

25 ILLEGAL STRUCTURES FLATTENED IN LALA KI BASTI

The houses razed under police protection following HC order; demolition drive will continue till the area is fully cleared of unauthorised construction, say Comunidade authorities

Team Herald

MAPUSA: In a major drive against encroachers, as many as 25 houses were demolished at the Lala ki Basti, Tivim, which were illegally built on Comunidade land, on Tuesday morning.

The houses were razed following an order by the High Court of Bombay at Goa. The order was carried out by the Deputy Collector, Mapusa in the presence of police, and electricity department staff.

The place was earlier called Auchit Wado. Lala claimed that he is a tenant of 9,000 square metres of land, but he did not sell the



Earthmover pressed into service to demolish the structures at Lala ki Basti, Tivim

plots. They have been sold by the Comunidade, he alleged.

The Administrator of Comunidade (North), Pandurang Gad, had issued demolition notices to residents in February this year,

asking them to vacate the premises. Most of the occupants complied with the notice and moved out before the demolition started. The settlement reportedly houses around 100 structures.



Electricity Department personnel cut off the power connections under police protection

The demolition drive will continue until the area is fully cleared of unauthorised construction, informed Comunidade authorities.

In all 36 structures were built on the land and the matter was going in the

Court for the last 15 years. After the Court order, the authorities had issued eviction and demolition notices in two phases, first to 12 houses and later to 13 houses directing them to vacate the premises.

Punjab native held for duping Anjuna resident of Rs 4.7L

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Anjuna Police have arrested 37-year-old Aseem Vij from Punjab for allegedly cheating an Anjuna resident of Rs 4.70 lakh.

According to police, one Pravesh Singh from Anjuna lodged a complaint regarding an unauthorised transaction of Rs 4.70 lakh from his bank account.

An FIR was registered under BNS 2023 and Information and Technology Act. During the course of investigation, the team of Anjuna Police managed to identify the accused. The accused was produced before JMFC, Mapusa, which remanded him in four days police custody.

Anjuna PI Suraj Gawas is investigating the case.

DRIVING RASH CAUSES CRASH

HERALDPIC



A tourist crashed into an electricity pole on the narrow Saligao market road on Tuesday afternoon after losing control of vehicle. The accident resulted in a disruption of the electricity supply in the area. The car was badly damaged in the incident, but the driver sustained only minor injuries. Saligao Police registered a case of rash and negligent driving

Bambolim hotel told to stop civil work

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) on Tuesday directed the management of the starred hotel at Bambolim to stop work with immediate effect and issued a show cause notice as to why a direction to demolish the structures and to restore the land to its original condition should not be issued.

The hotel management has been directed to ensure that no civil work of any kind and nature is carried out at the said site. The management has been asked to file their reply along with compliance report and construction/reconstruction/repair licence/approvals if any, issued by the concerned authorities including the GCZMA with the approved plan and also the documents to show the title to the office of the GCZMA, Panjim on or before April 24.

At the time of inspection carried out last week, it was

found that excavation using machinery works were ongoing, and construction work of concrete retaining wall approximately 3.2 metres high and approximately 10 metres long was already completed.

The stop work order was issued after the GCZMA discussed the complaints filed by Sant Andre MLA Viresh Borkar, AAP leader Ramrao Wagh and the Goa Green Brigade convenor Avertino Miranda, regarding the illegal construction carried out by the hotel.

The Goa Green Brigade on Tuesday submitted a representation to the GCZMA demanding urgent action against hotel for its alleged blatant violation of Coastal Regulatory Zone (CRZ) Rules and issue immediate work stop order. It demanded immediate stoppage of the use of earth moving machinery and the use of large-scale ready mix cement in the eco-sensitive CRZ area of Bambolim.

'Unhygienic' Mapusa hotel shut

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) ordered the closure of a well-known establishment in Mapusa, on Tuesday, following an inspection that revealed unsanitary conditions on the premises.

In a post on social media, Health Minister Vishwajit Rane said, "The FDA team inspected the well-known Walke Hotel in Mapusa and ordered its closure due to unhygienic conditions found on the premises. The decision was taken in the interest of public health, following serious lapses in cleanliness and food safety standards."

