

Inspection reveals beach shacks violating norms

99 violators face Tourism Department wrath; issues show cause notices those subletting shacks

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Goa Tourism Department has issued show cause notices to 99 beach shack operators for allegedly violating the State's policy. The Tourism Department has been allotting shacks to locals on beaches under the Beach Shack Policy.

During a surprise inspection conducted by the Tourism Department across the State, as many as 99 beach shacks, including 80 in North Goa stretches found to have violated shack policy mostly subletting. As a result, show cause notices have been issued to the violators.

During the inspection, authorities identified a total of 80 cases of violations, including subletting, in North Goa alone. Notices have been issued to these shacks under the Goa State



Shack Policy. In South Goa, 19 shacks were found to be violating the regulations. The inspections were conducted to verify illegalities and ensure compliance with the policy.

Officials from the Department of Tourism stated that show cause notices have been issued, and these shack operators will be given an opportunity to present their case during the hearings scheduled for the last week of Feb-

ruary. As of now, no penalties have been imposed, and the hearing process is ongoing. Further details on the number of shacks sublet to non-Goans and the professions of those involved are yet to be confirmed, it was informed.

Authorities emphasized that regular inspections will continue, and action will be taken against any violations detected in the future. In regards to the mechanisms in place to

track such violations, the department has maintained that periodic regulatory checks and inspections are being carried out to monitor compliance.

Currently, data regarding the number of applications on the waiting list for shack allocation in North Goa is being compiled. Officials also clarified that notices have been issued based on the violations identified during inspections. The department reiterated its commitment to enforcing the Goa State Shack Policy to maintain the integrity of the State's tourism sector.

The incident of subletting shacks had come to light following the killing of a youth at Arambol beach on January 26. The department had permitted erection of 363 shacks along the beach stretches of Goa.

KTC workers threaten to go on strike over unpaid arrears

Team Herald

PANJIM: The KTC Drivers and Allied Employees Association affiliated to the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) on Thursday have threatened to go on a strike and issued a 21-day notice to the Kadamba Transport Corporation (KTCL) management, effective from March 19, if the government fails to pay their Seventh Pay Commission dues.

The protesters took out a morcha in the city demanding the full implementa-

tion of the recommendations of the Seventh Pay Commission.

AITUC general secretary Christopher Fonseca said "The KTC management was yet to its workers give 34 months arrears including over 600 retired workers, for the period from January 1, 2016 to October 31, 2018 arising out of implementation of the Seventh Pay Commission and signing of wage settlement dated March 11, 2024 before the office of the Labour Commissioner."

He also demanded to re-

store Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) contribution to 12 per cent for KTCL workers as provident fund contribution was cut by the government to 10 per cent in 2009. He said that during the meeting, the Chief Minister had assured them to restore the provident fund contribution to 12 per cent but till date it was not restored.

Among other demands, the Association has demanded an increase in the monthly wages of Kadamba bus drivers and conductors with over two years of ser-

vice, from Rs 18,000 to Rs 30,000.

The Association demanded immediate procurement of 300 new diesel buses to replace 200 scrapped or condemned vehicles over the past two years.

It demanded regularisation of temporary drivers and conductors, who have completed over three years of service and to grant temporary status with similar pay scales to drivers and conductors serving for over five years in the absence of permanent vacancies.

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Parents oppose reopening of schools in April this year

Submit letter to DoE, protest against flawed implementation of NEP 2020



Delegation of parents led by Cecile Rodrigues speaking to the media after submitting a memorandum to Director of Education

PANJIM: Parents and guardians of school-going children across Goa have raised serious concerns over the alleged flawed implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the decision to commence the new academic year in April. A formal representation opposing these changes was submitted to the Director of Education (DoE), Shailesh Zingde, demanding the revocation of plans to begin the school year in April.

