

Andreza

IN THE HIGH COURT OF BOMBAY AT GOA

PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION WP NO.3320 OF 2025 (F)

CHRISTUS LOPES AND ANR

... PETITIONERS

Versus

THE STATE OF GOA THR ITS CHIEF
SECRETARY AND 5 ORS

... RESPONDENTS

Mr. K. Panchal, Advocate with Mr. Shane Coutinho, Advocate for the
Petitioners.

Mr. Manish Salkar, Government Advocate for the Respondent nos. 1, 4
and 5.

**CORAM:- SUMAN SHYAM &
AMIT S. JAMSANDEKAR, JJ.**

DATED :- 27th January, 2026

P.C.

1. This Public Interest Litigation has been filed alleging illegal land filling in low-lying areas and paddy fields forming part of the agrarian and ecological belt of Taleigao, historically known as one of the granaries of Goa. After going through the statements made in the Writ Petition, we are of the prima facie opinion that the permission granted for land filling in the low-lying paddy fields is in clear contravention of the mandate of Section 17-A of the Goa Town and Country Planning Act, 1974 and the Rules framed thereunder. Therefore, the petitioners have made out a case for granting an ad-interim order.

2. However, in order to avoid any prejudice being caused to the other sides, we grant a week's time to the learned Government Advocate Mr. Salkar, appearing for Respondent nos. 1, 4 and 5, to obtain preliminary instructions and appraise this Court on the next date fixed if permissions were in fact granted in contravention of the provisions of Section 17-A of the TCP Act. If such permissions had actually been granted by the officials in violation of the Rules and Regulations, their names and particulars be also brought on record by the next date in the form of a report.

3. List this case again on 02.02.2026. The report in the above aspect be placed before the Court on the next date of hearing.

AMIT S. JAMSANDEKAR, J.

SUMAN SHYAM, J.