

16 buildings in Panjim declared unsafe

Demolition of one structure imminent; structural stability of other buildings under technical review

Team Herald

PANJIM: The structural safety of 16 buildings in Panjim and surrounding areas has come under scrutiny, with the Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP) currently evaluating their condition to determine the need for demolition or restoration.

This follows a court order dated June 4, which mandates the demolition of a building located opposite the Keni petrol pump within two weeks. Another structure, owned by Amardeep Madkaikar at Fondvem, Ribandar, has already been demolished.

One of the more prominent buildings on the list, the National Theatre near Café Bhonsle, has been sealed and is currently under review by the Secretary (Urban Development).

Several other properties are under similar review, including Clube Nacional; the residence of Maria Fernandes in São Tomé; a structure owned by Maurice Aguiar in Ribandar; Tony Lopes' property located behind the Panjim Post Office; a building belonging to Manorama Shirodkar in St Inez; the



The El Dorado building located in the Panjim municipal market faces demolition

property of Fernando Lobo and Maria Sequeira Lobo in Alto Guimaraes; a structure owned by Oswald de Barros in Fondvem, Ribandar; the rear portion of the Sushila building in Altinho; the Lokmanya Multipurpose Co-operative Society Ltd, also in Altinho; and the Confraria building in central Panjim.

To assess the stability of these buildings, the CCP had sent reminder letters

on May 29 to the Goa College of Engineering (GEC), requesting expert reports. One such report, concerning the Mahalaxmi Cooperative Housing Society Ltd opposite Palácio de Goa Hotel, has already been submitted by the GEC, confirming that the structure is unsafe and requires either reconstruction or redevelopment.

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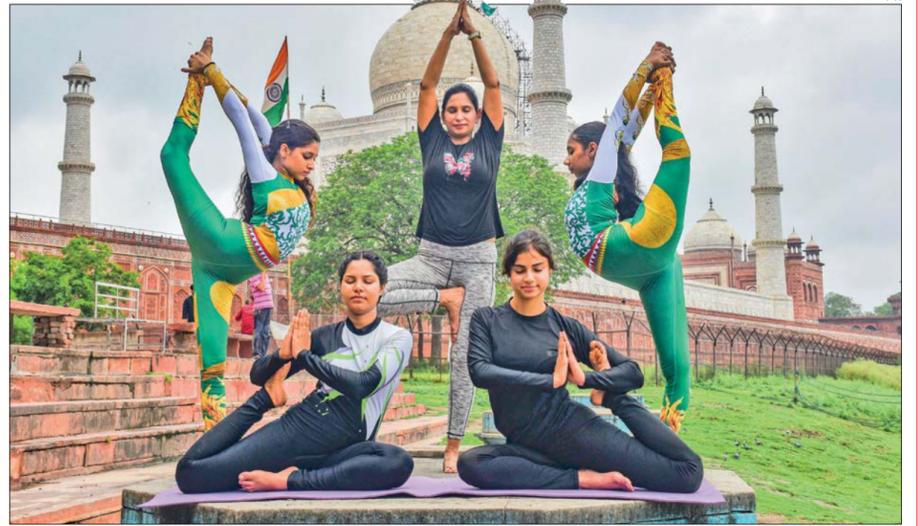
CCP TO DEMOLISH EL DORADO BUILDING

The Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP) on Friday resolved to proceed with the demolition of the El Dorado building located in the municipal market. The structure has been declared unsafe for several years, though traders have raised objections to the move. The matter is currently pending before the Secretary (Urban Development) — the appellate authority — as well as the High Court of Bombay at Goa.

CCP Mayor Rohit Monserrate stated, "It has been in a dilapidated condition for years. The safety of its occupants and the public is at risk. Shopkeepers near the market lane adjoining the building could also be affected."

He acknowledged that while occupants had requested alternative premises, the CCP is unable to provide space at this time.

