

No interim relief from HC against Karapur project

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Panaji: Bombay high court on Wednesday declined to grant interim relief against the One Goa project proposed on Karapur plateau, Bicholim.

Petitioners Pravinsingh Shedgaonkar and Pritesh Salgaonkar sought a stay on technical clearance orders issued by the town and country planning (TCP) department, alleging the permissions violated the Supreme Court's status quo order in pending Section 17(2) matters. They also challenged construction licences granted by the Karapur panchayat on the basis of those clearances. Senior advocate Norma Alvares, appearing for the petitioners, told the court construction had commenced at the site.

Last year, the high court read down Section 17(2) of the TCP Act, quashed the rules framed under it, and restrained the government from considering further Section 17(2) applications. The state and TCP challenged that ruling in the Supreme Court. In July 2025, SC directed parties to maintain status quo as it

existed that day and stayed proceedings before the high court. In Aug, it adjourned the matters sine die, allowing parties to approach the court in case of exigency.

Alvares argued the project's "status quo" changed after the SC's July order because fresh permissions were issued for a compound wall and other structures, followed by panchayat licences, and work began.

Petitioners said villagers were unaware construction of four buildings had started because the compound wall blocked access to properties and tenanted fields. They said locals entered the plots only after a July 5 order and then discovered ongoing work.

They sought stays on the clearances and licences and restraints on further permissions by TCP and the Karapur-Sarvan panchayat.

Mahesh Shah of The House of Abhinandan Lodha said the company remained open to dialogue with villagers and aimed to address misinformation and protect local interests.

