

## UNAUTHORISED COASTAL DEVELOPMENT

# SCRAPPED ODPs HELPED CONVERT 17 LAKH SQM

High Court took note of findings indicting Michael Lobo, Francis Silveira; roads were widened to facilitate unauthorised land conversion

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** The Town and Country Planning (TCP) Department issued 141 technical clearances and 745 zoning certificates, resulting in the conversion of a total of 16,94,115 square metres of land from the Regional Plan 2021 to the final Outline Development Plan (ODP), based on a circular dated December 22, 2022, and an Ordinance promulgated in February last year.

**BIG DISCOUNT SHOPPING FESTIVAL**  
Opp. HEALTH OFFICE CHINCHINIM  
19th To 29th June  
TIME : 10.30 am To 8.30 pm

On Monday, the High Court of Bombay at Goa quashed and set aside the circular dated December 15, 2022, and the

Village	CHANGES DONE FROM RPG 2021 TO DRAFT ODP AREA IN M2	CHANGES DONE FROM DRAFT ODP TO FINAL ODP AREA IN M2	TOTAL AREA IN M2	REMARKS
Calangute-ODP 2025	3,43,601.00	3,35,395.00	6,78,996.00	ODP prepared under the Chairmanship of Mr Michael Lobo
Candolim-ODP 2025	2,85,292.00	2,77,189.00	5,62,481.00	
Arpora ODP-2030	93,170.00	1,63,639.00	2,56,809.00	ODP Prepared under the Chairmanship of Mr Francisco Silveira and Mr Michael Lobo as Member of the Authority and others.
Nagoa ODP-2030	21,086.00	60,817.00	81,903.00	
Parra ODP-2030	61,075	52,851.00	1,13,926.00	
Total...	8,04,224.00	8,89,891.00	16,94,115.00	

executive order of August 22, 2024, which had brought into effect two ODPs for the five coastal villages of Calangute, Candolim, Parra, Arpora and Nagoa.

The Court, however, granted a four-week stay on the operation of its order, allowing the respondent — the

TCP Department — time to seek relief from the Supreme Court.

Calangute MLA Michael Lobo emerged as a major beneficiary of the zone changes that followed the declaration of the five villages as planning areas under the jurisdiction of the

North Goa Planning and Development Authority (NGPDA).

The ODPs for these villages were earlier suspended on April 27, 2022, due to widespread irregularities in their preparation and finalisation. A high-level review committee was constituted to examine these alleged illegalities.

The High Court noted that the committee had indicted Michael Lobo and former Minister Francis Silveira, both of whom served as chairmen of the NGPDA. Lobo held the post between 2012 and 2019 and also during the time the ODP was prepared.

According to the committee, 8,04,224 sq m of land was changed from the Regional Plan to the draft ODP 2025, while 8,89,891 sq m was altered in the transition from draft to final ODP, making a total of 16,94,115 sqm.

The report highlighted that Lobo had taken a keen interest in the ODP and had facilitated changes in zoning based on personal discretion. It also found that road widths were significantly reduced without justification — from six to three metres, 15 to 10 metres, and 25 to 15 metres — primarily to legitimise existing unauthorised development.

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## DGCA finds multiple safety lapses at airports, aircraft

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** Aviation watchdog DGCA has detected multiple violations related to airlines, airports, aircraft maintenance works, and repeated defects in multiple cases during its surveillance at major airports, an exercise carried out in less than two weeks after the Air India plane crash.

Without disclosing names of the airlines, airports and other entities in relation to the defects, the regulator on Tuesday said surveillance covered multiple critical areas such as flight operations, airworthiness, ramp safety, ATC, CNS systems, Air Traffic Control (ATC), Communication, Navigation and Surveillance (CNS) systems, and pre-flight medical evaluations.

The surveillance was done last week and DGCA is stepping up efforts to strength the overall safety oversight of the aviation ecosystem.

From a faded centre line marking of a runway at an airport to non-updation of obstruction limitation data for three years to a scheduled carrier's domestic flight

being held up due to worn tyres, the watchdog came across multiple defects in the aviation ecosystem.

