

No green clearance for Chopdem, Candolim housing projects

Environment authority finds details provided by builder in Chopdem inconsistent with existing rules; says in Candolim, they failed to provide a separate emergency exit gate with vehicular access

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Goa State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (GSEIAA) has rejected the applications for environmental clearance to construct residential projects in Chopdem and Candolim.

According to sources, in Chopdem-Pernem, the original proposal covered a total area of 307,586 sqm

and 600 sqm, but the application was submitted for a reduced portion of 274,986 sqm. In Candolim, with a proposed built-up area of 26,365.12 sqm, the authority said EC was rejected based on the project proponent's failure to provide a separate emergency exit gate with vehicular access which was a critical requirement for safety and disaster management compliance

and 600 sqm, but the application was submitted for a reduced portion of 274,986 sqm. Upon review, the au-

thority found that the plot had not been formally partitioned in accordance with prevailing regulations, and

the details provided by the project proponent were inconsistent with existing rules.

Citing these discrepancies and following recommendations from the Goa State Expert Appraisal Committee (Goa-SEAC), the authority decided to deny the clearance.

Rejecting the EC proposal for residential project

in Candolim village with a proposed built-up area of 26,365.12 sqm, the authority said the decision was based on the project proponent's failure to provide a separate emergency exit gate with vehicular access.

The authority said the above was a critical requirement for safety and disaster management compliance.

Well contaminated due to sewage seepage: Curtorim resident

Team Herald

MARGAO: Constantino Teles, a senior citizen from Curtorim, has raised serious concerns over the contamination of his well due to sewage seepage.

He claimed that the polluted water poses a significant health risk not only to his family but also to other local residents who rely on the well for their daily water needs.

According to Teles, the problem has persisted for some time, with sewage waste seeping into the ground and contaminating the well water.

Teles has urged the Curtorim Health Centre to inspect the well water quality to assess the extent of contamination and its potential health impact.

shorttakes

Agonda resident dies after jumping into a well

MARGAO: Forty-seven-year-old Jovita Miranda, a resident of Agonda, Canacona, died after jumping into a well near her house. Canacona Police reached the spot after responding to a call from 108 ambulance staff. The police found Jovita's body in the well. With the help of the Canacona Fire Station, her body was recovered and sent to Canacona CHC in an ambulance, where she was declared dead. Family members informed police that Jovita had been mentally ill for the past 10 years and was receiving treatment at IPHB Bambolim. Police conducted the panchanama, and her body is being preserved at SGDH, Margao, for medico-legal procedures.

Bhatpal boy dies from electric shock

MARGAO: An 11-year-old boy from Bhatpal, Canacona, Samesh Gauder, died on Saturday from an electric shock. Canacona Police were informed by the Canacona CHC duty doctor about the case. Police inquiries revealed that Samesh was near an extension board with a mosquito racquet when he accidentally touched it, became unconscious, and died. A panchanama was conducted, and a post-mortem confirmed death by electric shock, noting electrical burns on his right distal thigh and left foot, leading to fatal cardiac arrhythmia. The body was handed over to the family.

Russian national booked for overstaying

PANJIM: Mandrem Police have registered a case against Vladimir Oberman (44), a Russian national, for allegedly residing in Goa without valid travel documents. According to authorities, the accused was found living in Morjim, Pernem, without a valid passport or visa, thereby violating immigration laws.

VIVA SANGODD

HERALD PIC



Parishioners of Igreja de Nossa Senhora da Ajuda, Ribandar, participate in the traditional Sangodd, taken out in River Mandovi, during the feast of St Peter and St Paul, on Sunday

Gang arrested for ATM card swap fraud linked to three more cases

Team Herald

VASCO: A gang arrested by Bicholim Police for ATM card swap fraud is also linked to three other cases, including two at the Vasco Police Station.

In Vasco, two residents were defrauded of Rs 87,000. Bhaskar Lotlikar of Vaddy, Mercedes, had his wife's ATM card swapped, leading to an unauthorised withdrawal of Rs 57,000. In a separate incident, Durgappa Madar of Mestawada, Vasco, had his ATM card exchanged, resulting in a Rs 30,000 withdrawal.

The Vasco Police registered two cases under BNS 2023. PSI Plato Carvalho is investigating. The third case occurred at the Mapusa Police Station on Friday. The accused stole ATM cards from Roffin J Fernandes, Reshma Rajasab Sulkad, Divya Digamber Mahekar, and others, withdrawing Rs 1,41,500 from their accounts.

PSI Utkrantrao Desai is investigating.

