

DAY AFTER LALA KI BASTI, 33 ILLEGAL SHOPS GROUNDED IN NERUL

Structures flattened following High Court directions with police protection; land acquired for road widening: PWD

Team Herald

CALANGUTE: A day after 25 illegal houses were flattened at Lala ki Basti in Tivim, the Public Works Department (PWD) on Wednesday demolished 33 unauthorised shops in Nerul, including a fish market near the Nerul-Candolim bridge, following directions from the High Court of Bombay at Goa. Police personnel were present at the site to ensure law and order.

PWD Assistant Engineer Carmino Mascarenhas, who supervised the demolition, said "The land belongs to the State government and had been acquired for road widening. There is a High Court order to demolish the illegal structures. The Collector had issued demolition notices to the persons who had put up the structures and we had informed them a year ago." "In January the Collector had got notices published in

newspapers that the structures would be demolished, but the occupants had sought some time to remove the structures. Since they failed to remove the structures, the Collector directed the PWD to clear the same," he said.

Mascarenhas said, "The traffic obstruction and resulting accidents were due to people parking and shopping on the road. Some of the shops had been there for over a decade."

Among the demolished establishments was a large shed used as a fish market, reportedly erected by a former sarpanch, according to vendors. Wholesale fish shops, popular restaurants and fast food outlets, and vegetable stalls were also among those demolished.

Locals expressed concern, stating, "Many traditional fisherfolk and vegetable farmers relied on this space. Where will they go now? The shed protected them from the elements."



The PWD demolished 33 unauthorised shops in Nerul on Wednesday, including a fish market near the Nerul-Candolim bridge, following High Court directions

"We respect the High Court order, but we're traditional fishermen and when we go out to sea we find large trawlers doing bull-trawling and other illegal fishing activities despite there being High Court orders, but nobody is taking action against them," a local said. "There are so many constructions in the CRZ no-development zone in Nerul and in the fields, and there are High Court orders against them, but nothing is being done," another local claimed.

PICS: JOSEPH FERNANDES

LAND BELONGS TO GOVERNMENT, SAYS PWD

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-Carmino Mascarenhas, PWD Assistant Engineer

WE RESPECT THE HIGH COURT ORDER: RESIDENTS

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-Nerul resident

DESPITE HC ORDERS, CONSTRUCTIONS STAND TALL IN NO DEVELOPMENT ZONE: LOCALS

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-Another resident

IPSCDL complains against gas firm for damaging Smart City infra

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Imagine Panaji Smart City Development Ltd (IPSCDL) lodged a police complaint against the Goa Natural Gas Private Limited (GNGPL) for unauthorised excavation and damage to public infrastructure.

The incident occurred on P Shirgaonkar Road, near Hotel City Pride, where the GNGPL carried out excavation works on the newly constructed footpath developed under the Smart Cities Mission without obtaining prior permission from the IPSCDL. The said footpath is still under the Defects Liability Pe-

riod (DLP) and remains under the maintenance purview of the IPSCDL.

"This unauthorised activity not only violates norms but also results in damage to public property, causing inconvenience to citizens and disrespecting the sanctity of a nationally significant project," said a senior official of IPSCDL.

The IPSCDL has urged the authorities to take strict legal action under the relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and other relevant laws pertaining to damage to public property and unauthorised excavation.

Photographic evidence of the damage has also been submitted along with the complaint.



The Goa Natural Gas Private Limited allegedly carried out illegal excavation on the footpath near a restaurant in Panjim

Illegal structures: Govt, local bodies seek time to file compliance reports

High Court adjourns hearing to June 13

Team Herald

PANJIM: In the ongoing public interest litigation (PIL) suo moto regarding illegal constructions and encroachments across the State, the State government, along with village panchayats and municipal councils and the Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP) on Wednesday sought additional time to file their compliance reports before the High Court of Bombay at Goa.

During the hearing, the State government informed the court that it is currently reviewing the previous orders and working toward a concrete solution to address the widespread

issue of unauthorised structures across the State. The concrete solution will be submitted to the Court, Advocate General Devidas Pangam told the Court.

