

# Villa project at Oxel: HC issues notices to govt, TCP Dept for Oct 15 hearing

**Villas with swimming pool planned only 33 mtrs from protected 'Oxel Spring'; feasibility and environmental impact not studied by authorities who granted construction licence, villagers point out in PIL**

**PANJIM:** The High Court of Bombay at Goa on Tuesday issued notices to the State government, the Town and Country Planning (TCP) Department, and others in response to a public interest litigation (PIL) writ petition challenging the technical clearance granted for the construction of eight residential villas, along with swimming pools and soak pits, at Oxel, Siolim.

The petition, filed by Suraj Chodankar and Averino Miranda, seeks to quash the clearance order issued by the Senior Town

► The project was approved without a six-metre wide physical road

► The TCP Department granted technical clearance for the project in February 2024

► The Oxel Village

Panchayat issued the construction licence in March 2024

► PIL seeks to quash the clearance order issued by the Senior Town Planner; push for the site to be restored to original condition

Planner, Mapusa, and to revoke the construction licence granted by the Oxel Village Panchayat. The petitioners have also requested that the site be restored to its original condition.

The key grievance stems from the proximity of the

project, which is approximately 33 metres from the Oxel Spring, a water body designated by the Water Resources Department (WRD) for protection following a High Court order issued in March.

The petitioners argue

that the environmental impact on the spring's catchment area and water reserves was not properly assessed by the authorities. Furthermore, the Oxel Village Panchayat allegedly failed to evaluate the project's feasibility in terms of essential infrastructure, such as water supply, electricity, and waste management, which raises concerns due to existing water shortages in the village.

Additionally, the petition highlights that the project was approved without a six-metre wide

physical road, as required by the 2010 Building Regulations. The TCP Department granted technical clearance for the project in February 2024, with the Oxel Village Panchayat issuing the construction licence in March.

The respondents in the case include the State government, TCP Department, Senior Town Planner, WRD, Oxel Village Panchayat, M/s Rara Exports Pvt Ltd, Vinto Sahni, and M/s Jai Santos Housing Pvt Ltd. The next hearing is scheduled for October 15.

## Bad weather forces Qatar Airways to divert flight

Team Herald

**VASCO:** Qatar Airways early on Tuesday diverted its flight from Mopa International Airport to Dabolim Airport due to bad weather.

The flight, carrying 131 passengers, landed safely at Dabolim Airport at 2.21 am on Tuesday, according to sources at the Dabolim airport. The decision to divert the flight was taken due to adverse weather conditions at Mopa Airport.

This incident took stakeholders by surprise, especially the taxi operators at Dabolim Airport. However, the Dabolim airport authorities efficiently handled the unplanned landing, thanks to the airport's 24/7 yellow and black taxi services, ensuring that passengers reached their destinations without inconvenience.

**FIRST DIRECT AEROFLOT FLIGHT ARRIVES TODAY**

**PANJIM:** Goa's first direct Aeroflot flight will arrive at Mopa International Airport on Wednesday, October 2. There will be two flights arriving on October 2 from Russia, with five flights scheduled weekly until October. After that, there will be six flights, including one flight from Moscow and one from Ekaterinburg.

Concord Exotic Voyages (I) Pvt Ltd, based in Patto, Panjim, a four-decade-old establishment and one of the leading agencies, will handle all Russian charter tourists coming to Goa.

From October 26, a Kazakhstan charter flight will begin operations, and from October 27, Uzbekistan Airlines will also start flying directly to Goa.

The Goa government is actively trying to tap into new markets and continues to promote destination Goa to attract more foreign tourists to the State.

The unexpected diversion has once again drawn attention to the ongoing debate about the future of Goa's two airports and the importance of reliable infrastructure in ensuring passenger

safety and convenience. Qatar Airways had shifted its operations from Dabolim Airport to Mopa Airport in June this year. The Mopa Greenfield International Airport was commissioned in December 2022.

## SMOOTH SAILING

SAGUN GAWADE



**HERALD IMPACT:** The traffic cell has installed barricades along the Corte de Oiteiro road, near Panjim church, to ease traffic congestion caused by tourist vehicles. O Herald had highlighted this issue a few days back

## DRAG demands 4 per cent job reservation at GHRDC

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** The Disability Rights Association of Goa (DRAG) has demanded a four per cent reservation in jobs at the Goa Human Resources Development Corporation (GHRDC).

