

Clear khazans in Ambelim, Assolna or face penalties: Coastal body

GCZMA issues warning to Captain of Ports after inspection revealed serious violations of Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011

Team Herald

MARGAO: Noting that the Captain of Ports (CoP) has not complied with its previous directives, the Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) has warned the department that it could face penalties if the khazan land filling at Ambelim and Assolna is not cleared promptly.

The issue came to light following a complaint from a resident, who alerted the GCZMA to the filling of low-lying land, which included khazan land filling at Ambelim and Assolna, water bodies, and other Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) areas.

Acting on the complaint, GCZMA engineer and a field surveyor inspected the site and reported serious vio-

LAST CHANCE FOR CAPTAIN OF PORTS

■ According to the GCZMA inspection report, sandy soil was dumped within a NDZ, disrupting vegetation, rice fields and topography

■ Trenches were excavated on the property, opening into an adjoining water body

■ A show cause notice was issued to CoP, which agreed to remove the filling and undo the trenches

during the hearings

■ The coastal authority directed the department to restore the property, with a compliance report due within a month

■ The CoP failed to act on these instructions

■ GCZMA granted a final opportunity to comply by the next hearing, after which penalty proceedings will be initiated

lations of the CRZ Notification, 2011.

According to the inspection report, a large quantity of sandy soil was dumped within a no-development

zone (NDZ), disrupting the area's natural ecosystem, vegetation, rice fields, and topography. Trenches had also been excavated on the property, which opened into

an adjoining water body.

Following the findings, a show cause notice was issued to the CoP. During hearings before the GCZMA, the CoP agreed to remove the filling and undo the trenches. At its 429th meeting, the GCZMA directed the department to clear the dumped material and restore the property, with a compliance report to be submitted within a month.

Despite this commitment, the authority noted earlier this month that the CoP had not acted on the instructions.

"From the compliance report, it is noted that directions are not followed. Hence, opportunity granted till next hearing to comply,

failing which penalty proceedings will be initiated against CoP," the GCZMA recorded.

The CoP had earlier assured the authority that the removal would be completed by May 30, 2024. However, over the course of several GCZMA meetings that followed, CoP representatives remained absent.

At a hearing earlier this year, the CoP had clarified that the filling was carried out by a contractor engaged by the department. It again undertook to remove the material. Although the CoP later informed the GCZMA that compliance had been achieved, the authority found that the directions had not actually been implemented.

Campaign against consuming frog meat, marketing of 'jumping chicken' delicacy

Highlights role of frogs in controlling mosquito population

Team Herald

MARGAO: On Save the Frogs Day, GOACAN through its 'Save the Frog' public awareness campaign, urged the public to avoid consuming frog meat or supporting establishments that sell frog meat delicacies marketed as 'jumping chicken'.

Expressing concern over the drastic reduction in frog populations, GOACAN coordinator Roland Martins emphasised the need to restore frogs in paddy fields, wells, and other areas.

He highlighted the crucial ecological role frogs play in maintaining environmental balance, particularly in controlling mosquito population that spread vector-borne diseases like dengue and malaria.

The campaign noted that both hunting practices and the use of fertilisers in fields have contributed to the dwindling frog population in the State. As part of the awareness efforts, leaflets were distributed containing messages about frog conservation and reminding consumers that catching, killing, and eating frogs is banned under the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972.

The campaign builds on long-standing concerns that were highlighted in previous years, when arrests of frog traders revealed one of Goa's well-kept secrets. It was discovered that frogs smuggled into Goa were being ferried to select restaurants and establishments who sold the meat at premium prices.

These commercial estab-



'SAVE THE FROG' CAMPAIGN

■ GOACAN expresses concern over the drastic reduction in frog populations

■ Emphasises the need to restore frogs in paddy fields, wells, and other areas

■ Highlights the ecological role frogs play in maintaining environmental balance

■ Claims hunting practices & fertiliser use in fields have contributed to the dwindling frog population

■ Distributes leaflets on frog conservation, reminding consumers that catching, killing, and eating frogs is banned under the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972

lishments would prepare frog meat dishes like 'jumping chicken' despite the legal prohibition.

Condemning the practice, animal rights activists noted that an insatiable restaurant demand for illegal frog meat ensured lucrative returns for poachers. Various species including the Indian pond frog, grass frog, and common Indian toad were being poached to meet this demand, which was reportedly fuelled by both locals and tourists.

Investigations revealed that hunters typically operated at the beginning of rainy season when male frogs emerge from hibernation to call for mates. These hunters would capture frogs at night, using torchlight to spot and temporarily immobilise

the amphibians before securing them in gunny sacks and selling them to hoteliers. The processing methods were particularly cruel, with the legs being chopped off while the frogs were still alive, as only the legs were used in cooking.

'Save the Frog' activists warned that frog meat consumption carried serious health risks due to toxic pesticide residues that accumulate in the frogs' fat deposits, potentially triggering paralytic strokes, cancer, kidney failures, and other deformities.

They also pointed out that since frog meat is contraband, it is typically processed in completely unsanitary conditions without any regulation whatsoever.

SAVING FOR THE RAINY DAY



To stock up for the monsoon season when fishing is restricted, locals in Ribandar dry fish in the sun

UPENDRA NAIK

Navelim to host Konkani Fruit Fest from May 2

Team Herald,

MARGAO: The Botanical Society of Goa in collaboration with Our Lady of Rosary Church, Navelim, is set to host the 19th edition of the Konkani Fruit Fest from May 2 to 4 at the Rosary High School grounds.

The festival aims at promoting the rich variety of fruits native to Goa and the Konkani region.