### DGCA FINDINGS

- Multiple violations across airlines, airports and aircraft maintenance operations detected
- Surveillance covered flight operations, airworthiness, ramp safety, ATC, CNS systems and pre-flight medical evaluations
- Repeated appearance of certain defects indicated ineffective monitoring and poor rectification by airlines

Noting that the comprehensive surveillance will continue in future to detect hazards in the aviation ecosystem, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said the findings have been communicated to the entities concerned for taking corrective actions within seven days.

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### PASSENGERS, CREW FALL ILL ON LONDON-MUMBAI AIR INDIA FLIGHT

**AGENCY, MUMBAI:** A suspected case of food poisoning disrupted Air India's flight AI130 from London's Heathrow to Mumbai on Monday, with at least five passengers and two crew members falling ill during the journey, according to reports. In a statement confirming the incident, Air India said, "On board flight AI-130 from London Heathrow to Mumbai, five passengers and two crew members reported feeling dizzy and nauseous during different phases of the flight. The flight landed safely in Mumbai where our medical teams were ready to provide immediate medical assistance."

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### DOWRY DEATH CASE

## No immunity for participants in Op Sindoor: SC

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** Participating in Operation Sindoor doesn't give you immunity from committing atrocity at home, the Supreme Court on Tuesday said while refusing to exempt a convict from surrendering in a dowry death case of his wife.

A bench of Justices Ujjal Bhuyan and K Vinod Chandran made the observation while hearing an appeal filed against an order of the Punjab and Haryana High Court which dismissed the man's appeal and upheld his sentence.

The top court initially expressed disinclination to grant exemption to the man.

Senior advocate Vikram Chaudhary, appearing for the petitioner, submitted that the man was a participant of Operation Sindoor.

"For the past 20 years I am a black cat commando posted in Rashtriya Rifles," he said.

The bench then remarked, "That doesn't give you immunity from committing atrocity at home. This goes to show how physically fit you are, and the manner in which alone you could have killed your wife, strangled your wife."

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### NATURE'S FURY



Sea waves lash the shore, washing up garbage during high tide at Badhwar Park, in Mumbai, on Tuesday

## Water pollution threatens the festive spirit of São João

Team Herald

**MARGAO:** The joyful plunge into village wells and other water bodies that marks Goa's São João festivities is facing a serious challenge — rising water pollution. A vibrant tradition tied to the Feast of St John the Baptist on June 24, the custom of leaping into natural water sources is now being overshadowed by growing environmental concerns.

In villages such as Benaullim, Raia and Nuvem, residents are increasingly steering clear of wells and ponds that have served as the centerpiece of the celebration for generations. The reason: deteriorating water quality.

"We used to look forward to



Colourful decorated boats called Sangod wend their way at the boat parade organised by the Siolim Sao Joao Traditional Boat Festival and Cultural Organisation on the occasion of Sao Joao at Siolim, on Tuesday

jumping into the well with our friends every São João," said Roque Fernandes of Benaullim.

"Now, the water is murky, and sometimes you can even smell chemicals. It's not safe

anymore."

Traditionally, young men don floral headgear called kopels and sing folk songs before diving into village wells, symbolising the biblical baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist in the River Jordan. Today, however, this symbolic act is often replaced with makeshift alternatives — plastic tanks, inflatable pools, and even artificial rain showers.

For Jeron Colaco of Raia, the change is deeply disheartening. "Our village well used to be the heart of São João," he said. "Now it's covered for most of the year and barely maintained. People are worried about infections and contamination."

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"We used to look forward to jumping into the well with our friends every São João. Now, the water is murky, and sometimes you can even smell chemicals. It's not safe anymore — Roque Fernandes, Benaullim

"Our village well used to be the heart of São João. Now it's covered for most of the year and barely maintained. People are worried about infections and contamination — Jeron Colaco, Raia

"We're losing more than just a tradition. We're losing a connection to our land and our environment. São João is a celebration of water, of life. If the water isn't safe, what are we celebrating? — Vitorino Fernandes, Nuvem

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MAX. TEMP 29.3 °C  
MIN. TEMP 24.5 °C

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