

# ED seizes immovable properties worth Rs 60 crore under PMLA

Assets attached comprise land parcels in Pilerne village, found to have been unlawfully acquired using forged sale deeds and fabricated affidavit-cum-No Objection Certificates

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED), Panjim Zonal Office, has provisionally attached immovable properties worth Rs 60.05 crore in connection with its ongoing investigation against Estevan D'Souza and others, under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

According to a statement from ED, the properties are held in the name of Rosa Maria D'Souza, grandmother of Estevan D'Souza. The attachment is in addition to an earlier Provisional Attachment Order (PAO) dated 8.11.2023, vide which properties worth Rs 11.82 crore

## ILLEGAL PROPERTY TRANSFERS

- According to a ED statement, it has attached properties in the name of Rosa Maria D'Souza, Estevan's grandmother
- This attachment supplements a Provisional Attachment Order from November 8, 2023, which attached properties worth Rs 11.82 cr and was confirmed by the Adjudicating Authority on April 8, 2024
- The newly attached assets include land parcels in Pilerne, allegedly acquired using forged sale deeds and fabricated affidavit-cum-NOCs
- The ED probe stems from multiple FIRs filed by the Goa Police against Estevan and others for cheating and forgery related to illegal property transfers using fraudulent documents

were attached which was confirmed by the Adjudicating Authority on 8.4.2024. The assets attached now

comprise land parcels in Village Pilerne, Bardez, Goa, which were found to have been unlawfully acquired

using forged sale deeds and fabricated affidavit-cum-No Objection Certificates (NOCs).

ED initiated its probe on the basis of multiple FIRs registered by the Goa Police against Estevan D'Souza and others, under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, for offences including cheating and forgery involving illegal transfer of property ownership using fake documentation.

ED investigation revealed that Estevan D'Souza played a key role in the alleged land scam, in collusion with Md Suhail and others. They are alleged to have orchestrated a systematic scheme involving the forgery and manipulation of land-re-

lated documents, including sale deeds, to fraudulently acquire multiple high-value properties. These documents were then misrepresented as genuine to lend a façade of legitimacy to the illegal transactions.

In April this year, the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) had filed a prosecution complaint (PC) against Estevan D'Souza and others under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, before the Special Court (PMLA), Mapusa, which had taken cognisance and later ED initiated investigation on the basis of chargesheet filed by Goa Police under various sections of IPC, 1860.

# Spl courts in Panjim, Margao to handle land grabbing cases

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** The Goa government has designated special courts in Panjim and Margao to exclusively handle land grabbing cases.

This move follows the recommendations of Justice V K Jadhav (Retd), Chairman of the Commission of Inquiry, and has been made with the concurrence of the Bombay High Court

In North Goa, the Court of the District Judge-1 and Additional Sessions Judge in Panjim will hear these matters, while the corresponding court in Margao will handle cases in South Goa.

These courts will take up both existing and future land grabbing cases until new legislation is enacted. "In pursuance to the recommendations of Justice V K Jadhav (Retd), Chairman,

This move follows the recommendations of Justice V K Jadhav (Retd), Chairman of the Commission of Inquiry, and has been made with the concurrence of the Bombay High Court

Commission of Inquiry, State of Goa and with the concurrence of the High Court of Bombay, the Government of Goa hereby designate the Court of District Judge 1 and Additional Sessions Judge, Panjim (District Level) for North Goa-Panjim and District Judge 1 and Additional Sessions Judge, Margao (District Level) for South Goa-Margao as special courts, to deal with and decide land grabbing cases, both existing and future registrations, until new legislation is enacted," a notification issued by the government said.

# West Bengal human trafficking accused nabbed in Old Goa

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** In a joint operation, the Old Goa Police along with Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) of Kalimpong have arrested a native of Assam wanted in a human trafficking case in West Bengal.

According to police, the accused identified as Pinku Roy, was residing and working at a restaurant in Old Goa.

According to police, a woman from Kalimpong District filed a complaint stating Roy had entered into a contractual marriage with her in Bengaluru in 2023. The couple later shifted to Kalimpong, where they signed a simple marriage agreement, before moving to Kerala and then Karnataka.

On August 6, 2024, Roy, along with co-accused Arun Prakash Shetty (currently absconding), allegedly attempted to traffic her and her newborn child by trying to relocate them to an unknown destination without her knowledge. However, she managed to escape and filed a police complaint.

Based on the complaint, LSI Shanti Lama of AHTU Kalimpong, West Bengal, along with her team came to Goa, kept surveillance along with the Old Goa Police Station team. Later they nabbed the above accused in the case.

The accused was produced for transit remand before Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC), Mercers, was remanded to seven-day transit custody.

The AHTU Kalimpong team will escort him back to West Bengal today for further investigation.

