

LAND GRAB KINGPIN'S FINGERPRINT ON MULTIPLE ATTACHED PROPERTIES

Mutations already done for many properties linked to arrested fraudster Md Sohail; why is SIT silent on probe into land grab crimes, ask activists

AUGUSTO RODRIGUES

PANJIM: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has blown the lid off the extensive network of alleged land grab kingpin Mohammad Sohail, linking him to 14 of the 24 immovable properties provisionally attached in the probe into Goa's widening land grab scandal. Sohail was arrested by the Crime Branch in Quepem on June 12.

Sohail is alleged to be involved in fraudulent activities connected to over 92 properties across North Goa. He has since applied for bail.

According to ED findings, mutations of five out of the 14 provisionally attached properties have already been fraudulently processed. Notably, the mutation of Custodian of Enemy Property under Survey No 540/13 was completed within just two days.

When asked about a potential arrest by ED, ED counsel Siddarth Samant

Sr. No.	Description of the property
1.	P.T Sheet No. 102, Chalta No. 16 in Mapusa admeasuring 2002 Sq. Mts out of 2032 Sq. Mts
2.	Survey No. 25/2 in Calangute village admeasuring 1830 sq. mts out of 2150 sq. mts.
3.	Survey No. 25/3 in Calangute village admeasuring 1325 sq. mts.
4.	Survey No. 33/1 in Assagao admeasuring 1450 sq. mts.
5.	Survey No. 18/11 in Assagao admeasuring 525 sq. mts.
6.	Survey No. 26/4 in Calangute admeasuring 2325 sq. mts.
7.	Survey No. 21/2 in Assagao admeasuring 625 sq. mts.
8.	Survey No. 425/5 in Anjuna admeasuring 525 sq. mts.
9.	Survey No. 37/4 in Assagao admeasuring 2250 sq. mts.
10.	Survey No. 39/6 in Assagao admeasuring 1900 sq. mts.
11.	Survey No. 223/7 in Assagao admeasuring 800 sq. mts.
12.	Survey No. 18/12 in Assagao admeasuring 525 sq. mts.
13.	Survey No. 200/6-A in Assagao admeasuring 1025 sq. mts.
14.	Survey No. 202/8 in Assagao admeasuring 575 sq. mts.
15.	Survey No. 117/4 in Assagao admeasuring 625 sq. mts.
16.	Survey No. 152/26 in Assagao 300 sq. mts
17.	Survey No. 152/25 in Assagao 325 sq. mts.
18.	Survey No. 152/24 in Assagao admeasuring 425 sq. mts.
19.	Survey No. 123/6 in Assagao admeasuring 725 sq. mts.
20.	Survey No. 31/1 in Parra admeasuring 900 sq. mts.
21.	Survey No. 31/2 in Parra admeasuring 900 sq. mts.
22.	Survey No. 63/6 in Nerul admeasuring 644.74 sq. mts. (out of total area of 2750 sq. mts.)
23.	Survey No. 213/22 in Anjuna admeasuring 50 sq. mts. (out of total area of 1550 sq. mts.)
24.	Survey No. 26/9 in Calangute admeasuring 142.86 sq. mts. (out of total area of 2775 sq. mts.)

I need to check the type of complaints as it is not proper for me to comment offhand without knowing the details
– **Rahul Gupta, SIT SP**

LAND GRAB NET WIDENS ACROSS GOA

According to ED, mutations of five out of the 14 provisionally attached properties have already been fraudulently processed

Among the 92 properties linked to Sohail, eight in Anjuna and one in Mapusa are designated Custodian of Enemy Properties

Mutation of Custodian of Enemy Property under Survey No 540/13 was completed within just two days

Together, these assets are

valued at approximately **Rs 12.5 crore** and cover a total area of 223,155 sqm

ED records show that six of the Anjuna mutations and the one in Mapusa have been declared invalid

198 land grabbing cases flagged by activists across North Goa: Anjuna (75), Assagao (49), Badem (28), Parra (18), Calangute (12), Revora (6), Arpora (4), and one each in Nerul, Mapusa, and Reis Magos

It has been over a year since we last heard from the Special Investigation Team (SIT) regarding our complaints in the land grab cases. There has been no progress update, no communication, and no transparency in their handling of these cases. Despite the registration of multiple FIRs, the SIT has not filed chargesheets except in five complaints

– **Cristina Dias, advocate and whistleblower**

source disclosed on condition of anonymity.

Cont on Pg 12 >>

Raj, Uddhav reunite over language

PTI, MUMBAI: Estranged cousins Uddhav and Raj Thackeray will unite for the cause of the Marathi language, as their parties will stage a joint protest against the 'imposition' of Hindi and the state government's three-language formula for Classes 1-5.

The protest on July 5 will bring Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) president Raj Thackeray on the same platform.

Both leaders had asserted on Thursday that they would vehemently oppose the imposition of Hindi and the three-language formula while addressing separate press conferences at the same time.

