

PWD NOW RUBS SALT INTO TALEIGAO RESIDENTS' WOUNDS

At the receiving end of 'sewage water', Vhodlem Bhat locals now get a week's time from the dept to replace service connection pipeline

Team Herald

PANJIM: To add insult to injury, the residents of Vhodlem Bhat, Taleigao, who have been receiving "sewage water", have now been asked by the Public Works Department (PWD) to get the service connection pipeline replaced within seven days.

It is pertinent to note that PWD is yet to address the issue and has now sent notices to the consumers to get their connections replaced.

In a letter to the residents, the PWD has said, "It is noted that the service connection pipeline of your water meter is corroded and needs to be replaced immediately. You are directed to undertake the replacement of the service connection pipeline within seven days of intimation of this letter failing which, the same shall be under-

It is noted that the service connection pipeline of your water meter is corroded and needs to be replaced immediately. You are directed to undertake the replacement of the service connection pipeline within seven days of intimation of this letter failing which, the same shall be undertaken by PWD and the cost incurred towards the same shall be recovered from you in 24 installments to avoid contamination of the main water supply pipeline through such corroded service connections

- PWD in a letter to Vhodlem Bhat residents

taken by PWD and the cost incurred towards the same shall be recovered from you in 24 installments to avoid contamination of the main water supply pipeline through such corroded service connections."

Reacting to the notices, Francis Coelho, a resident said, "People are not receiving proper water supply for the last 20 days. Earlier, the water they were getting was stinking. To address the issue, PWD dug up a

long stretch of road in the area cutting water pipes at various locations."

"Then the local MLA suggested that the entire line should be changed. Even after digging road at multiple locations the PWD has not been able to address the issue. Now, it has sent notices to the consumers to get the connections replaced," he said.

Dattaprasad Naik, another resident, said, "As we did not wish to politicise the matter, we gave

enough time to the PWD. Taleigao sewage scheme is designed in 2001 and started implementation in 2010. After 15 years and spending more than Rs 200 crore, only Shankarwadi area network of approximately 300 or 350 sewer connections have been commissioned. The STP was commissioned approximately a decade ago and only 10 or 15 per cent capacity is utilised for treating sewage."

He said a big threat is looming over on Taleigao population of 25,000 plus residents regarding contamination in drinking water and health hazards and water born diseases.

He said Panjim and Taleigao get water from Opa Water Treatment Plant, but as Taleigao is at far end of water distribution network from Opa Water Treatment Plant at Ponda, adequate water is not supplied to

ever increasing residential population in Taleigao.

"Taleigao residents get 30 to 90 minutes of water supply on an average daily and depend on private water tankers for water. The design of sewer network is faulty and only 3.5 mts manholes are constructed. Therefore due to level differences 16 sewage pump stations are proposed," he said.

He also said that quality of network and manholes constructed under Taleigao Sewage Scheme is questionable as PWD is unaware about the location of leakages in Shankarwadi.

"Sewage is oozing out from sewer network or manholes and getting mixed with water supply pipeline connected to individual houses or societies. This is a major health hazard for Taleigao residents, when 100 per cent sewer network of Taleigao is commissioned, he said.

Cyber crime police bust Rs 2.63 cr crypto fraud

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Cyber Crime Branch of Goa Police has arrested a 39-year-old man, Ramesh Kumar Yadav, from Ahmedabad, for his alleged involvement in a Rs 2.63 crore cryp-

tocurrency fraud.

The arrest follows a complaint filed by a resident of Tivim, who was duped between February 13 and March 19, 2025, through a bogus investment scheme promising high returns via cryptocurrency trading.

After conducting a detailed financial analysis, the police tracked Yadav and uncovered his role in managing mule bank accounts. He is accused of routing Rs 10 lakh from the defrauded sum and is believed to be part of a larger organised cybercrime

syndicate. According to the complaint, the victim was lured into the scam by a caller who offered cryptocurrency trading tips and training under the guise of a lucrative investment opportunity.

Police have stated that further investigation is ongoing.

CTP roles bifurcated: Vertika gets admin & planning, Pandita heads land use

Team Herald

PANJIM: Senior Town Planner R K Pandita was on Thursday appointed Chief Town Planner (Land Use) and declared Head of the Department, while Senior Town Planner Vertika Dagur has been given additional charge as Chief Town Planner (Administration) and Chief Town Planner (Planning), with immediate effect and until further orders, in addition to their existing responsibilities.

The order was issued by Under Secretary (Personnel-II) Durga Kinklekar, following the direction of Chief Minister Pramod Sawant. The post of Chief Town Planner fell vacant on April 30 after Rajesh Naik, who was serving a one-year extended tenure, was suspended on the final day of his extension.

Interestingly, earlier this week, the Personnel Department had appointed R K Pandita—who has also been granted a six-month service extension—as CTP (Planning). However, the following day, the Town and Country Planning (TCP) Department issued a separate order assigning the same post to Vertika Dagur.

With the bifurcation of the post based on functional areas, the issue now appears to be resolved.

DGP: Security beefed up in State

Team Herald

PANJIM: Director General of Police (DGP) Alok Kumar on Thursday announced that the presence of security personnel has been increased across Goa, with round-the-clock vigilance being implemented.

Speaking to reporters at Mantralaya in Porvorim, the DGP said, "You would have seen mock drills were conducted in both the districts and police had taken part in that. Security in both the districts has been tightened in both the districts during day as well night time."

He further stated that additional deployment of police has been initiated in touristic areas, in accordance with the Chief Minister's instructions. "As per the instruction of Chief Minister, presence of police personnel in touristic areas is being increased," he said.

When questioned about directives from the central government, Kumar said, "Directions are being received regularly and meetings are being held but details cannot be disclosed."

CM clarifies 'Op Sindoor' targets terrorism, not religion or country

PANJIM: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Thursday clarified that the recently launched 'Operation Sindoor' is targeted specifically at terrorists and is not an offensive against any country or religion.

Speaking to reporters at Mantralaya in Porvorim, Sawant explained, "The operation is a fitting reply to terrorists who killed the husbands of women tourists in Jammu. Through the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, the terrorists tried to wipe 'Sindoor' from the heads of women in our country. The operation has been given the name of 'Sindoor' because we wanted to send a message to the terrorists that we can teach them in their own language."

He went on to emphasise the role of Indian women in the operation, stating, "Two Indian women led this operation. The Nari Shakti of India can make it happen. Sofiya Qureshi and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh, along with Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, have explained it all."

The Chief Minister further clarified that the operation was not aimed at any religion, noting, "This operation was not against any religion, as the Nari Shakti leaders belongs to the Muslim community. Her actions were not against her religion or any country, it was a fight purely against terrorism."

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