

Pernem MLA attacks airport operator on flooding of villages below Mopa plateau

Says Manohar International Airport authorities should take rain water in the aircrafts elsewhere

Team Herald

PERNEM: Pernem MLA Pravin Arlekar on Thursday attacked the Mopa airport operator - GMR Goa International Airport Limited - holding them responsible for flooding the villages with rain water since there was no proper drainage and sarcastically remarked that they should take the water elsewhere in their aircrafts.

"GMR has taken advantage of Pednekars. There is so much water gushing into the village below the Mopa plateau. They are

letting out the water into the villages. When they undertook the project, they should have realised that the villages would get flooded and the people would suffer," Arlekar told the mediapersons.

"There are four outlets. But there is no planned drainage. They are releasing the water into the villages instead they should take it by the planes which arrive there," Arlekar said.

Earlier, the local taxi operators met Arlekar regarding the Goa Miles app service and demanded that Goa Miles should ad-

There are four outlets. But there is no planned drainage. They are releasing the water into the villages instead they should take it by the planes which arrive there - Pravin Arlekar, Pernem MLA

here to notified rates. They also met Mandrem MLA Jit Arolkar, who too assured them that he would support them and not Goa Miles taxi service.

Later, the local taxi operators forced the Mopa

police to remove 'no entry boards' put by the GMR Goa International Airport Limited. The GMR, who operate the Mopa international airport had put up a signboard stating that four-wheelers are not allowed, except for emergency vehicles. This was in view of the new link road which was inaugurated on Thursday. The taxi-men said the present road was short cut not only to the airport but their houses too are located on that road. They immediately called the police, who ordered that the sign boards be removed.

Activist arrested over verbal spat with Fisheries Minister and his staff

Team Herald

MAPUSA: The Colvale police on Thursday arrested Delhi native and activist Gaurav Bakshi in connection with verbal spat with Fisheries Minister Nilkath Halarnkar and his staff at Revora on Wednesday.

Bakshi was brought to the Mapusa police station as the locals marched to the Colvale police Station on Thursday morning demanding that he be brought to Colvale police station. The row between Bakshi and Halarnkar broke over the petty matter of giving way to each other's vehicles near Revora village panchayat.

Following the incident, a large number of locals gathered at the Colvale police station for two consecutive days demanding Bakshi's arrest. Bakshi, known for his roles in a few web series and films, runs a legal tech start-up in Goa. He has also been part of the anti-corruption movement led by social activist Anna Hazare.

New amendment in Goa Tenancy Agriculture Act enables govt to acquire fallow land for projects

Wadi-Talaulim Panchayat becomes first to leverage new provision by acquiring 7,000 sq mts of agricultural tenancy land

Team Herald

PONDA: Due to stringent provisions in the past, acquiring agricultural tenancy land for government projects has long been a challenge. However, a recent amendment under Section 18K of the Goa Tenancy Agricultural Act, passed in the last Assembly session, now permits the government to acquire fallow tenancy land for public projects, including infrastructure development for schools, panchayat offices, and other government buildings.

The Wadi-Talaulim Panchayat is the first to utilise this new amendment. The Panchayat has acquired 7,000 square metres of agricultural tenancy land to construct a new ground-plus-two-floor panchayat office.

Power Minister Ramkrishna 'Sudin' Dhavalikar, speaking at an event for the distribution of plant saplings to farmers at the Wadi Talaulim panchayat, explained the necessity of the amendment. He mentioned that two locals, Putu Naik

and Ramanath Sawant have handed over their fallow paddy tenancy land for the panchayat ghar.

Dhavalikar highlighted that the government faced considerable challenges in acquiring tenancy land for development projects due to the stringent provisions of the old law. The new amendment allows the government to propose projects on fallow tenancy land that has been unused for 25 years, facilitating the availability of land for essential infrastructure while benefiting both tenants and landlords. "This can make available land for school institutions' infrastructure in every village," he said, adding that it took him one year of efforts to realise the change.

The amendment aims to address land shortages for governmental projects in villages by converting some fallow paddy land into non-agricultural (NA) land for public use. Despite the government's assurances, some farmers and office bearers of the Agricultural Tenancy Association have expressed their unawareness of the new 18K provision.

PREVENTIVE PRUNING

SAGUN GAWADE



The authorities finally trimmed the branches of an old banyan tree within the Inox courtyard in Campal-Panjim that were leaning over dangerously, posing a threat to visitors

Labourers crushed to death: Mardol police book owners of two companies for wall collapse at Kundaim IDC

Team Herald

PONDA: The Mardol Police have filed charges against two companies following the collapse of a wall at the Kundaim Industrial Estate, which led to the deaths of three workers last Sunday. The charges include one company that built an unauthorised retaining wall and another that constructed illegal temporary huts below the wall, where the workers were residing at the time of the collapse.

