

1K PROPERTIES MAY REVERT TO RP '21 AFTER HC ORDER

O Heraldo investigation shows how agricultural land, mangroves, No Development Slopes (NDS) were all fodder for the land conversion mill

AUGUSTO RODRIGUES

PANJIM: With the landmark High Court ruling cancelling the Outline Development Plans (ODPs) in the five villages of Calangute, Candolim, Parra, Arpora and Nagoa now in the public domain, the biggest question on everyone's mind is — how much land in these five villages will now need to revert to the Regional Plan 2021 as per the court's judgment?

A preliminary investigation by **O Heraldo** shows that the reversion sword hangs over 1,071 properties — spread across 883 survey numbers — in multiple villages, including Arpora, Nagoa, Parra, Calangute, Candolim, and Marna.

However, the judgment, delivered by Justices Bharati Dange and Nivedita P Mehta on June 23, has granted a four-week stay on implementing the

“The judgment was perfect. This is how our land use decisions should have been made. Advocate Norma Alvares's presentation was excellent. Based on this judgment, we will be able to save what little is left of our once-green Goa” — **Antonio De Souza, Candolim resident**

LAND THAT WAS PULLED FROM UNDER OUR FEET — ALMOST

Official data indicates that **159,477 sq m** of tenanted land had been converted from RP 2021 to the 2025 ODP in Calangute, Candolim, Arpora, Nagoa, and Parra, with Arpora alone accounting for **70,593 sq m**.

Breakdown by village (tenanted land):
Calangute: **20,743 sq m**
Candolim: **23,735 sq m**
Nagoa: **35,655 sq m**
Parra: **8,751 sq m**



Another, 95,610 sq m of No Development Slope were converted in the 2025 ODP:
Calangute: **17,580 sq m**
Candolim: **37,420 sq m**
Arpora: **35,710 sq m**
Parra: **4,900 sq m**

The judgment highlights the conversion of 96,582 square metres of agricultural land (non-tenanted) to settlement zones:

Arpora: **26,740 sq m**
Parra: **25,672 sq m**
Calangute: **15,790 sq m**

Candolim: **8,480 sq m**
Nagoa: **19,900 sq m**

The plan shows unauthorised changes in ecologically sensitive areas. Conversion of mangrove zones was recorded in:
Calangute: **290 sq m**
Candolim: **8,000 sq m**

order, effectively giving the Town and Country Planning (TCP) Department time to move the Supreme Court.

Documents reviewed by **O Heraldo** reveal 142 new

zones were added in the December 2022 ODP without adherence to either RP 2021 or the previous ODP 2020. Additionally, 235 plots were rezoned without public objections

being filed.

“The judgment was perfect. This is how our land use decisions should have been made. Advocate Norma Alvares's presentation was excellent. Based on this

judgment, we will be able to save what little is left of our once-green Goa,” said Antonio de Souza, a resident of Candolim.

“The government initially challenged the High Court ruling in the Supreme Court but was directed to return to the High Court. It's a 118-page order, and while I haven't read it in full, it clearly indicates who benefits and who doesn't,” said Joseph Sequeira, former Sarpanch of Calangute Panchayat and a petitioner in the case.

“This judgment is a blessing in disguise — not just for Calangute and Siolim, but all of Goa. You can't promote tourism while destroying our green spaces. The Goa Foundation deserves credit for another successful fight,” said Balbhim Malvankar, an environmental activist from Vagator.

Cont on Pg 11 >>

Relentless rains batter Goa, daily life disrupted



PARODA



PANJIM



BAMBOLIM

Flooded roads, submerged bridges and property damage across the State, on Thursday, expose cracks in infrastructure and disaster readiness

Team Herald

PANJIM/MARGAO: Unyielding rainfall continued to drench various parts of Goa on Thursday, leading to extensive waterlogging and damage across the state. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Panjim recorded 2.1 inches of rain, while Mopa Airport saw 1.8 inches between 8:30 am and 5:30 pm.

In South Goa, the Paroda Bridge was submerged, severely inconveniencing residents of Paroda and neighbouring areas. Shockingly, no police or traffic personnel were present at the site, and barricades were absent, leaving vehicles dangerously exposed to the flooded bridge.

Locals have condemned the administration for failing to safeguard public safety during these critical

conditions. Water intrusion has affected several homes in the area.

Social activist Vishal Desai said, “This flooding occurs every year. Despite numerous videos circulating on social media, the government remains inactive. We are repeatedly promised solutions, but nothing has been done. The authorities will only wake up once the bridge finally collapses.”

Local resident Savio Alphonso added, “The bridge is very old, dating back to the Portuguese era. There's a school and a church nearby, making this situation all the more critical. Despite repeated assurances, no real solution has been implemented.”

Heavy flooding was also reported at the low-lying Seraulim bypass, affecting adjacent fields. Sarpanch Leslie Dourado pointed out that garbage dumping

in the area exacerbates the problem, resulting in the bypass being closed for nearly six months annually. Although Benaullim MLA Venzy Viegas and railway officials inspected the site months ago, no lasting solution has emerged.

