

Speaker threatens to resign, says UTAA meet branded him 'villain'

Speaker Ramesh Tawadkar calls these attacks 'unfair' and says he will step down if the CM and his ministers can't show his post respect

Team Herald

MARGAO: Claiming that he had been portrayed a 'villain' at the United Tribal Associations Alliance (UTAA) event at Farmagudi, Speaker Ramesh Tawadkar on Tuesday, termed these attacks as 'unfair' and efforts to 'tarnish' his image and threatened to resign if ministers or even the Chief Minister fail to show the necessary respect to the Speaker's post.

In a statement, Tawadkar said, "If the ministers showing no respect to the Speaker's post, continue to do so or if the head of State or even the party supports such an attitude, I will have no option but to resign from the post."

He emphasised the importance of mutual respect, noting that while he works to maintain the dignity of the Speaker's office, it is equally important for the ministers and Chief Minister to demonstrate respect for the role.

Claiming that he was not involved with the UTAA since 2012, Tawadkar rejected claims linking him

"If the ministers showing no respect to the Speaker's post, continue to do so or if the head of State or even the party supports such an attitude, I will have no option but to resign from the post. I had discarded myself from the UTAA when I found that my thoughts did not align with theirs. I made it clear that I want to work for the betterment of my community in my own way and have nothing to do with their activities

– Ramesh Tawadkar, Speaker of Goa Legislative Assembly



Sunil Kawthankar @sunilkawthankar · 38s
@DrPramodPSawant stop worrying of Constitution under Indira Gandhi, how can you even ensure rights to people when Goa's Constitutional authority Speaker @ramesh_tawadkar has threatened to resign for his own rights? This is the biggest constitutional crisis in the history of Goa

to the group, stating, "I had discarded myself from the UTAA when I found that my thoughts did not align with theirs. I made it clear that I want to work for the betterment of my community in my own way and have nothing to do with their activities."

Tawadkar pointed out that the leaders who had attacked him at the UTAA event were misguided in their criticism as he questioned why several prominent tribal leaders, were absent from the UTAA

programme and demanded accountability from those leaders for their past actions, especially when they held positions within tribal departments and commissions.

Without naming any individual, Tawadkar's remarks appeared to be a veiled attack on Art and Culture Minister Govind Gaude, implying that UTAA leaders had targeted him during their programme in the presence of Chief Minister Pramod Sawant.

BJP on back foot as cash-for-jobs arrests throw up party connections

Party general secretary admits that two arrested in the case had BJP links; cries grow louder for judicial commission investigation

Team Herald

PANJIM: The cash-for-jobs probe dragnet that had so far caught the small fish is now netting bigger names with ties to the state BJP, pushing the government on the defensive over how crores were taken from aspirants seeking government jobs.

Shruti Prabhugaonkar, who was arrested on Tuesday, is the niece of a senior BJP leader. Parag Raikar, the son of freedom fighter and former MLA late Gajanan Raikar, was nabbed earlier and had contested municipal elections backed by BJP in Margao.

The scope of the scam that is inching towards Rs 10 crore shows the deep-rooted corruption that allowed the swindlers to operate for years with-

BJP 'FUNCTIONARY' LANDS IN POLICE NET FOR CHEATING JOB ASPIRANTS

PONDA: The Ponda Police on Tuesday arrested 36-year-old Shruti Akshay Prabhugaonkar from her Porvorim residence for her alleged involvement in the cash-for-jobs scam.

Shruti, who is a niece of a senior BJP leader, was an office-bearer of BJP State Yuva Morcha when Chief Minister Pramod Sawant was the president of BJP State Yuva Morcha from 2010 to 2013. She was the president of Nuvem constituency BJP Mahila Morcha. Shruti is the fourth woman arrested by the police in the scam. Her distant relative is Dhavali-based school teacher and co-accused Yogesh Cuncolienkar, who was also arrested earlier. Cuncolienkar told the police that he had handed over money to Shruti, but she has denied it.



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"The arrested in the scam and the suspects have one thing in common – they all have their connections with the BJP. Some are office-bearers, members of BJP frontal organisations and some were BJP-backed candidates for municipal elections

– Vijai Sardesai, Goa Forward Party MLA

"It's now clear why @BJP4Goa is not willing to appoint Judicial Commission for inquiry into job scam. You had a share in the cake (pie). Cat is out of the bag. CM @DrPramodPSawant and President @ShetSadanand you are answerable to the people of Goa and not your spokespersons

– Amit Palekar, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) State president

"Shruti Prabhugaonkar had earlier worked for the party but is not a member of the BJP now. Action has also been taken against Parag Raikar after his arrest in cash-for-jobs scam

– Narendra Sawaikar, BJP general secretary

Raikar had unsuccessfully contested Margao Municipal Council (MMC) elections in April 2021 as a BJP-backed candidate.

The pressure of these revelations piled up on the ruling party.

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A HEARTY RECEPTION



Women from the tribal community give a traditional welcome to an election official before he leaves for his allotted polling station on the eve of the first phase of Jharkhand Assembly elections, in Ranchi, on Tuesday

Online prostitution ring busted

Team Herald

CALANGUTE: The Goa Police's Cyber Cell dismantled an online prostitution ring with advanced features including a dedicated call centre, a user-friendly website, and advance payment mechanism.

The Andhra-based proprietor Sayyed Usman and his partner Mohammed Mujibullah were arrested, while their BPO team, including techies and call centre staff, went into hiding.

The call centre operated from rental rooms owned by a police constable's wife at Tivai Vaddo, Calangute.