While parents acknowledge the NEP's intent to improve the education system, they argue that its implementation in Goa is poorly planned, lacks transparency and fails to address the specific needs of students. Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) members have also decided to submit petitions outlining their objections to the DoE. Cecile Rodrigues, a concerned parent, stated, "The recent changes to the academic calendar, requiring students to start school

in April, have raised several concerns among parents and students. These changes appear to contradict the principles outlined in NEP 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCFSE) 2023." She further pointed out, "Starting the academic year on April 1, just two days after the final exams conclude on March 28, without allowing students a break to refresh their minds, is going to be disastrous."

power shutdown

MARGAO: On 28 February from 9 am to 6 pm near Victor hospital, opp Shops Sulabh toilet, Garden, opp. Sai Baba temple, JNC Soda factory, Malbhat Sadekar house, Opp toilet Malbhat behind Sai Baba temple and surrounding area. On 1 March from 9 am to 6 pm at Relax holiday home, near Panurang temple, Malbhat near Park/ backside of toilet and surrounding area.

CURTORIM: On March 1 from 9 am to 7 pm near Camarxete near temple area.

TALEIGAO: On March 1 from 9 am to 1 pm at La Citadel Colony.

BICHOLIM: On March from 9 am to 2 pm at Chimulwada, Hira Talkies, Viswash Nagar, Karapurkar building, Vaibhav residency, Pajwada, Gaonkarwada Bicholim and surrounding areas, from 3 pm to 6 pm at Barajanwada, Dhabdabha, Katarwada and surrounding areas.

KEY CONCERNS

- Lack of consultation with stakeholders
- Inadequate infrastructure
- Climatic unsuitability
- Contradiction to NEP 2020's holistic development approach
- Increased curriculum

- burden on students
- Unclear guidelines for promotion to Class IX
- Contradictory language Policy
- No clear justification for change
- Poor Planning in Class IX

DEMANDS

- Retain the traditional June start for the academic year
- Modify curriculum policies
- Introduce optional enrichment programmes
- Continue offering foreign language courses
- Adhere to NCFSE 2023 guidelines

Mhadei Water Disputes Tribunal gets six months extension

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Mhadei Water Disputes Tribunal, constituted in November 2010 for adjudicating dispute over river water sharing between Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra, was granted another six-month extension as it failed to resolve the issue despite being in operation for more than 14 years.

"Central government hereby extends the period of submission of further report by the said Tribunal for a further period of six months with effect from 16th February 2025," states a notification issued by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, New Delhi.

Initially the extension was granted for one-year except in August last year when the government extended its term for six months.

The Mhadei Water Disputes Tribunal was established in November 2010 under section 4 of the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956, for the adjudication of the water disputes relating to the inter-State river Mhadei, and river valley thereof. The Tribunal was supposed to submit its verdict within a period of three years, from the date of its constitution, i.e. by November 15, 2013.

But the Tribunal requested the Union govt to reckon as August 21, 2013 the effective date of its functioning, to be the date of its constitution and the govt, vide notification dated November

13, 2014, notified that the effective date of constitution of the Tribunal be August 21, 2013, and the period of 3 yrs for submission of the report.

St. Jude, Apostle and Martyr, Faithful servant and cousin of Jesus. You have been forgotten because of the similarity of your name with Judas the traitor. You are universally honored and invoked by the church as Patron of Hopeless cases and things despaired of.

Pray for me in my temporal and spiritual needs, I implore you. Make use of your privileged relationship with Jesus and bring speedy help where help appears impossible. Come to my assistance in this great need that I may receive consolation and help from heaven in all my necessities, tribulations, and sufferings particularly...

(Here make your petition)

Please hear my petition and answer my prayer so that I may praise God eternally with you and all the elect. Amen

I promise you, O Blessed St. Jude, to be ever mindful of this great favor. I will never cease to honor you as my special and powerful patron and do all in my power to encourage devotion to you. Amen (Pray 3 Our Father, 3 Hail Mary and 3 Glory be... In honor of St. Jude)

In making your request, please promise to publish this prayer (Share in writing on internet this prayer or distribute this prayer to others.)

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