

GOVT SIMPLIFIES BIFURCATION OF HOUSE NUMBERS IN VILLAGES

Applications to be processed within fortnight and to include NOCs for water and electricity connections for new assessee

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Directorate of Panchayats on Wednesday issued a circular simplifying the process of issuance of bifurcation of house numbers to existing dwelling houses in village panchayats jurisdiction.

Such application will be disposed within 15 days from date of receipt along with issuance of NOC for water connection and electricity connection in the name of new assessee.

Addressing post-cabinet briefing, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said that the purpose of issuance of house number to such applicant is to give separate identity to the portion of dwelling house and is merely fiscal in nature for taxation purpose which does not confer upon him any title of the property/portion of the dwelling house, he clarified.

The village panchayats will only insist for application from co-occupier appli-

BIFURCATION DOES NOT CONFER PROPERTY TITLE: CM

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant clarified that this bifurcation is for fiscal purposes only and does not confer property title. Village panchayats will require an application in Form 'A' from the co-occupier, along with a dimensioned sketch of their occupied portion

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Existing house tax copy; death certificate of the original assessee (if applicable); the applicant's birth certificate or proof of linkage (e.g., bank passbook, ration card); Form 'A'; sketch of the occupied portion; and Form I & XIV

cant of the dwelling house for issuance of bifurcation house number in Form 'A' attaching therewith the dimensioned sketch of the portion of original dwelling house which is under occupation of the said applicant, who is co-occupant, Sawant said.

The applicant will have to submit following documents such as house tax copy of existing house number; death certificate of father, mother or origi-

nal house tax assessee, as the case may be; birth certificate of applicant or any other document showing linkage with the original house tax assessee/house number such as bank pass book, ration card etc; Form 'A'; sketch of portion of house under occupation of the applicant and Form I & XIV.

The bifurcation house number will contain the original house number with suffixes as /A, /B' etc.

The portion to which bifurcation house number is issued shall be necessarily a contiguous portion of the existing dwelling house recorded in Form 7 (Assessment Register) & Form 8 (Demand and Collection Register, having separate kitchen arrangements within the same house. The Village Panchayat will also carry out inspection of the house to ensure that particulars furnished by the applicant are correct.

The new process will be implemented from Monday, June 2 and will be free of cost, the Chief Minister said.

Separate house tax and garbage tax will be levied for the newly bifurcated house numbers, Sawant said, adding that similar circular will also be issued by the Directorate of Urban Development for issuance of bifurcation of house numbers to existing dwelling houses situated in the municipal limits in near future.

Kirlapal locals fear scrapyard may pollute water bodies during monsoon

Urge panchayat to file a complaint with Pollution Control Board against the owner; claim Dudhsagar River infested with crocodiles

Team Herald

WHAT THE LOCALS WANT

CCTV cameras installed in the village to enhance security and deter illegal dumping of garbage.
Fines imposed on those found littering in public areas.
Frequent power supply disruptions and low voltage issues addressed

Full-time panchayat secretary appointed
The long-pending gutter work along the main road at Codli completed
Roadside encroachments and stray cattle occupying the highway cleared

PONDA: Voicing concerns over several pressing issues in Kirlapal-Dabal, the residents have urged the panchayat to file a complaint with the Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB) against the owner of an "illegal" scrapyard operating near Somnath High School in Savargal, as they fear that the chemicals and scrap materials could pollute the nearby water bodies during monsoon.

While the Sarpanch Damodar Bandekar informed the gram sabha that the panchayat had not issued

a No Objection Certificate and had previously directed the scrapyard to clear the premises, the owner obtained a stay order, and the matter is currently under review of the Deputy

Director of Panchayats. The residents have urged the panchayat to file a complaint against the scrapyard owner with the Goa State Pollution Control Board.

Another issue raised by

the locals is the increasing infestation of crocodiles in the Dudhsagar River. This concern was amplified by a recent incident where a woman was injured while washing clothes at Dabal. The residents believe that the increased nuisance is due to visitors discarding garbage and waste food into the river.