MIND-BODY UNION



Women perform yoga at Dussehra Ghat behind the Taj Mahal, ahead of the International Day of Yoga, in Agra, Uttar Pradesh, on Friday

Israel, Iran trade strikes, as diplomatic efforts underway

AP, TEL AVIV: Israel and Iran exchanged strikes a week into their war on Friday, as new diplomatic efforts appeared to be underway.

Israel said it conducted airstrikes into Friday morning in Iran with more than 60 aircraft hitting what it said were industrial sites to manufacture missiles. It did not elaborate on the locations.

It also said it hit the headquarters of Iran's Organisation of Defensive Innovation and Research, known by its acronym in Farsi, SPND. The US in the past has linked that agency to alleged Iranian research and testing tied to the possible development of nuclear explosive devices.

It also carried out airstrikes targeting the areas

WILL DECIDE IN TWO WEEKS: TRUMP ON US MILITARY INVOLVEMENT

AP, BEERSHEBA: US President Donald Trump said on Thursday he will decide within two weeks whether the US military will get directly involved in the conflict between Israel and Iran given the "substantial chance" for renewed negotiations over Tehran's nuclear programme.

Trump has been weighing whether to attack Iran by striking its well-defended Fordo uranium enrichment facility, which is buried under a mountain and widely considered to be out of reach of all but America's "bunker-buster" bombs. His statement was read out by White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt.

around Kermanshah and Tabriz in western Iran, where the military said 25 fighter jets struck "missile storage and launch infrastructure components" Friday morning. There had been reports of anti-aircraft fire in the areas.

Israeli airstrikes also reached into the city of Rasht on the Caspian Sea early Friday, Iranian media reported.

In Israel, the paramedic service Magen David Adom said Iranian missiles struck a residential area in south-

ern Israel causing damage to buildings, including one six-story building. They have provided medical treatment to five people with minor injuries such as bruises, smoke inhalation, and anxiety, it said.

Meanwhile, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi appeared to be en route to Geneva for meetings with the European Union's top diplomat and counterparts from the United Kingdom, France and Germany.

A plane with his usual call sign took off from the Turkish city of Van, near the Iranian border, flight-tracking data from FlightRadar24 showed. Iran typically acknowledges his departure hours afterward.

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CCP to rein in unruly tourists in Latin Quarters

From Monday, CCP inspectors and workers will be deployed in Fontainhas and Sao Tome to keep a tab on disturbances caused by visitors

Team Herald

PANJIM: Come Monday, the Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP) will implement fresh measures to address concerns raised by residents of the heritage areas of Fontainhas and Sao Tome, about the "unruly" behaviour of tourists.

CCP inspectors and workers will be deployed in these heritage areas of the capital city's Latin Quarters to monitor and respond to disturbances caused by tourists.

CCP Mayor Rohit Monserrate said, "The idea is to curb nuisance by tourists in these areas. An inspector and a few workers will be stationed there to see if the situation improves. If not, we will re-evaluate." The idea is to assess the effectiveness of the deployment of inspec-

"I welcome the decision to station an inspector and a few workers in the area to stop these people from dancing on the roads for filming reels. It is an absolute pain and I hope the administration takes strict action against these people"

— Aloo Gomes Pereira, a resident of Sao Tome



tors and workers before considering further steps.

Hailing the move, Aloo Gomes Pereira, a resident of Sao Tome, said, "I welcome the decision to station an inspector and a few workers in the area to stop these people from dancing on the roads for filming reels. It is an absolute pain and I hope the

administration takes strict action against these people."

"I welcome this move by the administration and I hope they deter the Instagrammers from dancing on our streets," said another resident on condition of anonymity.

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Outrage in Navelim as man shoots dog with airgun

Team Herald

MARGAO: A disturbing act of cruelty has triggered outrage in Bellem, Navelim, where a pet dog was seriously injured after being shot multiple times with an airgun by a neighbour. The incident, which occurred on June 19, was captured on CCTV and has since led to a public protest and police action.

