farmers income. When contacted, director of Fisheries Shamila Monteiro said that the department is working in tandem with the line department for attracting more people into such business. Sources however said that the department had a torrid time in convincing the farmers to avail the benefits since many are not forthcoming even after a year and half long awareness and this could be for various reasons including documentation issue.

## **India: A persisting variance: On sustainable goals index**

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/a-persisting-variance-the-hindu-editorial-on-sustainable-goals-index/article30453785.ece>

"On sustainable goals index The NITI Aayog's Sustainable Development Goals Index for 2019, released on Monday, does not reveal any surprising information. The South's Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka are joined by Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Goa as the best performers while the northern/north-central and north-eastern States have been laggardly in achieving the U.N.-mandated goals by 2030. Poor performers such as Uttar Pradesh have shown discernible advances in the indices measured between 2018-19 especially in adopting cleaner energy and improving sanitation. But the regional divide is stark in basic livelihood goals such as "eradication of poverty, and "good health and well being or even in measures such as "industry, innovation and infrastructure.

This points to variances in both State governance and in administrative structures and implementation of welfare policies. The South, led by Kerala and Tamil Nadu, has done much more in orienting administrative institutions to deliver on basic welfare, leading to actions on health care, education, poverty eradication and hunger, with a governance structure tuned to competitively monitoring actions on these fronts. The converse is true of northern States Bihar and Uttar Pradesh where outcomes have remained relatively poor despite there not being much of a difference in the governance structure. The obvious answer to the puzzle could be the presence of historical socio-political movements that have resulted in greater circulation of elites in power and which have addressed issues related to welfare more thoroughly in the South Kerala and T.N in particular.

Yet even these States need to go further in reaching the UN's SDGs and achieving the living standards of both the first world and other developing nations. The western States, especially Gujarat and Maharashtra, are also better off in economic growth and industry, indicating a diversified economy, higher employment ratios, skilled labour and better entrepreneurial culture. A major fault-line in India is in achieving gender equality, where barring middling performers such as Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and Jammu & Kashmir, the rest of the country falls short. Low sex ratio (896 females per 1,000 males), poor labour force participation and presence in managerial positions (only 17.5% and 30%, according to the report), high level of informality of labour, a major gender pay gap (females earn 78% of wages earned by males in regular salaried employment), lack of adequate representation in governance (14.4% in Parliament, but 44.4% in local government) besides high crime rates against women and girls are among the major national level indicators that have contributed to this. States need to climb a mountain to achieve gender equality, but immediate steps such as enhancing women's participation in governance through parliamentary reservations would go a long way in addressing several of the issues faced by them.