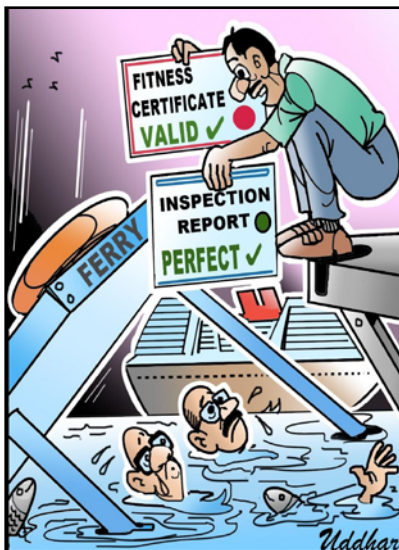
Uddhav had announced to join a protest by civil society at Azad Maidan on July 7, while Raj declared that he would take out a non-political march from Girgaum Chowpatty on July 6, and would invite leaders of all political outfits, including the Shiv Sena (UBT).

Talking to reporters on Friday, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut said Raj invited him to take part in the July 6 protest.

Cont on Pg 12 >>

MAX. TEMP 29.6 °C
MIN. TEMP 24.9 °C

idharudhar



Relax! The ferry's perfectly fine – on paper!

CLOSE ENCOUNTER



An idol of Lord Jagannath being carried by 'sevatys' of the Jagannath temple during the Pahandi ritual as part of the annual Rath Yatra festival in Puri, on Friday

Scrutiny over illegal crusher finally spurs Panchayat into action

Sanvordem Panchayat orders removal of crusher after public outcry and O Herald's reports

GAURESH SATTARKAR

GUDDERMOL, SANVORDEM: After public outrage and a series of reports by O Herald, the Sanvordem Village Panchayat has finally ordered the removal of an illegal crusher plant in the area.

The plant, constructed at Survey Number 8/1 in Guddemol, was controversially built over a natural nallah and within 15 metres of a State Highway, raising a number of environmental and regulatory concerns.

Sarpanch Chinmayi Naik confirmed the Panchayat's decision, noting that the owner of the crusher has agreed to dismantle the plant and clear the site. "However, by the time we went for inspection, the entire crusher was already underwater due to heavy rains," Naik stated. "We then told the crusher owner to remove all machinery immediately, and he himself assured



The crusher plant built over a nullah at Guddemol, now submerged

that it would be done."

Originally granted only provisional approval, the crusher's owner proceeded with full-scale operations, including unauthorised land-filling and tree cutting. The violations were first brought to light through O Herald's reporting in collaboration with local activist Swapnil Bhandari.

Cont on Pg 12 >>



The Panchayat had issued a stay earlier, yet gave renewal again. The crusher owner seems to have dropped the setup, but we are watching. If the plant is not removed, we will resume our protest and legal process

– **Swapnil Bhandari, activist**

The second provisional renewal was only to facilitate document collection. But due to water-logging, the process failed. The trenches and tree-cutting incidents will be looked into by the PWD and Forest Department

– **Chinmayi Naik, Sanvordem Sarpanch**

ACB moves HC in Madkaikar FIR row

Argues in High Court that Sessions Judge lacked jurisdiction to direct FIR registration

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) of Vigilance has filed a criminal revision petition before the High Court of Bombay at Goa, challenging a Sessions Court order directing it to register an FIR based on statements made by former Minister Pandurang Madkaikar, and to proceed in accordance with the law regarding alleged corruption.

The Sessions Court (Special Court), Panjim, had passed the directive in response to a complaint related to Madkaikar's public claim made on March 4 this year, where he had stated that he paid around Rs 15-20 lakh to get his file cleared, and alleged that all Ministers are "busy counting money".

The complaint was filed

Cont on Pg 12 >>

Law student gang-raped on Kolkata campus

Police arrest alumnus, 2 others



The accused who were arrested in connection with the alleged 'gang-rape' being produced at a city court in Kolkata, on Friday

PTI, KOLKATA: A 24-year-old first-year student of a law college in south Kolkata was gang-raped inside the institution allegedly by an alumnus and its two senior students, police said on Friday.

All three accused were arrested and produced before a court which remanded them to police custody for four days.

Results of the medical examination conducted

on the victim corroborated her gang-rape allegation, a senior Kolkata Police officer said.

The incident prompted fierce responses from opposition parties, with the Left, BJP, Congress and AIDSO supporters clashing with the police outside the Kasba police station under whose jurisdiction the alleged crime was committed.

Cont on Pg 12 >>

CM Pramod Sawant to head Kala Academy

Team Herald

PANJIM: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has been appointed Chairperson of the Kala Academy with immediate effect, as per an order issued by the Governor on Friday. The position was previously held by MLA Govind Gaude, who served in the role by virtue of being the Minister for Art and Culture.

The official order stated: "In exercise of the power conferred by clause 5 of the constitution of Kala Academy, Panaji-Goa, Dr Pramod Sawant, Hon'ble Chief Minister shall act as Chairperson of Kala Academy, Panaji-Goa with immediate effect till further order."

The development comes on the heels of CM Sawant dropping Govind Gaude from the State cabinet on June 18, ending speculation regarding his continuation as Minister for Art and Culture, Sports Affairs, and the Rural Development Agency.

Cont on Pg 12 >>