The minister said, "Such prompt and firm measures highlight the FDA's zero-tolerance approach towards unsafe food practices. We appreciate the vigilance and dedication of the team in upholding hygiene standards and ensuring the well-being of people across Goa."

He said, "The FDA officials also conducted inten-

sive inspections at mango wholesale units in Siolim and Mapusa Sub Yard. The team led by Director Shweta Desai, comprising Richard Noronha, Rajaram Patil, Lenin De Sa, Amit Mandrekar, and Safia Khan, inspected 15 units and collected 28 fruit samples, including mangoes and bananas. Suspicious substances were found at two units in Mapusa, leading to the seizure of 180 crates of mangoes and around 450 kg of bananas. The samples have been sent for chemical residue analysis to ensure consumer safety. We are thankful for the swift action and professionalism of the team, which reflects their strong commitment to protecting public health and ensuring that only safe, high-quality food reaches the people of Goa."

- Vishwajit Rane, Health Minister

Rane said a similar inspection was carried out early in Salcete by the FDA team.

"With the mango season beginning, the team visited the Wholesale Gandhi Market where mangoes from Siolim, Kundaim, Madkai, and Karnataka are sold to local vendors. Samples of different mango varieties and other fruits were collected and sent for testing to check for artificial ripening. Two godowns at Gandhi Market and additional godowns at Talkonde, Navelim and Somsodo were inspected. The team also checked banana ripening chambers at Margao, Talkonde, and Sao Jose De Areal. No suspicious chemicals were found during the inspection. A total of 25 fruit samples were sent for analysis," he added.

Protest in Assagao over Comunidade land fencing

Locals allege land grab of over 2.20 lakh sqms; assert village destruction will not be tolerated



Assagao residents allege that the dumping of cement poles on comunidade property, is an attempt to usurp the land

Team Herald

ASSAGAO: Expressing their strong opposition to the illegal erection of cement poles on comunidade property, which they allege is an attempt to usurp the land, the residents of Assagao gathered in large numbers on Tuesday to protest the activity, asserting that the destruction of village land will not be tolerated.

Tension prevailed in the morning during the panchayat inspection of illegal fencing on Comunidade land. Prompted by a complaint from vigilant locals, the Comunidade informed the panchayat, which led to Tuesday's inspection of Survey No. 101/1 of Assagao Comunidade land.

Sarpanch Hanumant Naik, Attorney of Assagao Comunidade Nelson Fernandes, Treasurer Ian D'Souza, Chairman of Assagao BMC Sayanora Quadros and several social activists and Congress leaders were present, including Rajan Ghatte, Chandan Mandrekar, and Parvati Nagvekar. Nelson Fernandes named Suresh Parsekar as the main culprit behind the illegal fencing of approximately one lakh square metres.

Fernandes said that the case is pending with the SIT, and although an arrest

warrant was issued against Parsekar, he obtained a stay. The Comunidade plans to challenge this stay to ensure his arrest.

During the last assembly session, Aldona MLA Adv Carlos Alvares Ferreira raised concerns about a "correction attempt" to declassify this 2.2 lakh square metres of land from private forest to settlement. Chairman of Assagao BMC Sayanora Quadros quickly opposed this move to prevent the land's degradation.

Speaking to the media, Fernandes stated that Parsekar, accused of fraudulently grabbing this large portion of Assagao Comunidade land, has the support of powerful figures within the ruling party.

He affirmed that the Comunidade, panchayat, and locals will resist any attempts by such fraudsters to seize the land for vote banks and to bring in Delhi residents for profit.

Ghatte questioned the delay in the Chief Minister's examination of the issue, despite assurances given to

Adv Ferreira in the Assembly. He added, "It appears that the ruling party is disregarding Goans, as promises made in the August house are not honoured. This demonstrates the ruling dispensation's lack of respect for the Assembly."

Fernandes suspects that Parsekar, with political backing, is working to grab the land to eventually sell it to a Delhi party. He noted that various departments, including TCP and revenue, are being approached for approvals, but the Comunidade is determined to thwart these attempts.

He warned of a mass protest if these activities persist. A strong police presence was in place to prevent any disturbances.

