

Niti

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),
MISC.CIVIL APPLICATION NO.1371 OF 2026 (F), MISC.CIVIL
APPLICATION NO.983 OF 2026 (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**

WITH

**MISC.CIVIL APPLICATION NO.1371 OF 2026 (F)
SIRAJ SADANAND PEDNEKAR ... APPLICANT**

Versus

**THE STATE OF GOA THR. ITS CHIEF
SECRETARY AND 56 ORS. ... RESPONDENTS**

WITH

**MISC.CIVIL APPLICATION NO.983 OF 2026 (F)
HIGH COURT ON ITS OWN MOTION ... APPLICANT**

Versus

**STATE OF GOA THROUGH THE CHIEF
SECRETARY AND 57 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. Parikshit Sawant and Mr. Sachin Raul, 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 and Ms. Samiksha Vaigankar, Advocates for Respondent No.17.

Mr. Vinoj K. Daniel and Mr N. Naik, Advocate for Respondent No.18.

Mr. Prayash Shirodkar and Ms. Diksha Apte, Advocate for Respondent No.20 - Mapusa Municipal Council.

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. V. Surlakar and Mr Savio Misquita, Advocates for Respondent No.33.

Mr. D.Gaonkar and Mr Akhil Govekar, Advocate for the Respondent No. 32.

Mr. Pankaj Vernekar, Advocate for the Respondent No.28.

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

Mr. A. F. Diniz, Senior Advocate with Mr. I Santimano, Advocate for the Respondent No.51.

Mr. Parag Rao, Advocate with Ms. Dhanashri Korgaonkar, Advocates for the Respondent Nos. 53 and 54.

Mr. Junaid Shaikh, Advocate for Respondent No.55.

Mr Shivan Desai, Advocate with Ms Maria Viegas, Advocate for the Respondent No. 56 and 57.

Mr. D. Lawande with Mr. Chirag Angle, Advocates for the Respondent No.58.

Ms. Natasha Rai, Advocate for the Respondent No.23 and 36.

Mr Pranay Kamat, Advocate for the Respondent Nos. 26,27, 30, 31, 44 to 47 (through V.C.).

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

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

Mr Vivek Vas, Advocate for the Respondent No.40.

Mr S. Sahakari, Advocate for the Respondent No.43.

Mr S. Sahakari, Advocate holding for Mr B. Olivera, Advocate for the Respondent No.38.

Mr Sahil Sardessai, Advocate for the Respondent No.37

Ms B. Fatarpekar, Advocate for the Respondent No.28.

Mr. Manish Salkar, Government Advocate for South Goa Planning and Development Authority.

Ms. S. Kanekar, Advocate for the Applicant in MCA No.1371/2026(F).

Mr Ankur Kumar, Advocate for the Petitioner in PILWP

No.3223/2025(F).

**CORAM:- VALMIKI MENEZES &
HITEN S. VENEGAVKAR, JJ.**

DATED :- 15th June, 2026

P.C.:

We are informed that some Village Panchayats have filed their affidavits but have not furnished copies to the learned Amicus Curiae and to the Advocates appearing for the State. These Panchayats are directed to furnish copies of their affidavits to the respective Advocates appearing for the State as well as the learned Amicus Curiae within two weeks from today.

2. The learned Amicus Curiae has also pointed out that Respondent Nos.31,39 and 40 have not filed their affidavits in reply in compliance of this Court's order dated 16.02.2026. These Panchayats shall comply with the order and place their affidavits on record within two weeks from today.

3. We request the learned Amicus Curiae to place before us the details of the 25 persons, who were deceased in the unfortunate incident, i.e. to say the details of their names/age, the employment, if any, with Respondent Nos.53 and 54 and whether there were any dependents of the deceased. The learned Amicus Curiae may also assist this Court in placing the information as to whether there are any

pending workmen's compensation cases before the Labour Commissioner of Goa and their details. This is to enable us to proceed with the matter and at the inception decide whether this Court would grant victims compensation prior to deciding the proceedings and give other directions to the statutory Authorities.

4. We request the learned Amicus Curiae to place the details of the victims at the disposal of the Member Secretary of the GSLSA, who shall appoint free legal aid Counsel from the Legal Aid Panel to the victims, who shall report their cause on the next date of hearing.

5. For this purpose, we list the matter on 15.07.2026 at 2.30 p.m.

HITEN S. VENEGAVKAR, J. VALMIKI MENEZES, J.