Establishment owner caught burning garbage in Benaullim

Team Herald

MARGAO: A commercial establishment owner was caught dumping and burning garbage in an open area in Benaullim on Sunday.

This is the fifth such instance involving this individual, drawing anger from environmentalists and residents.

Locals alerted both the Colva Police and Cana-Benaullim Sarpanch Xavier Pereira, who responded promptly.

According to them, the individual has a history of illegal dumping, including on church property, and has been fined previously. He has now been directed to appear before the village panchayat to pay further fines.

Open burning of garbage



is punishable by a fine of Rs 20,000.

Despite a functional door-to-door garbage collection system, the accused repeatedly chooses to dispose of waste illegally, causing pollution and health risks.

Residents are frustrated by these repeated violations, which undermine community cleanliness efforts.

They have demanded strict legal action and stricter penalties to deter future offences.

Khandepar, Usgao locals fear 'illegal' retaining walls will lead to disaster

Team Herald

PONDA: Expressing grave concerns over recently constructed "illegal" retaining walls in sensitive areas of Khandepar and Usgao, the locals from both areas now fear that these structures will exacerbate the flooding, leading to a "man-made disaster".

Last week, agitated locals in Baga Khandepar marched to the Curti Khandepar Village Panchayat office, expressing fears of increased flooding due to an

illegal retaining wall built in a low-lying flood catchment area. They demanded immediate action from the panchayat and the Disaster Management team to prevent their homes from being inundated.

A similar situation unfolded on Sunday in Usgao, where residents complained about an illegal and ongoing retaining wall construction in a field within the Ganjem river catchment area. They believe this wall will obstruct the draining of floodwaters, significantly

increasing water levels and worsening their predicament.

Rohan Naik alleged that a landowner has encroached and begun constructing a retaining wall at Meditembi-Usgao near a field, which will cause flooding in four wards.

He said that water levels could rise within half an hour due to this construction.

Naik highlighted that every year, the Fire department launches rescue operations for locals and

children as the area becomes submerged. He also recalled that 10 years ago, a youth lost his life while crossing the area during a flood.

Locals have termed this nothing less than a "man-made disaster".

They have demanded that TCP and CRZ authorities, along with the panchayat, mamlatdar, and the disaster team, conduct an immediate inspection and take necessary action before the monsoon intensifies in July.

It's a bumpy ride on pothole-riddled road at St Inez

Team Herald

PANJIM: The road in front of the Taj Vivanta at St Inez, Panjim, which has been riddled with potholes, is causing significant discomfort for commuters.

The junction outside the Taj Vivanta comes under the jurisdiction of Imagine Panaji Smart City Development Ltd, which had overseen the sewerage work, ensuring that it met the required standards.

However, the responsibility for the road lies with the Public Works Department (PWD). The work was completed a couple of months ago, but the quality left much to be desired. Soon after, potholes began appearing on the road.

Eight days ago, the repair work was carried out once again after O Heral-

do highlighted the poor state of the road. An auto rickshaw driver stationed at the stand nearby remarked that some workers came and carried out repairs, but there has been no noticeable improvement.

What is particularly troubling is that this repair work is being undertaken during the monsoon, despite a ban on road digging during this time. The restriction exists precisely to avoid further damage and reduce inconvenience to the public. Undertaking such jobs in the rains, especially when done poorly, poses risks to both motorists and pedestrians.

The shoddy work also raises serious concerns about potential flooding in the area as the rains continue.

Nagmodem locals demand immediate junction road repair

Team Herald

MARGAO: Raising serious concerns over the deteriorating condition of roads, residents of Nagmodem in Navelim constituency have criticised the Public Works Department (PWD) and local elected representatives for their continued neglect and inaction and have demanded immediate repair and resurfacing work at the junction.

They have also demanded that the departments be more transparent and responsive to public concerns.

The locals said for several months, they have been consistently voicing their grievances regarding the poor state of the roads, which have developed large potholes, cracks, and uneven surfaces, making them hazardous for daily

commuters.

They claimed that despite repeated complaints and appeals to the authorities, no steps have been taken to resolve the issue.

"The situation is getting worse by the day. Every time it rains, the road turns into a nightmare. Accidents are waiting to happen, and yet no one seems to care," said a resident.

The absence of basic road maintenance has become a major concern in the locality, especially as it affects school children, elderly citizens, and two-wheeler riders, who are at greater risk on such damaged surfaces. Residents are now questioning where the funds allocated for infrastructure improvements are being utilised, if not for essential repairs.

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