Fernandes emphasised that the entire 2.2 lakh square metres of land is at risk of fraudulent seizure with political support. He feared that if this occurs, the village will be devastated as a significant portion of the green cover, currently designated as a private forest, will be lost, which is unacceptable.

Political analyst slams govt for land scam, converting green zones

Team Herald

PANJIM: Political analyst Trajano D'Mello on Tuesday slammed the government for rising fuel prices, land scam at Sancoale and for conversion of green zones to concrete for a select few.

Speaking to mediapersons in the presence of social worker Mariano Rodrigues, Trajano exposed the BJP government's systematic economic exploitation and environmental disregard that are hurting Goans and highlighted key failures that reflect the government's misplaced priorities.

Both said that the hike in fuel prices was putting a burden on the common man. Since 2014, the Central government has collected over Rs 2 lakh crore in cess on crude oil and funds not shared with States like Goa.

High Court dismisses Siddiqui's plea for CBI probe

Team Herald

PANJIM: The High Court of Bombay at Goa on Tuesday dismissed a criminal writ petition filed by Siddiqui alias Suleman Khan, who had sought a transfer of the lock-up escape investigation to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

The case pertains to Suleman's escape from Crime Branch custody in Ribandar, which is currently being investigated by the Old Goa police. During the hearing, Suleman's counsel argued that the accused did not escape from custody of his own volition, and requested that the investigation be handed over to the CBI for a more impartial and thorough probe.

However, after considering the submissions made by the police, the Court found no merit in the plea and dismissed the petition.

Suleman, who was arrested by the Crime Branch in connection with alleged land grabbing cases, had escaped custody on December 13 last year. He was re-arrested nine days later in Ernakulam, Kerala.

In connection with the same land grab case, Suleman's wife was also arrested by the police, with the case registered at the Mapusa Police Station. Following the incident, the Goa Police dismissed IRB constable Amit Naik from service for allegedly facilitating Suleman's escape from the Crime Branch lock-up.

'Have sought report on drama disruption at KA'

Team Herald

PANJIM: Following the disruption of a houseful theatre performance at Kala Academy due to faulty lights, Art and Culture Minister Govind Gaude stated on Tuesday that he has requested the Member Secretary of Kala Academy to submit a report on the incident. Speaking to mediapersons, he said, "The drama was stopped because of a technical glitch. I have asked Kala Academy Member Secretary to submit a report on the incident mentioning the reason behind the glitch. I expect that the report will come to me within a day or two. Currently the Kala Academy is under Public Works Department - Govind Gaude, Art and Culture Minister

for the minutes of the last meeting of the task force. It's been two years when false ceiling of the auditorium collapsed but nothing has been done so far."

A member of the task force, on condition of anonymity, said, "Art and Culture Minister is passing the responsibility to the Public Works Department (PWD). Whenever any wrong happens, he blames PWD. The point is what has happened is now known to entire Maharashtra and even India. Unfortunately Kala Academy is becoming a victim of politics. Now everything is being politicised and Kala Academy is not an exception."

Currently, the Kala Academy is under the Public Works Department and is responsible for its works. The minister highlighted that Kala Academy has previously hosted Marathi drama and tiatr competitions without such problems. Speaking to O Heraldo, activist and Kala Rakhonn Mandd Convenor Devidas Amonkar, who is also part of the task force constituted

AAP is BJP's 'B' team: Cong

Team Herald

PANJIM: It appears that the Central leaders of both, the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) are endangering the Opposition unity in the State, as much as local leaders want a united front against the ruling BJP in 2027 Assembly elections.

On Monday during an event, AICC Secretary in-charge of Goa desk, Dr Anjali Nimbalkar reiterated that the AAP is the 'B' team of the BJP and that Opposition leaders may be compromised.

Asked about former Congress president Girish Chodankar's statement, Nimbalkar claimed that the Congress MLAs were constantly

attacking the BJP. Chodankar may have referred to other Opposition parties like the AAP, who may be compromised, she said.

Nimbalkar said that Chodankar had stated that Opposition had compromised probably and he never used the word that the Congress Party or the party leader had comprised. Earlier, AAP leader Atishi had ruled out alliance with the Congress Party in the State, much to the chagrin of local AAP leaders.

A few days back, Chodankar had admitted that the Opposition had failed in cornering the government and in managing the floor coordination effectively.

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