

Suzana

IN THE HIGH COURT OF BOMBAY AT GOA

**PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION (SUO MOTU) NO.1 OF 2026
WITH
PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION WP NO.3223 OF 2025 (F)**

PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION (SUO MOTU) NO.1 OF 2026
HIGH COURT ON ITS OWN MOTION
(TRAGEDY TAKEN PLACE AT ARPORA IN
A TRAGIC FIRE INCIDENT) ... PETITIONER

Versus

STATE OF GOA THROUGH THE CHIEF
SECRETARY AND 57 ORS ... RESPONDENTS

WITH

PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION WP NO.3223 OF 2025 (F)
AISHWARYA ARJUN SALGAONKAR ... PETITIONER

Versus

THE STATE OF GOA THR ITS CHIEF
SECRETARY AND 12 ORS ... RESPONDENTS

Mr. Rohit Bras De Sa, Advocate - Amicus Curiae.

Mr. Devidas J. Pangam, Advocate General with Mr Deep
Shirodkar, Additional Government Advocate for Respondent
Nos.1, 2, 4 to 13, 49 and 50.

Mr Manish Salkar, Advocate for Respondent No.6 and 15.

Mr. Parikshit Sawant, Advocate for Respondent No.7, 26 and
Village Panchayat of Arpora.

Mr Hanumant D. Naik, Advocate with Ms. Divya Naik,
Advocate for Respondent No.14.

Mr. Somnath Karpe, Advocate with Mr. Anand Shirodkar,
Advocate for Respondent No.17.

Mr. Vinoj K. Daniel, Advocate for Respondent No.18.

Mr Prayash Shirodkar, Advocate for Respondent No.20 -
Mapusa Municipal Council.

Mr. Ganesh Naik, Advocate for Respondent Nos.22, 24 and 25.

Mr. Gaurish Agni with Mr. Manuel D'Souza holding for Mr.
Ankur Kumar, Advocates for the Petitioner in PILWP No.3223
of 2025 (F).

Mr. Devidas J. Pangam, Advocate General with Ms Maria
Simone J. Correia, Additional Government Advocate for
Respondent Nos.1 to 5 and 8 to 11 in PILWP No.3223 of

2025(F).

Mr. Nigel Da Costa Frias, Advocate and Mr. Shane Coutinho, Advocate for Respondent No.33.

Ms. Annelise Fernandes, Advocate for Respondent No.34.

Mr. Akhil Govekar, Advocate for Respondent No.32.

Mr. Pankaj P. Verenkar, Advocate for Respondent No.28.

Mr. Omkar Kulkarni, Advocate for Respondent No.29.

Ms. Rifad Bellari, Advocate for Respondent No.23.

Mr. B. Oliveira, Advocate for Respondent No.38.

Mr. Rushikesh Sahakari, Advocate for Respondent No.43.

Mr. Subodh Kantak, Senior Advocate with Ms. Saicha Dessai, Advocate for Respondent No.48.

Mr. A. F. Diniz, Senior Advocate with Ms. Prachi Naik and Mr. Anugrah Ghatwal, Advocate for Respondent No.51.

Mr. Parag Rao, Advocate with Mr. S. Singbal and Ms. V. Mahato, Advocates for Respondent Nos.53 and 54.

Ms. A. A. Agni, Senior Advocate with Ms. Anamika Raul, Advocate for Respondent No.55.

Mr. Shivan Desai, Advocate with Ms. Maria Carmel Cota Viegas and Ms. Aishwarya Thorat, Advocates for Respondent No.56 and 57.

Mr. Dattaprasad D. Lawande, Advocate with Mr. Chirag Angle, Advocate for Respondent No.58.

Mr. Pranay A. Kamat, Advocate for Respondents No.26, 27, 30, 31, 44 to 47.

Mr. Zeller D'Sousa, Advocate for Respondent No.35.

**CORAM:- VALMIKI MENEZES &
AMIT S. JAMSANDEKAR, JJ.**

DATED :- 23rd March, 2026

P.C.

Service is now complete on all parties. Ms. Bellari, Learned Counsel waives service for Village Panchayat of Arambol-Respondent No.23.

2. Respondents No. 53 and 54 have been adjourning this matter and seeking time to file affidavit for a considerable time. The affidavit of Respondents No.51, 53 and 54 shall be positively filed by 30.03.2026. Mr. Ganesh Naik, Learned Counsel states that affidavit on behalf of Respondent No.22 has already been filed and in respect of Respondent No.24 and 25, the same shall be filed during the course of the day. Mr. Pranay Kamat, Learned Counsel, submits that affidavits of Respondents No.27, 31, 44 to 47 have already been filed, and on behalf of Respondents No.26 and 30, the affidavit shall be filed during the course of the day. Mr. Sahakari, Learned Counsel submits that the affidavit on behalf of Respondent No.43 has already been filed.

3. Learned Counsel Ms. Rafid Bellari, representing Respondent No. 23, Mr. Pankaj Vernekar for Respondent No. 28, Mr. Omkar Kulkarni for Respondent No. 29, Mr. Akhil Govekar for Respondent No. 32, Mr. Nigel Da Costa Frias for Respondent No. 33, Ms. Annelise Fernandes for Respondent No. 34, and Mr. Zeller D'Sousa for Respondent No. 35, along with Learned Counsel representing Respondents No. 39, 40, 41, and 42, have requested one week's time to file their respective affidavits on behalf of the Respondents. List the matter on 30.03.2026.

The Director of Panchayats is directed to ensure that the Secretary of these Panchayats file their affidavits by 30.03.2026.

As far as Respondents No.55 to 58, attempt shall be made at

filing their affidavits by 30.03.2026.

AMIT S. JAMSANDEKAR, J. VALMIKI MENEZES, J.