More on Pg 3 >>

Legal opinion bats for 'Bhutani' against people's opinion

Tempers fly at the panchayat meeting to discuss legal opinions; people and opposing panchas term legal opinion 'illegal'

AUGUSTO RODRIGUES

GONCOI, SANCOALE: Two legal opinions, one of which is an unsigned email, sent to the Sancoale Panchayat ended the hopes of any action against Parmesh Construction undertaking the controversial 650-plus swimming pool housing project in water-deficient Sancoale.

Of the two, Adv Zeller De Sousa pointed to PIL in the High Court and advised "no interference", in the Bhutani construction licence, while advocate Amey Prabhudessai's "opinion" (unsigned) gave a squeaky clean chit to Bhutani, saying they have all permissions.

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MATTER OF LEGAL OPINIONS

LETTERHEAD OF ADV AMEY M PRABHUDESSAI

» Construction licence issues to M/s Parmesh Construction Co Ltd "valid in the eyes of the law"

» Project has "clearance of all the authorities under the Government of Goa"

» "In my opinion the show cause notice dated 30.09.2024 is incomplete, vague and devoid of law... Issuing a show cause notice only on public pressure or sentiments has no sanctity in the eyes of law"

ADV ZELLER DE SOUSA

» "The issue of the legality of the said construction licence... being sub judice, it is indeed surprising that your Panchayat has issued a show cause notice"

» "Your Panchayat seems to be over enthusiastic in re-examining the issue regarding the issuance of the said construction licence"

"The strength of the people can be seen in the gathering today, but the weakness of the same people can be seen inside the panchayat office. What the majority of elected people are doing is sick

– Ophelia Pereira, social activist

What's a Cong MLA doing in a BJP govt committee?

Aldona Cong MLA Carlos Alvares Ferreira's name is in committee celebrating Constitution, a day after CM says Indira Gandhi 'insulted' Constitution; Cong distances itself from MLA

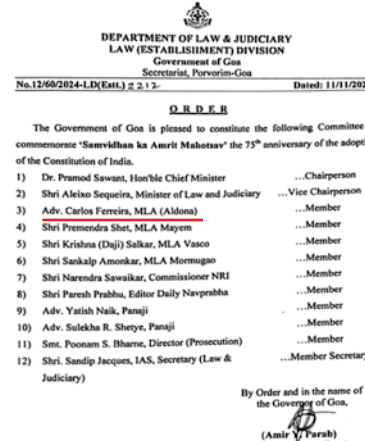
Team Herald

PANJIM: Aldona Congress MLA Adv Carlos Alvares Ferreira's name has featured on a State government committee to mark the 75th anniversary of the Constitution. What is even more glaring, the committee is chaired by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, who on Sunday had spoken about Indira Gandhi's 'insult' to the Constitution during the Emergency at a tribal

meeting in Farmagudi.

In this light, the committee list released a day later on Monday makes Ferreira's name look even more brazen. What is more, state Congress leaders refused to address his surprising inclusion and distanced themselves from the committee, though they castigated the BJP for putting the Constitution "under threat".

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"Am surprised to see my name in the Committee of Goa Government to commemorate 'Samvidhan Ka Amrit Mahotsav' – the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of India: my consent was not taken before I was included in this Committee - nor would it be appropriate for me to accept this offer specially given the fact that I believe that BJP does not respect the Constitution in letter nor spirit nor respects the Congress party which drafted and adopted the Constitution including Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru & Indira Gandhi and seeks to trample upon the fundamental rights of the individuals guaranteed by the Constitution. Cannot be a part of this Committee & hence decline to be part of it

– Adv Carlos Alvares Ferreira, Aldona MLA on X

MAX. TEMP 34.2 °C
MIN. TEMP 23.0 °C
idharudhar



We're budget domestic tourists, carrying only cooking items.

PEOPLE POWER STALLS RAILWAY FORCE AT VELSAO

Local residents confront Railway authorities trying to start work along tracks, assert that Railways lacked necessary land ownership documents; Dy Collector suspends work till land ownership is proven

Team Herald

MARGAO: Residents of the Mollo ward of Pale-Velsao on Tuesday faced off against railway authorities, who had come prepared to carry out work near the tracks despite a pending government-mandated demarcation survey that is supposed to mark out private property from railway land.

Tensions stayed high all day till the Deputy Collector agreed to suspend further activity until railway officials provide proper documentation proving their land ownership in the disputed Survey No. 18/1.

The conflict began on



Monday night when railway workers started dumping mud near residents' homes, adjacent to a newly-built retaining wall.

The residents were shocked to see the railway authorities

pressing ahead on Tuesday morning. Equipped with heavy machinery and backed by railway police, the railway officials refused to halt operations, escalating tensions.

The residents, supported by

WHAT TRIGGERED THE CONFLICT

» The conflict arose when railway workers began dumping mud near residents' homes without proper documentation proving land ownership

» Despite a govt-mandated demarcation survey pending, the railway officials continued operations, leading to heightened tensions

» The locals asserted that the Railways lacked necessary land ownership documents

» The Deputy Collector intervened and agreed to suspend work until the land ownership dispute was resolved

» The locals' anger stemmed from the Railway's defiance of a recent directive prohibiting work in the area until the demarcation process was completed

Velsao Panchayat, Village Development Committee (VDC) members, and Goencho Ekvott (GE), asserted that the Railways lacked necessary land ownership documents.

Things came to a head

Locals had expected senior

officials from the Directorate of Settlement and Land Records (DSLRR) carrying proper surveying equipment to oversee the process.

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