## SUSTAINABLE FISHING

VINCENT BRAGANZA



Locals scavenge through their Gill net locally known as "Kantalli" in River Mandovi near Divar. Gill net fishing is a traditional fishing method where nets are used to catch fish by entangling them. These nets are typically cast in water bodies and are designed with floats to keep the net on the surface while the bottom submerges

# Two lakh fish samples tested for formalin since 2019 and found ok, says Health Minister

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** Health Minister Vishwajit Rane on Tuesday said that since 2019, over two lakh fish samples have been tested at three key locations in Goa, and none have shown traces of formalin.

In post on social media networking site Facebook, the health minister said in collaboration with the Quality Council of India (QCI), round-the-clock quality checks have been carried out at major entry and distribution points — with 33,805 samples tested at Polem, 33,989 at Pat-

radevi, and 1,32,717 at the Margao Wholesale Market. All samples tested negative for formalin contamination, he claimed.

Rane stated that the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) routinely conducts fish quality testing through its State-of-the-art in-house laboratory as well as through NABL-accredited third-party laboratories.

Between March and June 2025, comprehensive testing was carried out on samples collected from both North and South Goa, and no presence of added formaldehyde was detected, he said.

He further highlighted that the Goa Food & Drugs Laboratory is equipped with advanced instruments such as GC-MS/MS, LC-MS/MS, and ICP-MS. These technologies enable precise detection of contaminants, reinforcing the State's commitment to safeguarding public health and food safety.

Recently, O Herald highlighted that concerns are mounting over the lack of rigorous formalin checks at Fatorda Wholesale Fish Market, an issue that had once drawn widespread attention across Goa.

# Women play vital role in making the State self-reliant: CM

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Tuesday said that women have an important role in making the State self-reliant and reducing poverty.

Sawant was addressing the gathering comprising stakeholders of banks and members of Self Help groups (SHGs) at the inaugural function of the two-day conclave of State Level Bankers organised by the Goa State Rural Livelihoods Mission with the support of the State Level Banking Committee at Panjim.

Sawant stated that around 3250 SHGs were functioning in the State and that they have been given loans of Rs 340 crore through various banks to start their own business ventures thereby encouraging women entrepreneurship. In doing so the stakeholders of GSRLM play an important role and the bakers have also equally helped in this endeavour, he added.

The Chief Minister further said that with the implementation of schemes for livelihood in rural areas, the government has set a target of having at least 11,000 'Lakshmi Didi's in the State in the days to come. He said women's SHG in Goa can become a self-sufficient and financially independent group.

# High Court issues notice to govt on Surla tourist resort

The PIL writ petition challenges permissions and work orders issued to construct the resort

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** The Bombay High Court at Goa comprising Justices Bharti Dangle and Nivedita P Mehta on Tuesday issued notice to the State government and to the Ministry of Environment and Forests & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) on a public interest litigation writ petition challenging the permissions, approvals and work orders issued for the construction of a tourist resort on the Surla Plateau, located within the Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary in Goa.

The petition's primary cause of action arises from a judgment of the Bombay High Court dated 24.07.2023, which directed the State government to notify the sanctuary and adjacent sanctuaries as a Tiger Reserve, following a recommendation from the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

The PIL writ petition alleges that the land designated for the resort lies entirely within the core area of the proposed Tiger Reserve, an ecologically sensitive region known for its rich biodiversity, including tigers, sloth bears, leop-



The petition's primary cause of action arises from a judgment of the Bombay High Court dated July 24, 2023 which directed the State government to notify the sanctuary and adjacent sanctuaries as a Tiger Reserve, following a recommendation from the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972

ards, pangolins, vipers and over 300 unique plant species.

Despite the absence of any stay on the High Court's directions by the Supreme Court and the pendency of proceedings seeking Contempt action to be initiated against the State government for non-compliance, the State authorities such as the Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC) and Goa Forest Development Corporation Ltd

(GFDC), have proceeded to issue approvals and work orders for the resort project, being carried out by a private company.

The proposed project is also in flagrant violation of statutory provisions, such as Section 29 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, which prohibits the destruction or diversion of wildlife habitat within a sanctuary except for the improvement/benefit of the wildlife therein, and the Forest Conservation Act, 1980, which requires prior approval from the Central government for any diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes.

The project's outlay of nearly Rs 8 crore for permanent structures and an electric fence to exclude wildlife from the resort area further highlight the prioritization of commercial interests over conservation imperatives. The tourist resort project's construction would cause irreversible ecological damage to one of Goa's most sensitive wildlife habitats and is designed to present the Court with a fait accompli, in the teeth of various statutes and the judgment of this court dated 24.07.2023.

# AAP dubs bus fare concession for women mere poll jumla

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** Slamming the Chief Minister Pramod Sawant-led government over its proposed 50 per cent bus fare concession for women working in private sectors, the State unit of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) alleged that the "proposal" is nothing, but another jumla being prepared for the forthcoming State Assembly elections.

Addressing a press conference, AAP working president Valmiki Naik, said, "BJP is fully aware that women in Goa are completely disgusted and disenchanted with the BJP and its multiple failures and deceit when it comes to their issues, so now Sawant is testing the waters for a new jumla to fool them yet again."

