

# TCP DEPT RESCINDS ZONE CORRECTION AT CHOPDEM

Move comes after Brahm Agro fails to pay additional fee of Rs 7.16 crore

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Town and Country Planning (TCP) Department has rescinded the correction/rectification of the zone carried under section 17 (2) of TCP Act at Chopdem, Pernem, after the Brahm Agro Terra Projects Limited failed to pay the additional fee of Rs 7.16 crore, as per the new notification.

A new notification dated April 4, 2025, rescinding the zone correction was submitted to the High Court of Bombay at Goa on Tuesday.

The government after converting the land to settlement zone had directed the chief town planner (planning) to assess the rate as per the old notification dated March 15, 2023. The government issued another notification dated

March 28, 2024, revising the rates.

The government had assessed the application dated February 5, 2024 of the Brahm Agro Terra Projects Limited as per the rate notified in the old notification dated March 15, 2023 and collected a fee of Rs 1.79 crore.

But later the Department of Finance (Revenue and Control) asked the TCP department to collect fees as published in the Official Gazette dated March 28, 2024, for all applications approved after March 28, 2024.

In view of this, the TCP Department re-assessed the fee payable by the applicant as per the revised rate and accordingly issued another assessment order dated February 26, 2025 along with e-challan requesting the applicant

**The TCP Department re-assessed the fee payable by the applicant as per the revised rate and accordingly issued another assessment order dated February 26, 2025 along with e-challan requesting the applicant to deposit additional Rs 7.16 crore within seven days of issue of the order**

to deposit additional Rs 7.16 crore within seven days of issue of the order. But since the Brahm Agro Terra Projects Limited did not pay the additional fee of Rs 7.16 crore the matter was placed before the TCP Board meeting held on March 7, 2025, where the Board decided to rescind the rectification carried out in respect of the plot of land admeasuring 89,000 sqms at Chopdem.

During the course of hearing, the TCP counsel informed the court that 22 persons had paid the revised rates and that 14 had been issued notices to pay the additional amount failing which their zoning permission will be rescinded.

The Directorate of Vigilance produced in a sealed cover informing the court that an inquiry is in progress with respect to 46 cases and that the Court after going through the report observed that there was enormous loss caused to the public exchequer. Since the investigation is ongoing, the report was kept in a sealed cover as part of the court record till the conclusion of the investigation.

The Directorate of Vigilance further told the court another 50 cases of

under assessment have been given to them for investigation.

Arguing on behalf of the petitioners, Adv Rohit Bras De Sa submitted that the officer who under-assessed these properties for the purpose of revenue collection be held liable. The Court told him that this issue will be dealt with after the deficit fees are recovered.

Adv De Sa also prayed that the conversion sanads issued by the TCP Department be revoked.

He also disclosed that the TCP Minister had also availed benefit under Section 17 (2) of TCP Act and was given relief stating that "fees are not applicable."

"This was absurd," he said. But the Court said that all these issues would be examined after the respondents file their replies.

# Restore Candolim structure to its original state: HC to Bardez Dy Collector

Team Herald

PANJIM: The High Court of Bombay at Goa ordered to immediately stop the work of de-sealing a commercial establishment at Candolim and directed the Deputy Collector, Bardez, Mapusa not to act upon the communication dated March 26, 2025 issued by the Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) and to restore the structure to its original state.

During hearing of a PIL writ petition filed by the Calangute Constituency Forum, its counsel Adv Rohit Bras De Sa brought to the notice of the Court that the GCZMA issued a notice on March 26, 2025 to the Deputy Collector, Bardez to de-seal the premises so as to enable the respondent to demolish the structure beyond the approvals granted.

On April 17, 2024, the High Court had directed the authorities not to de-seal the premises even after show cause notices are heard and discharged, and not to allow commercial operation without the leave of the Court. The Court had stated that the petitioner must be heard along with the 14th respondent Zulekha Irfan Tinwala on the show cause

notice issued to her.

In view of the direction issued on April 17, 2024, Justice Bharati Dangre and Justice Nivedita P Mehta sought to know the urgency in permitting de-sealing of the premises and allowing removal of the extra structures that too when the GCZMA site inspection report dated April 16, 2024, of the commercial activity in the name and style of "Droplet" had recorded the extension of the structure beyond the

permissible limits. The property was located within CRZ III (NDZ) and sand dunes were also shown as per the CZMP 2011.

The Court made it clear that even if the show cause notice stands terminated after dismissing the proceedings, no commercial use of the structure be allowed and, in any case, without the permission of the Court.

The matter has now been listed for further consideration on April 21.

# Mass class boycott at two Calangute schools for third consecutive day

Schools are in talks with parents; hope number of students attending classes will increase by next week

Team Herald

CALANGUTE: The boycott of classes by students at St Joseph High School and Little Flower of Jesus High School in Calangute continued for the third consecutive day.