Furthermore, they observed that the construction of the new Panchayat Ghar does not align with the approved plan and have requested the local body to direct the contractor to adhere to the original design.

Goa's free IVF initiative delivers hope with triplets

Team Herald

PANJIM: The IVF Centre at Goa Medical College (GMC), Bambolim marked a major achievement as a mother successfully delivered triplets under the State's free IVF treatment scheme, an initiative launched to support couples who dream of starting a family but face the emotional and financial burden of infertility.

Health Minister Vishwajit Rane announced that the babies - one male (2.32 kg) and two females (1.77 kg and 1.525 kg) - were born through Caesarean section. Both, the mother and the newborns are stable and healthy condition.

Minor's dad, pillion rider held in Mapusa fatal hit-and-run case

Team Herald

MAPUSA: The Mapusa Police have arrested Shabbir Kassim Shaikh (48), father of a 16-year-old boy and Reehaan Shaikh (18), the pillion rider allegedly involved in the fatal hit-and-run case at Peddem, Mapusa.

The minor who was riding the two-wheeler fatally knocked down a 12-year-old Akanshaya Boro while she was crossing the road near Camarkhajan, Mapusa on Tuesday late evening. The girl succumbed to her injuries at the North Goa District Hospital, Mapusa.

Both the minor (Child in Conflict with Law - CCL) and Reehaan fled the scene after the collision without informing the police or providing any medical aid to the victim. They also attempted to conceal the

All citizens should refrain from allowing unlicensed minors to operate motor vehicles. Such irresponsible actions can lead to fatal consequences and legal liability. Strict enforcement action will continue to ensure road safety and accountability
— Goa Police

damaged vehicle, informed police. A report against the minor will be sent to the Juvenile Justice Board, police added.

Later, the police arrested the father for giving the two-wheeler to the minor, who did not possess a valid driving licence.

Despite being fully aware that the CCL was unlicensed, Shabbir allowed his minor son to ride the

two-wheeler on a major public road, posing a serious threat to public safety. Pillion rider Reehaan also knew the minor was not licenced but still accompanied him.

The Mapusa Police registered a case under BNS 2023 and Motor Vehicle Act.

The case has been forwarded to the Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC), Mapusa, and further investigation is ongoing.

Meanwhile, the Goa Police have appealed to all citizens to refrain from allowing unlicensed minors to operate motor vehicles. Such irresponsible actions can lead to fatal consequences and legal liability. Strict enforcement action will continue to ensure road safety and accountability, the police said.

TOW TO TANGO



SAVIO MADEIRA

A tractor driver tries to rescue another that was stuck while ploughing a field in Siolim

Dilapidated Shivaji Fort at Farmagudi requires urgent attention

Entrance wall has developed cracks, and sections of the side walls are collapsing; Rs 100 cr reconstruction plan proposed

Team Herald

PONDA: The historic Shivaji Fort at Farmagudi lies in a dilapidated state and is awaiting urgent government intervention. The entrance wall has developed cracks, and sections of the side walls have been collapsing during the monsoon over the past two years.

Concrete benches and tiled flooring too have deteriorated significantly due to prolonged neglect. The fort is situated in a prime location overlooking the National Highway (NH) at Farmagudi and contributes to the area's scenic beauty. Despite previous promises by the government to restore the fort during annual State-level Shiv Jayanti celebrations, no major renovation work has yet materialised.

Locals have expressed concern over overgrown bushes and trees, which not only mar



PICS: SANTOSH NAIK

the fort's appearance but also pose a danger to tourists due to the potential threat of venomous reptiles.

Of the 25 concrete benches installed at the site, most are now damaged, with crumbling concrete and exposed ironwork creating hazards for visitors.

It has become an annual occurrence for parts of the fort's walls to collapse during the rainy season. Resi-

dents stressed that, given its proximity to the highway and its popularity with tourists, the fort should be better maintained.