The Mardol Police registered the offence under Section 125, 106(1) read with 3(5) of the BNS, based on a complaint filed by Sushant H. Sangodkar, PSI of Mardol Police Station. The complaint details that the accused, Meene Thomas, a resident of Ponda, and Cherian Thomas, residing in Tamil Nadu, owners of Southern Engineering Project located at Plot No 29 and 30 of IDC Kundaim, constructed a compound wall be-

eyond the approved height and failed to maintain it adequately.

Additionally, the accused V. C. Chandramouli, also known as Chandran, proprietor of Jayanthi Constructions, and his son Nikhil Nair, both residing in Ponda, constructed unauthorised and illegal temporary structures in the set-back areas. They accommodated labourers Dilip Kumar Yadav, 3, and Mukesh Kumar Singh, 34, from Bihar, and Trinath Naik, 50, from Odisha, in these illegally constructed temporary shelters.

The collapse of the compound wall onto the illegal shelters resulted in the deaths of these three workers. The police have charged the responsible parties with endangering the lives of the labourers, leading to their deaths.

Further investigation is ongoing under the supervision of PI Yogesh S. Sawant of the Mardol Police Station.

Motorists complain of rattling ride across potholed Borim bridge

Team Herald

PONDA: Commuters traveling on the Borim Bridge are facing hardships due to the numerous potholes on the bridge's surface. While repair works are ongoing beneath the bridge, the surface itself has been neglected, leading to the development of potholes that cause jolts as heavy vehicles pass through them. This situation has raised safety concerns among locals, who are increasingly worried about the integrity of the bridge.

The Borim bridge, which was inaugurated in 1986, has been heavily used, particularly in recent years



as heavy traffic from the old Zuari-Cortalim bridge was diverted through it for over a decade, while the

new bridge was being built. Given this prolonged and intensive use, locals are demanding urgent repairs to the surface road of the bridge to prevent further damage and ensure the safety of commuters.

"Workers are busy constructing scaffolding beneath the bridge, to strengthen it. The longevity of these repairs is questionable, and I don't know how long the current state of disrepair can be allowed to persist," said Vishal Naik, a commuter.

The bridge is a crucial route for heavy traffic traveling from Belgaum to Margao and from Karwar on the National Highway.

Dogged by strays, Worldwide Veterinary Service plans to tie up with DSPCA for viable solution

In a fix following the stray dog bite cases on the rise on beaches and other locations, WVS aims to address welfare of canines while ensuring community safety and compassion towards animals

Team Herald

MARGAO: Worldwide Veterinary Service (WVS) has recognized the increasing incidents involving stray dogs and has reached out to the District Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (DSPCA) to collaborate on finding a viable solution to this pressing issue.

The initiative aims to address the welfare of stray dogs while ensuring community safety and compassion towards animals.

In a letter dated July 9 addressed to the South Goa District Collector, the District Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (DSPCA) has emphasized that the successful imple-

mentation of their action plan can effectively achieve their stated goals.

The letter highlights the importance of collaboration and coordinated efforts between stakeholders to ensure the welfare of animals in the region. DSPCA's proposed action plan likely includes strategies for managing stray dog population humanely.

It is crucial to highlight that in recent days, incidents of stray dog biting people have been increasing at beaches in South Goa, as well as in other locations, creating an unsafe environment for residents and tourists visiting these areas. This trend underscores the urgent need for effective measures to manage and mitigate the risks associated

with stray dog populations.

Reports indicate that significant numbers of stray dogs are frequently observed at beaches, and the absence of a proactive program to address this issue has resulted in considerable inconvenience to the general public.

The presence of stray dogs not only poses safety risks due to potential incidents of

bites but also detracts from the overall experience of beachgoers and tourists.

It has been mentioned that during a recent meeting, discussions were held regarding the implementation of a dog sterilization program starting from July 11. Initially, the plan involves sending 15 dogs per week to Assagao for sterilization.

FROM PAGE 1

TRUCK DRIVER BOOKED FOR MURDER, BUT AUTOPSY REPORT SHOWS 'MURDER' HAPPENED BEFORE 'CORPSE' WAS RUN OVER BY TRUCK

It's baffling how a case of a truck driver speeding on an empty road at night accidentally hitting a body lying on the road, is facing murder charges.

Speaking further, Sawant informed that the technical team is in process to recover the CCTV footage of the Ponda Police Station to verify the claims from the autopsy report. This begs the question: Why is it taking 15 days? And sources have confirmed that the Ponda Police has said that the footage isn't available or corrupted for the exact period when the footage is needed.

According to sources in the Goa Police, the CCTV footage at the Ponda Police Station after June 20 is not available.

SP Sawant, answering to the question of O Heraldo, has informed that even if CCTV of any police station is not working, then it was the duty of the in-charge of the Police Station to put it on record of the station diary as mandatory for the department according to a written circular.

As per preliminary investigation, there is no mention of the said event in the station diary of the Ponda Police Station, raising serious questions on the lapses of the staff. Goa Police has already suspended three policemen in regards with the negligence on the duty.