The event is supported by the Directorate of Agriculture, Goa College of Agriculture, and the Forest Department, among others. The festival will begin

with the submission of fresh fruit entries for the competition. Mangoes, jack-fruit bulbs, cashews, carambola, love apples, papayas, pineapples, and berries are expected to be displayed.

Each entry should consist of four to five fruits (or more, depending on the type). A Best Honey Competition will also be held that day. According to Estelita Pires, Secretary of BSG, both competitions are free and open to all.

Entries for processed fruit products will be accepted on May 3. The following day will feature a

drawing competition for children and spot activities, including a game where participants will guess the weight of a mystery fruit.

The venue will host stalls selling fresh fruits, nursery plants, processed fruit items, organic manures, and other agricultural essentials, presented by individual vendors and private enterprises.

The Konkani Fruit Fest continues to be a platform for locals and tourists to appreciate the region's agricultural wealth and foster interest in sustainable and traditional farming practices.

Farmer suggests investing in agri land can secure children's future

Laban D'Souza says a plot of land can provide food & income for generations

Team Herald,

“Bequeathing agricultural land cultivates responsibility, imparts practical skills, and ensures long-term food security for children. When parents leave behind land, they're not just giving an inheritance—they're giving their children the means to live well and independently

— Laban D'Souza, owner of Laban Farm, Nuvem

fits that surpass traditional financial investments.

D'Souza said, "Agriculture can help us sustain ourselves in the long term. A plot of land can provide both food

and income for generations." Laban Farm exemplifies self-sufficiency, featuring fruit bearing trees, spice plants, vegetables, and diverse livestock, including chickens,

goats, cows, ducks, and rabbits, spread across several acres. The sustainable model not only supports D'Souza's family but also educates those interested in eco-friendly farming practices. Speaking to reporters, D'Souza emphasised that bequeathing agricultural land cultivates responsibility, imparts practical skills, and ensures long-term food security for children. "When parents leave behind land, they're not

just giving an inheritance—they're giving their children the means to live well and independently," he stated.

As concerns about climate change, food scarcity, and inflation grow, D'Souza's message is gaining traction among Goans who are reconsidering traditional inheritance methods. His farm frequently welcomes visitors and aspiring farmers keen to adopt his sustainable practices.

STREET VOICES

WHERE GOANS ARE HEARD

The gruesome terror attack on tourists at Pahalgam, Jammu claimed 26 lives. Tourists were asked their religion and shot. A diplomatic war has ensued through various means including repatriation of citizens. Herald Media asked people, "How can India give a fitting reply to Pakistan in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack?"

“India is our country, and Kashmir is a part of it. When there is an attack on Kashmir, Indians need to be active. India youth which are the future of the country have to be active, then only the attacks will reduce. The ruling and the opposition parties have to be united on this issue and give justice to the bereaved families. The government has suspended the Indus Water Treaty. Secondly the government has decided to repatriate Pakistanis from India. We hope that the government is firm on these decisions

— Jagat Verlekar, general secretary, Dempo College

HOW CAN INDIA GIVE A FITTING REPLY TO PAKISTAN?



“I strongly condemn the terrorist attack at Pahalgam, Kashmir. This is not a time for a blame game but to unite as citizens of the country and perform our tasks responsibly. My message is to all the national leaders, we have to recognise that we are Indian and take our responsibilities seriously. We have to fight the terrorists. Just like India responded by smashing the bases of the terrorists, the government and jawans have to do something similar

— Aatrey Bhide, student, Dempo College



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“Why were the security forces taken off? Security forces should have been deployed in a sensitive area like Kashmir throughout 24 hours. This is the result of promoting tourism saying that there is no security threat there. Terrorists are already in that area and tourists are not aware and they are just shooting them point blank. There is some kind of a lapse on the part of the security forces. The Home Ministry should take serious cognisance of this. They have to do whatever they can against Pakistan and against the terrorists. Those who have done this should be given capital punishment

— Prajal Sakhardande, Associate Prof, Dhempe College

Renovation of Pai Tiatractor poses serious challenges for performers

Tiatr fraternity concerned about potential disruptions to tiatrs during monsoon

Team Herald

MARGAO: The Pai Tiatractor Joao Agostinho Fernandes auditorium at Ravindra Bhavan, Margao (RBM), a vital venue for Goa's tiatr community, scheduled for renovation from mid-June to August, has raised concerns about potential disruptions to tiatr performances, especially during the peak monsoon season.

RBM chairman Rajendra Talak confirmed that the decision to begin repair work was taken following discussions with tiatr directors. Despite the planned renovations, Talak assured that efforts will be made to accommodate tiatr shows depending on the availability and condition of the auditorium during the repair period. "Some of the major works include replacement of chairs in the main auditorium. We have informed the tiatr directors and they've

“Some of the major works include replacement of chairs in the main auditorium. We have informed the tiatr directors and they've agreed to cooperate. The hall will be made available whenever possible, even during ongoing repairs

— Rajendra Talak, Ravindra Bhavan, Margao chairman

“This is the only auditorium that can host shows at full capacity during the rains. Its closure, even partially, will affect many of us. The RBM authorities had kept the community informed about the renovation timeline

Roseferns, veteran tiatractor

agreed to cooperate. The hall will be made available whenever possible, even during ongoing repairs," said Talak.

The renovation is part of a phased upgrade plan being carried out over the past few years. However, with June to August being a key period for tiatr performances — and the monsoon limiting open-air alternatives — the temporary closure is expected to pose serious challenges for performers.

Voicing concern over the impact on the tiatr fraternity, veteran tiatractor Roseferns said, "This is the only auditorium that can host shows at full capacity during the rains. Its closure, even partially, will affect many of us. The RBM authorities had kept the community informed about the renovation timeline."

The works are tentatively scheduled to begin from June 15.