Stating that Sawant's scheme appears to be designed to fail even before it has started, Naik called it another attempt by Sawant to copy yet another Arvind Kejriwal's popular scheme, but without the right intentions.

"We saw how Sawant

announced a free water scheme in Goa under pressure from AAP's Veez Andolan five year ago. And we saw how he conveniently and abruptly stopped the scheme saying that all Goans are robbers. Today, Goans are paying a higher rate than what they were before the scheme. It is a guarantee that Sawant will stop the bus fare concession after election if he returns to power, and call all Goan women robbers or freeloaders", Naik alleged.

"Before elections, they (BJP) had promised to give all women Rs 2,500 per month, but after coming to power they have taken a complete U-turn. This is the true face of the BJP when it comes to women", Naik charged.

AAP women leader Suvarna Harmalkar said women in Goa are suffering from the same issues for the past many years, and they will not tolerate or trust the BJP anymore.

Harmalkar said Sawant cannot even copy a scheme properly. She questioned why the concession is only 50% and not full 100% like Kejriwal did in Delhi and Punjab. She also demanded that the scheme be extended to all women and not just those with private jobs.

She said, "Most importantly, the biggest hurdle for women bus commuters, in addition to cost, is also safety."

# Tourism dept to promote Goa's rich culinary heritage

#GlowOnArrival campaign aims to offer immersive and regenerative experiences to visitors during monsoon season

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** The Department of Tourism will promote Goa's rich culinary heritage as part of its monsoon tourism campaign in July and August. This initiative falls under the broader #GlowOnArrival campaign, which aims to offer immersive and regenerative experiences to visitors during the monsoon season.

The meeting was chaired by Director of Tourism Kedar Naik along with Managing Director of Goa Tourism Develop-

ment Corporation (GTDC) Kuldeep Arolkar; OSD to Tourism Minister, Shawn Mendes; General Manager, GTDC, Gavin Dias; Dy. General Manager (Marketing), GTDC Deepak Narvekar; Deputy Director of Tourism Jayesh Kankonkar; President of the Travel and Tourism Association of Goa (TTAG) Jack Sukhija; and several representatives from the State's hospitality sector.

According to Director of Tourism Kedar Naik, the initiative aims to position

"The objective of this initiative is to offer visitors an opportunity to experience a unique side of Goa during the monsoon through its diverse culinary traditions and evolving food culture. By highlighting both traditional monsoon delicacies and contemporary global dishes prepared with local ingredients, we aim to present Goa as a destination where food reflects heritage, creativity, and a deep sense of place -Kedar Naik, Director of Tourism

Goa as India's leading food destination by curating special culinary celebrations where every cuisine from authentic Goan dishes to regional Indian fare and glob-

al flavours is showcased across the State. The campaign is designed to highlight how food can be a powerful lens to explore the State's vibrant culture, people, and landscapes, especially during the lush and immersive monsoon season.

It aims to invite tourists to engage with Goa's diverse food heritage while showcasing the seamless fusion of global influences with local ingredients through events where chefs use local Goan produce and restaurants present cross-cultural culinary experiences.

Naik said, "The objective of this initiative is to offer visitors an opportunity to experience a unique side

of Goa during the monsoon through its diverse culinary traditions and evolving food culture. By highlighting both traditional monsoon delicacies and contemporary global dishes prepared with local ingredients, we aim to present Goa as a destination where food reflects heritage, creativity, and a deep sense of place."

As part of #GlowOnArrival monsoon campaign, Goa Tourism has also introduced month-wise thematic promotions that will run up to September.

# Dr Tiwari named GMC dean

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** The Goa government has appointed Dr Jai Prakash Tiwari, Professor of Nephrology, as the new Dean of Goa Medical College (GMC).

He took charge following the retirement of Dr Shivanand Bandekar.

Goa government's Personnel Department had issued Dr Tiwari's promotion order on April 4, 2022, but it was withdrawn the next day. The same promotion order has been restored with immediate effect, stated an order issued on Tuesday.

In 2021, Dr Jay Prakash Tiwari, Professor and HoD of Nephrology, GMC, was claimed to be the frontrunner for the post of Dean of the college.

OUR LADY OF CARDELARIA CHAPEL, PILERNE	
LOTTERY COUPON DRAW	
CONGRATULATORY PRIZES	
1st Concession	001298
2nd Concession	041579
3rd Concession	048577
4th Concession	048982
5th Concession	048774
6th Concession	009914
7th Concession	006340
8th Concession	001128
9th Concession	005492
1st Concession	046824
MAIN PRIZES	
1st Prize	007119
2nd Prize	048886
3rd Prize	048882

Note: Winners are requested to collect their prizes within 30 days of the draw. Last date to claim: 28th July 2025. Winners carry their original winning ticket for verification. CONTACT: 709661087. Congratulations once again and thank you for your support!