Valentina Vieira, a resident of Bellem, Navelim, lodged a police complaint on Thursday alleging that her neighbour, 20-year-old Jovito Fernandes, fired four pellets at her pet dog — three hitting the stomach and one striking the head — causing grievous injuries.

The injured dog is undergoing treatment at a veterinary hospital.

Vieira reported the incident to the District Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (DSPCA).

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English is 'empowering', not 'shameful': Rahul

PTI, NEW DELHI: English is "empowering" and not "shameful" and must be taught to every child, Congress leader **Rahul Gandhi** said on Friday and alleged that the BJP-RSS don't want poor children to learn this language because they don't want them to ask questions and attain equality.

Gandhi's comments came a day after Home Minister Amit Shah's reported remarks on English.

In a post in Hindi on X, Gandhi said, "English is not a dam, it is a bridge. English is not shameful, it is empowering. English is not a chain — it is a tool to break the chains."

"The BJP-RSS don't want poor kids of India to learn



English — because they don't want you to ask questions, move ahead, and attain equality," the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said.

In today's world, English is as important as one's mother tongue because it will provide employment and boost one's confidence, Gandhi said.

"Every language of India has soul, culture, knowledge. We have to cherish them — and at the same time teach English to every child," he said.

'Don't want new police station in Old Goa': Citizens group

The Save Old Goa Action Committee reiterates stand against fresh construction in UNESCO buffer zone

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Save Old Goa Action Committee (SOGAC) has reiterated its firm opposition to constructing a multi-storey police station in Old Goa, which falls within the buffer zone of the UNESCO World Heritage Site. The committee cautioned that such development could endanger the site's heritage status.

Speaking to O Herald, members of the committee clarified that they are not opposed to the police station itself, but to the construction of a large concrete structure that would violate heritage norms.

"We do not know what the plan is. Sometimes it is said the building will be ground plus one, sometimes ground plus two. We do not want that," said Jacqueline Fernandes, a member of the committee. "We are okay if the existing police station is renovated, but don't want a multi-storey building."

Vincent D'Silva, another member, added, "Our objection is not against the police station. Our problem is with the construction of a huge building. We do

"We do not know what the plan is. Sometimes it is said the building will be ground plus one, sometimes ground plus two. We do not want that. We are okay if the existing police station is renovated, but don't want a multi-storey building"

— Jacqueline Fernandes, SOGAC member

"We want to make it clear that construction of a police station and renovation of a police station are two different things. The objection of the Save Old Goa Action Committee is to the construction of a new building"

— Peter Viegas, Coordinator of SOGAC

not want one floor or two floors. Earlier, the local MLA clearly said it would be two-storey, but after we opposed it, he changed his stance and claimed it would be single-storey."

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MAX. TEMP 32°C
MIN. TEMP 26.2°C
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This ticket isn't for a horror movie — it's for our flight!

Save that trip to the passport office — The van's coming to your neighbourhood

Mobile Passport Seva Van aims to bridge the gap between passport office & applicants facing difficulties due to geographical or mobility challenges

Team Herald

PANJIM: In a significant step towards enhancing citizen services, the Regional Passport Office, Goa under the Ministry of External Affairs has launched a Mobile Passport Seva Van aimed at improving citizens' access to passport services.

The van was flagged off by Regional Passport Officer Nijo Varghese at the Passport Office, Patto, Panjim. The van is designed to strengthen last-mile connectivity and ensure seamless access to passport-related services, especially in remote and underserved areas



The mobile passport seva van being flagged off by Regional Passport Officer Nijo Varghese at the Passport Office, Patto, Panjim

of the State. Speaking at the launch, Varghese emphasised the importance of outreach and accessibility. Varghese said, "The mobile

passport seva van is part of our commitment to bringing passport services to the doorsteps of the people. With this step, we aim to bridge the gap between

"The mobile passport seva van is part of our commitment to bringing passport services to the doorsteps of the people. With this step, we aim to bridge the gap between the passport office and applicants who face difficulties in reaching us due to geographical or mobility challenges"

— Nijo Varghese, Regional Passport Officer

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