

SOGAC opposes ground plus two structure in Old Goa buffer zone

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Save Old Goa Action Committee has written to the Se Old Goa village panchayat not to issue construction licence to a structure earlier designed for ground plus first floor but now seeking construction licence for ground plus additional two floors since the structure falls within the buffer zones of heritage sites.

In a letter written to the village panchayat, the Save Old Goa Action Committee (SOGAC) president Fatima Pereira, said, "It is understood that the existing structure was designed for Ground plus one. It is

Conservationists say heritage is at risk, urge panchayat to reject construction licence to high-rise in buffer zone

unclear whether the existing RCC structure has load-bearing capacity to accommodate two additional floors. Further no detailed structural stability study by a qualified structural engineer is done."

Pereira has demanded that the application be rejected with explicit instruction to the applicant to resubmit with a comprehensive structural stability report prepared by a certified structural consultant.

She has pointed out that the plans contain provi-

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— Fatima Pereira,
SOGAC president

sions for a swimming pool, which is definitely an unnecessary burden on already scarce water supply in Old Goa village.

Pereira has suggested that a letter be written to Public Works Department (PWD) pointing out that there is already shortage of

water in the area and an action plan be sought from it for increasing water supply and timeline, so that the village panchayat may know when to start permitting water-intensive projects.

The SOGAC president has pointed out that on June 20, 2024, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant had given a clear statement in the Legislative Assembly that "No new structure is to be permitted within the buffer zones of heritage sites."

"It is clear that this structure falls within the 300 me-

tres regulated development buffer zone as designated under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010. Under Section 20C & 20D of the aforementioned Act: The subject property is located within the 'Archaeological Park' designation of the Regional Plan, wherein the conservation committee of the State government has established a consistent policy restricting building heights to Ground plus one. The proposed Ground plus two construction fundamentally contravenes this policy and the Chief Minister's statement," Pereira stated.

Man stabs brother to death over bike dispute at Sada

Team Herald

VASCO: A shocking incident took place in Mormugao when a man stabbed his elder brother to death after the latter questioned the former for taking his bike without informing him.

The dispute between the duo which began over using a two-wheeler without permission turned violent, leading to a tragic outcome with the younger brother stabbing his elder sibling to death at the GRB Colony, Headland, Sada-Mormugao on Thursday night.

According to the Mormugao police, Mallikarjun Ghivari (45) allegedly stabbed his elder brother Shrikant (50), with a knife. The altercation reportedly started when Shrikant questioned Mallikarjun for taking his two-wheeler without informing him. In a fit of rage, the ac-

cused allegedly stabbed Shrikant in the chest, abdomen and hand. He was rushed to the sub-district hospital at Chicalim, where he was declared brought dead.

The Mormugao police later arrested Mallikarjun, who was working as a security guard, while, Shrikant was a lifeguard.

The incident occurred in the presence of parents, wife and children of the accused and youngest brother, Mahesh Ghivari (40). It was Mahesh who immediately informed the police.

The Mormugao police later sent the body to the Hospicio South Goa District Hospital, Margao for medico-legal formalities. A case has been registered against Mallikarjun Ghivari under Section 103 of BNS and the police are conducting further investigations.

20-year-old passes away at GMC after suspected substance intake

Team Herald

PANJIM: A 20-year-old, Ankit Verma, a native of Patna, died after allegedly consuming an unknown substance at Baina Beach. He passed away while undergoing treatment at Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMC), Bambolim, on Friday.

According to the Mormugao police, Verma was admitted to Sub-District Hospital, Chicalim, on Thursday after complaining

of uneasiness. He was later shifted to GMC, Bambolim, for advanced medical treatment, where he succumbed in the casualty ward.

The Mormugao police have registered a case of unnatural death under Section 194 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). PSI Stanley Gomes is conducting the investigation under the guidance of Mormugao PI Dheeraj Devidas and the overall supervision of Mormugao DySP Gurudas Kadam.

TAUGHT TO TEACH

HEMANT KOTKAR



Sandra Fernandes, a former teacher and agriculturist teaches students the art to raise beds for different type of vegetables at a field in Sangolda

RERA penalises builder for non compliance

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Goa Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) has directed the builder to refund Rs 20.50 lakh to the complainant within 30 days from the date of the order.

RERA Member Vincent D'Silva has further directed the M/s Expat Projects and Development Pvt Ltd to pay interest at 11.10 per cent per annum to the complainant from January 23, 2018 till the date of effectual payment for delay in delivering possession of the apartment.

The builder has been directed to pay costs of Rs 1 lakh to

the complainant Col Vijay Kumar within 30 days of the order failing which it will carry interest in terms of law.

The RERA has also directed the builder to pay Rs 6 lakh as penalty under Section 61 of the Act for violation of Section 11 (4) (a) and (f) read with section 18 of the Act. The amount has to be deposited in the bank account of the RERA within next 60 days failing which necessary proceedings will be initiated against the respondent.

The RERA had terminated and cancelled the agreement for sell dated 29-11-2018 which was registered in the

office of the Sub-Registrar of at Panjim.

The respondent has been also directed to file a compliance report of the order in the form of an affidavit within 50 days from the order failing which further legal action will be initiated by the Authority under the RERA Act, for execution of the order.

Col Vijay Kumar had purchased one BHK and had made full payment to advance to the builder, and the delivery as per the agreement was October 31, 2020. However, there was no progress and even the construction had not started since last three years.

IMD extends yellow alert till today Predicts hot and humid conditions in isolated pockets

Team Herald

PANJIM: There appears to be no immediate respite from the heatwave-like conditions as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Friday extended the yellow alert warning for heat over Goa till March 15, forecasting that hot and humid conditions are very likely to prevail over isolated pockets of the state during this time.