It may be recalled that the students of St Joseph High School boycotted classes on Monday and again remained absent on the second day of the new academic year on Tuesday following a decision by the parents-teachers associations (PTAs) to boycott classes to protest the shift in the start of the new academic year to April 7. The situation was similar at the neighbouring Little Flower of Jesus High School.

St Joseph High School head Bro Bhakti Nathan said, "There were 89 students present in Classes IX and X on Wednesday, more than strength on Monday-Tuesday, while there were no students in the lower classes."

Stating that discussions



St Joseph High School, Calangute, wore a deserted look on Wednesday

are on with the parents and students, Bro Nathan said he was hopeful that the number of students attending classes would be more by next week.

Only four students attended classes on Tuesday, according to St Joseph High School PTA chairperson Marie Fernandes.

Stating that only six of the 223 students were present on Monday, Fernandes said, "Parents are not sending their children to school during April and have written to the school management and the Director-

ate of Education of their decision not to send their children to school during April."

Bro Nathan said, "The school has been open as per the department guidelines. Parents told us they don't want to send their children to school and this decision was taken by the PTA against the department's decision to shift school schedules without consulting them. Our school is open, and teachers are there and they will teach the students who attend."

# Tabled 125 questions, received 51 responses in RS, says Tanavade

Team Herald

PANJIM: Rajya Sabha MP Sadanand Shet Tanavade on Wednesday said that he tabled as many as 125 questions in the Upper House and received 51 responses from various ministries during the sessions held in February, March and April this year.

Speaking to media persons at the BJP office, Panjim, Tanavade highlighted his active participation and contributions during the 267th Parliamentary Budget Session held in February, March and April 2025. The MP said he tabled a total of 125 questions in the Rajya Sabha, and received 51 responses from various ministries.

Tanavade made three Zero Hour mentions and took part in two 10-minute discussions, bringing focus to pressing issues affecting the people of Goa as well as matters of national significance. In his Zero Hour mention he sought urgent need to address harassment and financial hardships arising from unresolved credit card disputes and inaccurate CIBIL reporting and rising concerns over spam and fraudulent calls, phishing attempts, and the misuse of personal data. He also sought urgent need for the construction of a flyover at the railway crossing gate in Davorlim village, Navelim Assembly constituency, to ease traffic congestion and ensure public safety.

He participated in the discussion on the working of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, with emphasis on strengthening healthcare delivery systems and the Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025, contributing to the legislative debate on aviation sector security and investment protections.

# Departmental probe ordered into Bondla Zoo closure: Rane

Says forest officers should be on the field and not in air-conditioned cabins

Team Herald

PANJIM: Forest Minister Vishwajit Rane on Wednesday said that a departmental inquiry has been ordered into the closure of Bondla Zoo.

Speaking to mediapersons at the State Secretariat, he said, "Already strict instructions have been given. I have ordered a departmental inquiry against Chief Conservator of Forest Naveen Kumar. I have briefed the Chief Minister also. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest has taken charge."

The minister also said that the forest officers should be on the field and not in the air-conditioned cabins.

Stressing the importance of preserving the State's mangrove ecosystems, which play a critical role in maintaining the coastline and ecological balance, Rane said he has asked the Forest Department, under the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), to conduct a detailed survey of approximately 3,500 mangrove-linked survey numbers across Goa.

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- Vishwajit Rane, Forest Minister

duct mapping because people fill the areas where mangroves are grown overnight and then it appears that mangroves never existed there," he said.

Rane said strict action will be taken against those persons found violating the boundaries of these protected areas. "Any encroachment or unauthorised activity in these areas will not be tolerated, and strict action will follow," he said.

The Bondla Zoo, nestled within the Bondla Wildlife Sanctuary and the State's only zoo, has been temporarily closed for visitors after a suspected viral infection that claimed the lives of three civet cats and two

jungle cats.

Though the deaths reportedly occurred between March 6 and 9, the precautionary order to quarantine the zoo premises was issued on March 30 and as a result of that the zoo has remained closed for the public since April 1.

As per the guidelines from the Central Zoo Authority, when more than one animal dies, precautionary measures need to be taken for 15 days.

Rane on Tuesday admitted that he was not informed by department officials about the closure of Bondla Zoo following the death of five animals due to a suspected viral infection.

"I have sought an explanation and will take action against the officer concerned. I have sought a report and called for a review meeting. After the meeting I will submit a report to the Chief Minister. I have asked them to find out exactly what happened, what the disease was. Whichever officer has not reported to me, I will ensure that a note is sent to the Chief Minister seeking strong action so that he can take action accordingly," Rane had said.