In a letter addressed to the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, the Labour Commissioner, the Chief Secretary and the Chief Minister, DRAG president Avelino De Sa stated that the GHRDC has advertised 944 posts in government departments on an empanelment basis, but not a single post has been reserved for persons with disabilities, even though the advertised posts are identified as suitable for them.

According to De Sa, the

GHRDC is a special purpose vehicle of the government to provide jobs to Goans in government service and first preference in government jobs is given to those employed by the Corporation. By not reserving four per cent of their jobs for persons with disabilities, as mandated under Section 34 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016, the GHRDC has violated the provisions of the Act and denied 38 persons with disabilities the opportunity for gainful employment in government service

— Avelino De Sa, DRAG president

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GHRDC has violated the provisions of the Act and denied 38 persons with disabilities the opportunity for gainful employment in government service through preference in appointments.

"We wish to bring to your notice that empanelment can only be done for professionals and consultants, not unskilled staff. Hence, GHRDC has also violated the labour laws of the State by employing unskilled staff on an empanelment basis," De Sa stated. The DRAG has also directed the Corporation to fill up their backlog vacancies for persons with disabilities and to reserve four per cent of the posts advertised in the future for persons with disabilities.

## Passenger causes disturbance by inflating life jacket mid-air

Team Herald

**VASCO:** The Dabolim Airport Police have registered a case against a passenger for creating a disturbance by inflating a life jacket mid-air and endangering passenger safety.

The incident occurred on a flight from Bengaluru to Goa on Sunday at around noon, while the aircraft was airborne. The passenger, identified as Anjaneya Prasad, a native of Andhra Pradesh, suddenly inflated the life jacket of the adjacent passenger, causing unnecessary panic and potential safety concerns for other passengers on board, the police said.

Later, Prajakta Gawas, assistant manager (security) of Indigo Airlines at Goa International Airport, lodged a complaint, mentioning both wrongful loss and the endangerment of passenger safety.

The Dabolim Airport Police have registered a case against Prasad under Section 125 and 324 (1) of the BNS. PSI Prathamesh Palkar is conducting the investigation under the guidance of Dabolim Airport PI Arun Bakre.

## Fishermen from other States will be arrested, fined: CM

Team Herald

**PORVORIM:** Fishermen from other States found fishing in the territorial waters off Goa will be arrested and slapped with hefty fines, said Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Tuesday. Speaking to a delegation of traditional fishermen who met him at the Mantralaya at Porvorim, Sawant said he has issued directions to law enforcement authorities to arrest these fishermen, impose fines up to Rs 10 lakh and seize their boats.

Fisheries Minister Nilkanth Halarnkar and Fisheries Director Yashaswini B also attended the meeting. Traditional fishermen have been complaining about the loss to their livelihood

and dwindling fish stocks due to the fishermen from Malpe, Karnataka, using methods like bull trawling. Sawant assured the fishermen that strict action would be taken against illegal activities, with a directive for the department to coordinate closely with the Coastal Police.

Sawant added that several key issues and initiatives within the Department of Fisheries were discussed, such as the progress of the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) scheme, the rollout of Kisan Credit Cards for fishermen, the construction of a Sulabh toilet complex at Cutbona jetty, the continuation of the VAT subsidy scheme, and the upgradation of the Malim jetty.

## AAP objects to GHRDC recruitment advt for MTS

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Goa on Tuesday objected to the manner in which the Goa Human Resource Development Corporation (GHRDC) has issued an advertisement for the recruitment of Multi-Task Staff (MTS) to be deployed at various government offices.

In a memorandum submitted to GHRDC Chairman and MLA Rudolf Fernandes, AAP State Youth Wing President Rohan Naik has demanded that the advertisement be withheld and a fresh advertisement be issued to rectify the defects. Naik said, "We object to

charging any fee for the application form. Moreover, if a candidate wishes to apply for more than one job, he will have to pay Rs 50 for each form. We demand that no fee should be charged for applications and that they be made available on the government portal."

Naik has also pointed out that making the forms available online or having the entire application submission process online will help avoid huge queues at the GHRDC office. Additionally, this will save the travel and food costs for candidates who come from remote areas to collect a form, he said.

Stating that there is no provision for reservation for categories such as SC/ST/OBC, PwD, EWS, etc., he has demanded that the recruitment advertisement be withdrawn and re-notified with provisions for reservation.

"The various commissions looking after the rights of these communities and categories are requested to seek clarification from GHRDC on why the provisions for reservation are not made applicable to these jobs. There is no clarity and description on how the entire recruitment process will be conducted in the advertisement," Naik said.

