

Bhutani project's future rests with TCP: Dy Speaker

Team Herald

VASCO: Deputy Speaker and Mormugao Planning and Development Authority (MPDA) chairman Joshua D'Souza has stated that the decision to revoke permissions granted to the controversial Bhutani project in Sancoale rests with the Town and Country Planning (TCP) Department.

Speaking to reporters before chairing the MPDA Board meeting, D'Souza remarked, "Revoking permissions granted to the Bhutani project is not within our scope. We (MPDA) did not grant it and it is up to the TCP department to decide whether to revoke or

Revoking permissions granted to the Bhutani project is not within our scope. We (MPDA) did not grant it and it is up to the TCP department to decide whether to revoke or grant permissions

— Joshua D'Souza, Dy Speaker and MPDA chairman

grant permissions." He also noted that the MPDA Board would discuss the matter further.

On September 19, the MPDA issued a show cause notice to the proposed mega project by Bhutani Infra in response to escalating protests, particularly from the villagers of Sancoale. The notice was directed to M/s Parmesh Constructions Company Limited, also known as Bhutani Infra, following allegations that the area

had been identified as a private forest by the Araujo Committee and was subsequently converted to C1 status illegally.

The project proponents have been given seven days from the receipt of the notice to respond, explaining why action should not be taken to revoke the development permission granted on February 2, 2024. Failure to respond may result in necessary actions deemed appropriate by the authorities.

Exclude Sancoale from PDA: Cortalim MLA

Team Herald

VASCO: Cortalim independent MLA Anton Vas has demanded the exclusion of Sancoale village from the Mormugao Planning and Development Authority (MPDA). In a letter addressed to the State government, Vas highlighted the villagers' demand for this exclusion. To

demonstrate his support for the cause, he abstained from the MPDA Board meeting held on Thursday.

It is noteworthy that Sancoale was incorporated into the Mormugao Planning and Development Authority following a resolution passed by the gram sabha during the tenure of former sarpanch Ramakant Naik.

Man carrying marijuana worth Rs 94K arrested at Dolphin Circle

Team Herald

CALANGUTE: Ajit Gupta, 31, an alleged drug peddler, was arrested by Calangute police at Dolphin Circle fountain on Thursday at midnight for possession of narcotics worth Rs 94,000.

Acting on a tip-off that Gupta was planning to de-

liver drugs to a prospective customer, the police conducted a raid and apprehended him at the scene.

An offence has been registered under relevant sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and further investigation is underway, informed the police.

Coastal police to enforce 24x7 vigil on illegal fishing, says minister

Team Herald

PANJIM: Fisheries Minister Nilkanth Halarnkar announced on Friday that coastal police will enforce strict 24x7 surveillance against illegal fishing starting from October 5.

"Boats from Malpe have been entering our waters and traditional fishermen have raised concerns.

Starting Saturday, the Coastal Police will maintain a constant vigil. Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has issued strong directives to stop illegal fishing," Halarnkar said.

He added, "boats from outside enter, fish and then flee. We have decided to secure the coastline from Chapora to Canacona to ensure no further complaints

from fishermen."

Recently, Chief Minister had stated that fishermen from other States found fishing in Goa's territorial waters will face arrest, fines up to Rs 10 lakh and

boat seizures. He issued these orders after meeting a delegation of traditional fishermen in Porvorim.

Last week, Goa's traditional fishermen, risking their lives in canoes,

successfully chased away Malpe trawlers off the Vel-sao coast.

They were within Goan territorial waters, close to Grand Island and Bat Island.

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