"Hot and humid conditions are very likely to prevail at isolated pockets in North and South districts on March 14 and 15, 2025," the IMD said.

The IMD Goa also predicted that weather is very likely to be dry over North

Goa and South Goa districts of the state and maximum temperatures are very likely to prevail between 34-36 degree Celsius over Goa state.

"Shallow fog is very likely in the morning," the IMD said.

This is the 13th consecutive day when the IMD has extended the yellow alert. Initially, the IMD had issued a yellow alert on March 2 for three days and has been extending it since then.

Meanwhile, Panjim recorded the highest maximum temperature of

35.4 °C and lowest minimum temperature of 24.°C during the last 24 hours recorded at 8.30 am on March 14, 2024.



CM to present State Budget in Assembly on March 26

Team Herald

PANJIM: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant will present the State Budget 2025-26 in the Legislative Assembly on March 26.

The three-day budget session of the Assembly will commence on March 24. After presenting the budget, the government will seek Vote on Account for the next four months of the new fiscal year while, and the discussion on the budget will be held during the monsoon session.

"This time, we are not passing the budget but taking a Vote on Account," Sawant said when asked about the curtailed duration of the budget session.

Earlier, the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) finalised the agenda/business to be transacted during the brief session.

Higher fees for last-minute sound permission applications

Team Herald

PANJIM: The State government has notified a fee structure for obtaining online sound permissions for commercial and private functions, with charges varying based on the timing of the application.

Higher fees will apply for last-minute requests, while exemptions have been granted for government events, religious institutions, sports events and traditional cultural functions. Those with long-term permissions of up to three years are also exempt.

For private functions, if permission is obtained seven days before the event, a fee of Rs 3,000 will apply.



FEE STRUCTURE

Private Functions:

- Rs 3,000 – If applied 7 days before
- Rs 4,000 – If applied 3 days before
- Rs 5,000 – If applied less than 3 days before

Commercial Functions:

- Rs 15,000 – If applied 7 days before
- Rs 18,000 – If applied 3 days before
- Rs 21,000 – If applied less than 3 days before

If applied for three days before the event, the fee will be Rs 4,000, and if the application is made with less than three days remaining, the fee will be Rs 5,000.

For commercial functions, if permission is obtained seven days prior to the event, a fee

of Rs 15,000 will apply. If applied for three days before the event, the fee will be Rs 18,000 and if the application is made with less than three days remaining, the fee will be Rs 21,000.

However, these fees do not apply to government events, religious institutions, sports events, or religious and traditional cultural functions. The exemption also extends to those who have already obtained long-term permission of up to three years.

Two trucks collide, damage roadside shops and two bikes at Manaswada

Team Herald

PONDA: A collision between two paint laden trucks left roadside shops and two bikes damaged at accident-prone Manaswada-Kundaim junction late Thursday night.

According to available information, the trucks belonging to a paint company at Kundaim were proceeding to Pune and on reaching Manaswada, one of them dashed against the other which rammed into the roadside shops and later damaged two parked bikes. However, a few locals present at the site had a lucky escape.

The junction is known for black spots as several fatal accidents have occurred in the past.

Following the accident, the paint gushed from the truck onto the road and



flowed into the gutters.

The locals demanded that the NH traffic from the internal village road be diverted.

It may be recalled that the locals have been demanding that the bypass widening work be completed at the earliest.

Sarpanch Survesh Gaud said, "Two years ago, the locals had staged an agitation following a series of fatal accidents at the junction which had left the shops damaged. The NH authorities had promised to widen the Kundaim bypass into a

four lane road to divert traffic. However, two years have passed and the work is progressing at a snail's pace, which has put the lives of the locals at risk. I urge the Chief Minister to look into the matter and complete the bypass road at the earliest."

Zambaulim temple panel result on Mar 18

Team Herald

PANJIM: The result of the elections held to elect the new managing committee of Shree Ramnath Damodar Saunthan, Zambaulim will be declared at 10 am on Tuesday, March 18.

The decks to declare the result of the managing committee were cleared after the High Court of Bombay at Goa on Thursday disposed of writ petitions challenging the election process.

The counting of votes polled during the elections was held in the office of the Sangum Mamlatdar Siddhesh Prabhu on March 7, as per the directives of the High Court. The result was later submitted to the Court on March 11.

When contacted, Sangum Mamlatdar Siddhesh Prabhu said he will declare the result at 10 am on March 18.

Around 830 votes were polled in ballot boxes and

were counted in the presence of all the contesting candidates. The polling was held on February 9, after the High Court declined to stay elections after some candidates raised issue over the inclusion of new members (mahazans) and deletion of some of the members by the present managing committee.

The Court had directed the Sangum Mamlatdar to keep the votes cast by newly-added and deleted members (mahazans) in different ballot boxes and to seal them until further orders.

On Thursday, the High Court disposed of writ petitions filed by Omkar Kamat Sambary and seven others stating that efficacious remedy is available to them to raise all the issues before the Administrative Tribunal, Goa.

The new managing committee of Saunthan will be elected for the triennium 20-28.

Mormugao council postpones budget meeting

VASCO: The Mormugao Municipal Council (MMC) on Thursday postponed its meeting to approve and pass the annual budget. However, key civic issues were taken up during the session, including concerns about Vaddem Lake, unauthorised cremations, and housing regularisation.

During the meeting, MMC Chairperson Girish Borkar addressed the ongoing cleanliness issues at Vaddem Lake. He stated that if the church, which currently oversees its upkeep, is unable to maintain the lake, the council may consider handing over its maintenance to a private entity.

The council also raised objections against unauthorised cremations being conducted at Hindu crematoriums without prior permission from the MMC. Additionally, the council approved a proposal to issue NOCs for the regularisation of houses built on Goa Housing Board land at New Vaddem.

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