



Suchitra

IN THE HIGH COURT OF BOMBAY AT GOA

WRIT PETITION NO.3261/2025 (F)

PRADEEP P GHADI
AMONKAR AND ANR.

... PETITIONERS

Versus

STATE OF GOA THR THE
CHIEF SECRETARY AND 11 ORS.

... RESPONDENTS

Mr Rohit Bras de Sa, Ms Priti Deshprabhu and Mr Joel Pinto,
Advocates for the Petitioners.

Mr N. Vernekar, AGA for Respondents No.1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9
and 11.

Mr P. Sawant, Advocate for Respondent No.2.

Mr M. Salkar, Advocate for Respondent No.8.

**CORAM: SARANG V. KOTWAL &
ASHISH S. CHAVAN, JJ.**

DATED: 15th DECEMBER 2025

P.C.:

1. This Petition is filed seeking reliefs which emanate from a private dispute between the Petitioners and Respondent No.10. However, during the course of arguments, it was made clear that the Petition referred to the tragedy that had taken place on the intervening night of 6th and 7th December, 2025 at Arpora where twenty-five people lost their lives in a tragic fire incident. The Petition thus seeks to highlight a much larger issue.

2. During the course of arguments, various aspects were pointed out. From the submissions, it appears that at various levels some corrective steps are required to be taken. Both, the learned counsel appearing for the Petitioners as well as the learned Additional Government Advocate, express the same sentiments that, steps need to be taken to avoid such tragedies in future.

3. From the arguments what could be seen is that the problem lies in the construction of illegal structures and indiscriminate grant of licenses. Though there are certain provisions under the local laws, where the local bodies can take action, in many cases they are not implemented and the provisions remain dead letters in the statute books. In certain cases where demolition orders are passed by the local bodies, they are stayed by the appellate authorities. Taking advantage of the stay orders, the commercial activities continue in those illegal structures. In some cases, though the structures are illegal, licenses are granted for commercial businesses. All this has led to a very serious issue in the State of Goa. It is necessary that the authorities must work together proactively to address these issues rather than shifting the blame on each other. Considering the larger issue involved and its cascading effect on the society, all parties must address these issues in a non-adversarial spirit. At this preliminary stage, we notice that it is necessary to assign accountability to the authorities to prevent recurrence of such unfortunate incidents.

4. Considering the above, though the Petition was filed between two parties, we are taking suo moto cognizance of this very serious issue. For this purpose, we direct the Registry to

register a Suo Moto PIL. Since Mr Rohit Bras de Sa argued the provisions before us extensively, we appoint him to act as the Amicus Curiae in the Suo Moto PIL. He shall file a separate memo touching upon all these aspects, which would be exhaustive and covering the entire State of Goa including different local bodies and different adjudicating authorities. Such memo shall be filed within two weeks from today. Once the same is filed, the PIL shall be listed for further consideration before this Court on 12.01.2026.

5. The present Petition be tagged along with the Suo Moto PIL. We expect the State Government to file a response in the Suo Moto PIL pointing out what corrective measures can be taken and whether any particular officer/authority can be made accountable for avoiding such tragedies in future.

6. List on 12.01.2026 for further consideration.

ASHISH S. CHAVAN, J.

SARANG V. KOTWAL, J.