"There is no such mention on the station diary of the Ponda Police Station that the CCTV was not working," SP Sawant said.

The Maina-Curtorim Police, the Ponda police as well as the office of the SP South need to provide clear answers to the questions raised in this report and probe the very suspicious and mysterious role of the Ponda Police who have been evading replies. They need to be brought under the ambit of investigation.

TAXIMEN 'ASSAULT' GOAMILES DRIVER OUTSIDE PERNEM MLA'S RESIDENCE

"He is representing GoaMiles in uniform. We will complain to the department and see what action the government takes," he said.

"The locals have purchased taxis by availing loans. GoaMiles is operating at half the rate. So the MLA was angry. We are also his workers. So naturally he will feel bad," said another tourist taxi operator.

When questioned by mediapersons that even GoaMiles drivers were local Goans and Pernem residents, they said, "They are locals, but they charge between Rs 600 and Rs 700. They have spoilt the business. They are Pednekars, we support Pednekars. Our demand is to have equal rates. The operators from Calangute are shouting that Pednekars are spoiling the business."

They said, "When there is a notified taxi stand such as Blue Cab at Mopa, app-based taxis cannot function. You can ask the RTO. GoaMiles has the blessings of politicians, what can we do?"

When questioned by mediapersons about the scuffle, Pernem MLA Pravin Arlekar said, "The local taxi operators should be given justice. They have purchased vehicles by availing loans to support their families. There should have been an agreement with GMR initially, that only local drivers and taxis would be used. Therefore they are suffering today. GoaMiles cannot take a counter here (at Mopa). They have to function on the app. They are given a counter at Mopa, and their rates are the lowest. Therefore the tourist taxi operators are suffering. So I have demanded that all the rates should be equal."

HC ORDERS REAL-TIME NOISE MONITORING SYSTEMS, DIRECTS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD TO INSTALL NOISE MONITORING EQUIPMENT

Petitioner Desmond Alvares presented another RTI, where it stated, "As per information and application submitted, it may be noted that the installation of instruments/equipment was not observed to be done for the said event at the time of inspection."

"It may be noted that the unit does not have an online noise monitoring system and digital display boards have not been installed on the periphery wall," concluded the RTI exhibit presented to the Bench.

"I am really surprised. There has to be real-time noise

pollution monitoring systems in place," observed Justice Menezes, after hearing the claims and counterclaims of the petitioners and respondents.

"I was not surprised with the GSPCB submission that there is no noise after 10 pm, because they are part of the problem along with the police. Though the judges have asked them (GSPCB) to include me in the surprise raid team, the outcome will be minimal because, as in the past, the law breakers are tipped by the police of an eminent raid," stated Alvares.

"Please collate details of establishments that have licences to operate in Anjuna and those that are operating without. Once we have these details, we can start getting details of other places," Justice Menezes instructed Advocate General Devidas Pangam.

"We knew that the High Court was our only hope because everyone from top to the bottom in the government is involved in this racket of drugs and prostitution that starts with loud music. If they stop loud music, everything else stops," stated an exalted Antonio Moraes from Vagator after the hearing.

The next hearing is scheduled for July 22.

IT'S A NIGHTMARE FOR PASSENGERS STANDING AT BUS STOPS IN MUDDY PUDDLES

The sentiment echoes across Goa as commuters hope for swift action to upgrade and maintain bus stops before the next monsoon season arrives.

They said that these issues were raised during the public meetings with ministers that were held in each taluka, a couple of months ago, where some suggestions were for an audit to take place at least of bus stops that have a lot of people waiting and particularly during peak hours, so that the authorities can also see the other problems they face, like difficulty in crossing the roads, how much time a bus takes to reach the bus stop, etc.

Incidentally, they added that it is not easy travelling in buses in the rain, with people carrying their wet umbrellas and raincoats. They even pointed out how in a KTC bus, water was leaking from the ceiling of the bus and some passengers had to use umbrellas inside the bus to protect themselves.

TTAG panel says Tourism Bill will kill industry; discuss problems with Yuri

Team Herald

PANJIM: A delegation of Travel and Tourism Association of Goa (TTAG) met Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao on Thursday and shared with him their problems and concerns about the proposed Tourism Bill.

Travel and Tourism Association of Goa (TTAG) represented by former President Savio Messias, Tito Goes and Aakash Madgavkar met the Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao at his Chamber in Assembly Complex at Porvorim and submitted a memorandum highlighting various issues faced by the tourism sector.

In the Memorandum,

TTAG has stated that the proposed bill of the Tourism Department provides for a very haphazard framework which will do nothing to improve the tourism work in Goa, but will rather kill the industry.

The bill speaks more about penalties, punishments, fines and fees which will lead to increase in costs to the tourism sector and government controls in every area of Tourism, the TTAG has said.

It has pointed out that there are various deviations in the proposed bill from the tourism policy 2020 with respect to representation for the local tourism stakeholders.

APPOINTMENTS



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