## 76-year-old man dies after falling off balcony in Vasco

Team Herald

**VASCO:** A 76-year-old man died from injuries sustained in a fall from the first-floor balcony of his house in Vasco.

The deceased has been identified as Francisco Xavier Eusebio Vas from Manor Hill. The incident occurred on Monday when he fell from his balcony and succumbed to his injuries while undergoing treatment at the Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMC), Bambolim, on Tuesday.

The Vasco police conducted a panchanama and sent the body for a post-mortem examination, which stated that the cause of death was cranio-cerebral damage, along with fractures to the cervical and lumbar spine caused by blunt force impact.

The police have ruled out foul play in the incident and handed over the body to the relatives for the last rites.

## Major fire erupts at Vasco vegetable market

Timely intervention by fire personnel prevents huge losses



Team Herald

**VASCO:** A major fire broke out in a sugarcane juice stall at the Vasco vegetable market early on Tuesday morning.

According to information provided by Vasco Station Fire Officer (SFO) Dilip Bicholkar, the fire broke out at around 5.15 am and some goods were destroyed in the fire. The loss is estimated to be around Rs 1.50 lakh, while the fire personnel, through their

timely intervention, saved property worth approximately Rs 5 lakh. The fire personnel also prevented the fire from spreading to adjacent stalls.

Bicholkar pointed out that many vendors did not have the contact number for the Vasco Fire and Emergency Services and instead dialled 100 and other emergency services. He stated that he has now given all three contact numbers for the Vasco Fire Station to the ven-

dors so they can directly call the fire station in case of an emergency.

Considering the densely located stalls in the market, Bicholkar noted that the market is a closely-knit setup, with stalls adjacent to one another. He cautioned that a fire in one stall could easily spread to the entire market, causing a major disaster. "Therefore, it is crucial for vendors to have immediate access to the fire station's number," he said.

## CM remains tight-lipped on Delhi visit, reiterates that it was a party meet

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, who returned to Goa after attending an emergency meeting with party national leaders in New Delhi along with Health Minister Vishwajeet Rane, reiterated that the meeting was called to discuss party issues.

Speaking to reporters, Sawant asserted that "It was a party meeting."

However, when it was pointed out that there was speculation that he and Rane were called to sort out differences between them, the Chief Minister offered, "No comments."

On Monday, the Chief Minister had also stated that he had been called to Delhi to attend a meeting of the party, and he was not aware if anyone else had been called.

"I am going to Delhi to at-

tend a party meeting. I have been called. I do not know who else has been called," Sawant said, while speaking to reporters at the Mantralaya in Porvorim.

However, BJP State President and Member of Parliament Sadanand Shet Tanavade said that Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and Health Minister Vishwajeet Rane had been called to discuss various issues of the State and elections being held in other States.

"They have been called to discuss various issues, including the issues of elections in various States," Tanavade said.

The meeting came days after Rane, at a public meeting, said that the government should be held responsible for providing at least 22,000 jobs to unemployed youth in the State over the next two years.

## HEAVY RUSH "GOA SHOPPING FESTIVAL", LIFESTYLE SHOPPING EXHIBITION AT SGPDA GROUND AT MARGAO



**Margao, Sept. 28: GOA SHOPPING FESTIVAL, the Life Style Shopping Exhibition at SGPDA GROUND in MARGAO is seen crowded everyday. There are lot of Furniture stalls in the exhibition where people rush to purchase as Diwali is approaching. Stalls like Pratik Motors, Prestige, Paramount Marketing, Usha International Ltd, Nuetech Solar Systems Pvt Ltd, AG Furniture Studio, RGS Kitchen Ware, Afgan Dry Fruits, Harsh Enterprises, Smith Furniture, Gujarat Namkeen, Jijee Jewellery, Sankul Food, Laxmi Enterprises, SS**

**Furniture, Rajasthan Papad, Samra Furniture, Kitchenware, Home Products, Sofa Sets & Home Furniture, Imported Curtains, Shower Curtains, Lazy World Bean Bags, Money Counting Machine, Ladies Fashion, Toys, Garments, Imported Watches, Magic Mop, Ladies & Gents Shoes, Children Clothes, Imported Jewellery, Bedsheets, Herbal Products, Children Furnitures, Educational Cd's, Door Mats, Bombay Halwa, Mens Wear, Health care Products & many more. The exhibition is open for the public till 06th October 2024 from 10.30 a.m. To 9.00 p.m.**