Acknowledging the request, the High Court adjourned the matter to June 13, allowing all parties time to submit their respective reports and plans of action.

The PIL suo moto initiated by the Court itself, has brought renewed attention to unregulated development in the State, prompting judicial scrutiny of enforcement and regulatory mechanisms at both, the State and local levels.

In its order dated March 6, 2025, the Court had proposed some general direc-

tions to the authorities to tackle the illegal constructions and encroachments. All municipal councils and village panchayats were asked to carry out regular periodical demolition drives after following the procedure prescribed by the Supreme Court. The Chief Secretary was asked to work out modalities for the purpose of conducting such demolition drives and issue appropriate directions to the municipal councils and village panchayats.

The local self-bodies were asked to conduct surveys of illegal constructions within its jurisdiction every month and prepared a report before initiating action against such illegal con-

structions. The report has to be kept in public domain by uploading the same on the portal of the Director of Urban Department and the Director of Panchayats.

After receiving the reports, the Court will fix the responsibility on the officers found responsible for mushrooming/shielding/harboring illegal constructions and their failure to take action against them.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant had chaired two high powered committee meetings and had already declared that the government will not regularise illegal constructions. Also two demolition squads have been constituted in both the districts.

Santa Cruz seniors interact with GMC patients on appointment system

Team Herald

PANJIM: A delegation of Senior Citizens Welfare Association from Santa Cruz constituency visited Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMC) and Super-Specialty Block, Bambolim, and interacted with patients regarding difficulties faced by them in seeking appointments.

The association submitted a memorandum to Health Minister Vishwajit Rane urging him to simplify the token system of appointment procedure followed in the Super-Specialty Block of the hospital.

The memorandum said, "Few members of the Executive Committee visited the hospital and witnessed the difficulties faced by the patients and their family members. We observed that the token system of giving appointments to the patients

needs to be simplified to prevent wastage of time of the patients especially of the patients having chronic diseases and who are travelling from long distance such as Canacona, Pernem, Valpoi, etc. Many patients complain that the present system of taking appointments is quite troublesome and time consuming"

The association suggested that the hospital administration can adapt to auto-generated telephonic token numbers on mobile phones having an option for the required department on specific dates on lines with the system adopted by gas agencies.

"It is given to understand that in the prevailing system, many patients travelling from distant places stand in the queue for taking a token number by visiting the GMC personally as early as 4 am while few come on previous night," it stated.

Pernem PSI shunted for procedural lapses

Fails to take prompt action under SC/ ST Atrocities Act; locals march to police station

Team Herald

PERNEM: PSI Laxman Desai of Pernem Police Station has been transferred to the North District Reserve Line for allegedly delaying the lodging of an FIR against Samir Korgaonkar, a government employee from Pernem in connection with an assault case involving a minor girl at Khajine-Pernem on April 14.

Meanwhile, a detailed inquiry will be conducted by DySP (Headquarters) Braz Menezes and a report will be submitted within two days, SP North Akshat Kausal told O Herald.

Police stated that the complainant alleged that Samir caught hold of her daughter's T-shirt and

pulled the victim towards him. When the minor tried to resist, the accused caught her hand and tore her T-shirt, thereby outraging her modesty.

The accused later threatened to kill the victim.

All hell broke loose at the Pernem Police station after the minor girl was allegedly assaulted by Samir Korgaonkar who hurled caste-based abuses at the victim.

However, the Pernem Police allegedly dilly-dallied in registering an FRI after the victim and mother had gone to complain against the accused.

Sources revealed that the police stated that the complaint was not up to the mark and needed to be drafted in proper format.

As the news of the police shying away from registering a complaint spread like wild fire, hundreds of community members barged to the police station at midnight and refused to move from there until a complaint was lodged.

The police demanded that only five members of the community discuss the issue with them to which the crowd refused.

It was only after 24 hours of the community standing its ground that the Pernem Police registered an FRI against Samir, who is absconding.