Local MLA and Power Minister Sudin Dhavalikar stated, "The fifty-year-old fort structure has become weak. Since 2018-19, efforts have been made for a new fort through the PWD. However, the Tourism Department later urged then

PWD Minister Niles Cabral to hand over the project, since the fort comes under the jurisdiction of the Tourism Department."

Dhavalikar added that it was subsequently decided to reconstruct the fort using central Tourism funds. "Chief Minister Pramod Sawant also made efforts to push forward the new project. The plan is to demolish the existing structure and build a new one at an estimated cost of Rs 100 crore. Once the tender is floated and the work order is issued, construction will begin," he confirmed.

Santa Cruz garbage workers' safety under scrutiny

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Goa Human Rights Commission (GHRM) has issued notices to the Tiswadi Block Development Officer (BDO) and the secretary of the Santa Cruz Village Panchayat following complaints about poor working conditions for garbage collectors in the Santa Cruz panchayat area. Workers doing door-to-door garbage collection are forced to work in unsanitary environments without adequate safety gears stated a complaint filed by Inacio Dominic Pereira from Santa Cruz, giving photographic evidence.

He has also alleged that these workers are staying in the material recovery facility (MRF). A hearing is scheduled for June 20, where the officials have been asked to appear and to submit their replies.

Walk highlights encroachment of pavements in Ponda

Team Herald

PONDA: As part of the United Nations Global Road Safety Week, GOACAN conducted a walk through the busy Ponda Market area to raise awareness about the need for accessible walkways and footpaths for pedestrians, many of which are currently encroached upon by vendors and used for parking.

Members of the Ponda Traffic Cell and local police also joined the initiative, walking along the pavements to assess the availability and usability of pedestrian pathways.

Speaking to the media, Lorna Fernandes said the awareness campaign which is being held across various parts of the State and will conclude on May 18. "Today, volunteers were at Ponda Town to create awareness for getting walkways to pedestrians," she said.

She noted that most roadside spaces are en-



SANTOSH NAIK

Ponda Traffic Cell members and police joined the initiative

croached upon, which prompted the walk in Ponda. "There are walkways, but they are occupied by parking. So pedestrians are forced to walk on the road," Fernandes explained.

She also expressed disappointment that no representatives from the Ponda Municipal Council (PMC) attended the awareness drive despite being informed in advance. "We had informed PMC about the programme; however, no one from PMC turned up," she said.

She added that GOACAN will be writing to

Kerala native arrested with hydroponic ganja worth Rs 5 lakh

Team Herald

PERNEM: The Mandrem police arrested a 33-year-old person from Kerala, presently residing at Morjim on the charge of possessing hydroponic ganja worth Rs 5 lakh.

The accused is identified as Afzal Puthiyaveetil. Nearly 49.98 grams of the drug, along with a mobile phone and two SIM cards, were seized from Afzal during a late-night raid on May 27 at Arambol fish market. As case has been registered against Afzal under Sections 20 (b) (ii) (A) of Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act 1985.

Ponda sees a surge in demand for plastic covers, rain protection gear

Team Herald

PONDA: The early onset of monsoon has increased the demand for plastic covers and other rain protection gear in Ponda.

The unexpected early arrival of the monsoon has left some residents who intended to carry out last-minute repairs relying on plastic as a temporary solution to protect their houses from the rain.

In addition to regular traders stocking these



SANTOSH NAIK

items, numerous vendors have emerged along roadsides, selling a variety of plastic covers in different qualities, sizes, and types, providing them with a

means of income.

Despite ongoing pre-monsoon preparations to secure houses for the long monsoon season, the earlier-than-expected rains

have compelled residents to expedite these efforts. Consequently, there has been a steady stream of buyers in the area purchasing plastic mats, nylon ropes, and both transparent and non-transparent plastic sheets, which are typically useful during the season.

Several residents are using plastic sheets to cover roofs that are prone to leaks, seeking protection from seepage, wind, and heavy rains throughout the monsoon.