Meanwhile, a report from Margao noted urgent government action following heavy flooding along the Paroda-Quepem road, which disrupted traffic and endangered public safety. South Goa Collector Egna Cleetus, IAS, Chairperson of the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), invoked Section 33 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, directing the Public Works Department (PWD) and Electricity Department to take immediate remedial measures.

Cont on Pg 11 >>

Portuguese football star Diogo Jota, his brother, killed in car crash in Spain

AP, MADRID: Liverpool player Diogo Jota and his brother were killed in a car accident in Spain when the Lamborghini they were in veered off a road and burst into flames, police said Thursday.

The Spanish Civil Guard confirmed to The Associated Press that the 28-year-old Jota and his 25-year-old brother, André Silva, were found dead near the north-western city of Zamora.

Police were investigating the causes of the accident that happened past midnight local time. They said there were no other vehicles involved. The bodies were undergoing forensic analysis.

Firefighters were called in as the fire spread into the nearby vegetation, authorities said.

More on Pg 14 >>

MAX. TEMP 27°C
MIN. TEMP 22.8°C

idharudhar



Relax! It's political compulsion, not performance.

TREACHEROUS TREK



Pilgrims being assisted to cross the stretch after road was blocked by debris and stones at Munkatiya sliding zone due to a landslide triggered by rains near Sonprayag en route to the Kedarnath temple, in Rudraprayag district, Uttarakhand, on Thursday. The Kedarnath Yatra has been temporarily halted

One month after ceiling collapse, no clarity on when Margao Ravindra Bhavan will open

Team Herald

MARGAO: Nearly a month after the Pai Tiatr Auditorium and the Black Box Theatre at the Margao Ravindra Bhavan were shut due to leaks and collapse of parts of the false ceiling, work on the repairs is yet to start, leaving the tiatr community in a limbo.

With the tendering process for the work still incomplete, artists and tiatr enthusiasts have accused the government of apathy toward Goa's cultural sphere.

The auditorium, considered a cultural hub for tiatr performances, was initially closed for roof repairs. However, subsequent damage to the false ceiling rendered the venue unfit for use, leaving tiatrists without a viable stage in the Margao area. The prolonged shutdown has led to cancellation of shows, financial setbacks, and disruption of the tiatr calendar, prompting sharp criticism from within the community.

Well-known tiatr artist Pascoal de Chicalim urged Chief Minister Sawant to intervene. “The government should have shown serious interest in re-

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Blow to tiatr as Ravindra Bhavan shuts auditoriums

Pai Tiatr Auditorium, Black Box theatre at Margao venue shut after false ceiling collapse

Team Herald

MARGAO: There was bad news for tiatr lovers on Tuesday as Ravindra Bhavan Margao (RBM) announced the closure of its Pai Tiatr Auditorium and the Black Box theatre. The decision came after a section of the false ceiling



solving this issue. The tiatr community has been facing hardships, and the repair work should have been prioritised,” he said.

He further questioned the authorities' commitment to preserving Goa's cultural heritage. “Despite our contributions, we're treated as though we don't matter. This clearly shows a lack of respect and support.”

Anthony Fernandes, a tiatr enthusiast from Fatorda, echoed similar concerns. “The government is aware of the situation, but no action has been taken. If this issue affected another sector, repairs would have started long ago. It's clear that tiatr and its supporters are not a priority,” he said.

Cont on Pg 11 >>

“Despite our contributions, we're treated as though we don't matter. This clearly shows a lack of respect and support... The government should have shown serious interest in resolving this issue. The tiatr community has been facing hardships, and the repair work should have been prioritised” — **Pascoal de Chicalim, tiatr artist**

“The government is aware of the situation, but no action has been taken. If this issue affected another sector, repairs would have started long ago. It's clear that tiatr and its supporters are not a priority” — **Anthony Fernandes, tiatr enthusiast**

Indian techie accused of serial moonlighting

Secretly held five to six full-time jobs at elite US start-ups

AGENCY, NEW DELHI: An Indian AI engineer, Soham Parekh, has come under intense scrutiny after being accused by multiple start-up founders in the US of moonlighting across several companies under false pretences.

The controversy — dubbed ‘Soham-Gate’ on social media — surfaced after Suhail Doshi, former Mixpanel CEO and founder of Playground AI, publicly called Parekh out for scamming start-ups by working at multiple firms simultaneously.

Doshi, in a post on X, alleged that Parekh had briefly worked at his company but was fired within a week for dishonesty. Despite being

warned, Parekh continued his pattern, Doshi claimed, and has since held overlapping roles in start-ups such as Synthesia, Dynamo AI, Union AI, and Alan AI.

Doshi went a step further and posted Parekh's resume online, calling it “90% fake” and suggesting several stints and academic credentials were unverifiable.

Several other entrepreneurs echoed Doshi's allegations. Nicolai Ouporov, co-founder of Fleet AI, said Parekh had been doing this “for years,” while Matthew Parkhurst of Antimetal recalled letting Parekh go in 2022 for similar reasons.

Cont on Pg 11 >>