The case has been filed against Korgaonkar under relevant sections of BNS, the Goa Children's Act, and the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

Basilica closed for visitors during Holy Week Triduum

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Basilica of Bom Jesus at Old Goa will be closed for tourists and other visitors from Thursday morning (April 17) till 11 am on Sunday (April 20), on account of religious services during the Holy Week Triduum.

In a statement, Fr Patricio Fernandes, SJ, Rector of Basilica of Bom Jesus, said liturgical services for the Catholic community will be conducted during the sacred Paschal Triduum and all services will be in English.

On Maundy Thursday: April 17 (the Lord's Supper), the liturgical services will begin at 5 pm.

On Good Friday: April 18 (Passion of the Lord), the Liturgical services will begin at 3 pm. Earli-



er in the day, there will be devotions, which include The Way of the Cross (10 am), The Three Hour Agony (12 pm), and The Divine Mercy Novena.

On Holy Saturday, the devotion "Mater Dolorosa" will be conducted at 10 am. The Easter Vigil service will commence at 11.30 pm. On Easter Sunday morning, the Masses will be celebrated at 7 am, 8 am (Konkani), and 9.15 am (English), stated Fr Fernandes.

2 Navelim locals arrested for accepting IPL bets

MARGAO: Two Navelim residents, Imran Ballari, 28, and Ismail Bepari, 28, were apprehended by Colva Police while allegedly accepting bets on an IPL match between PBKS and KKR within a closed premises.

The arrest occurred in a flat at Vasvaddo, Benaulim. Authorities seized a laptop, five mobile phones, and related accessories valued at Rs 90,000.

PSI Prashant Bhagat filed the State complaint, leading to the registration of an offence under the applicable section.

Police reports indicate that a gambling raid was conducted between 9.50 pm on April 15, and 12.30 am on April 16, at Flat No. 304, Merad Classic, Vasvaddo, Benaulim.

The authorities confiscated various gambling-related items and mobile phones. The accused were arrested and subsequently released on bail.

Goa-IDC meeting focuses on boosting State's industrial ecosystem

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Goa Industrial Development Corporation (Goa-IDC) recently held its 395th Board Meeting, focusing on strengthening Goa's industrial ecosystem through infrastructure development across the state's industrial estates.

According to a press release, Minister for Industries, Mauvin Godinho, announced a comprehensive outreach initiative to address long-pending concerns from industrial stakeholders. Goa-IDC's MD, Pravimal Abhishek, personally visited each industrial estate to engage directly with industrial units. Many issues were resolved immediately, with others

being addressed through short- and long-term measures.

He stated that the government is committed to infrastructure development, with over Rs 100 crore allocated to projects that are underway or near completion. These include white-topping roads and upgrading water and electricity facilities, many of which are first-time upgrades for several estates, with a focus on cleaner, healthier work environments.

The minister said that to manage the growing garbage issue, Goa-IDC is establishing Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) across industrial estates. These facilities, along with treatment plants, will be located in both coastal and inland estates, depending on the volume



of waste generated. Goa-IDC Chairman Aleixo Reginaldo Lourenco announced infrastructure works worth over Rs

100 crore, including upgrades to roads, water supply systems, and dust mitigation measures. A pioneering initiative will support the female workforce by constructing five dedicated women's hostels, each accommodating 120 women, in Verna, Kundaim, Madkai, and Cuncolim.

The Board approved a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for managing excavated soil within Goa-IDC industrial estates. All excavated soil from development or construction will be considered Goa-IDC property and must be deposited at designated collection points managed by each industrial estate's Field Manager.

Building on the success of IDC Connect 2023, the IDC Connect 2024 series was carried out across all industrial estates. This strategic

outreach initiative, in collaboration with government departments, industry associations, and stakeholders, addressed concerns raised by industries during the 2024 consultations, primarily regarding internal roads, drainage systems and overall beautification of estates. In response, infrastructure development works were approved, with an estimated cost of Rs 49,25,04,188.

The Board reaffirmed its commitment to sustainable industrial growth in Goa through proactive governance, infrastructure upgrades, and stakeholder engagement, with a focus on improving ease of doing business and enhancing the quality of life within industrial estates.