

Panjimites ask Tanavade: Who will benefit from Smart City project?

Complain of total mismanagement and lack of planning in the ongoing works

Team Herald

PANJIM: Despite missed deadlines, High Court intervention and lives lost on account of Smart City works, Rajya Sabha MP Sadanand Shet Tanavade stated that the project benefits will be realised once it is completed. The MP's remark has not gone down well with the city residents, who have questioned the Parliamentarian as to how will the project benefit them when there is complete mismanagement and lack of planning. Addressing a press conference in the city, Tanavade said, "We face difficulties when some development work is taken up but we realise its benefits when the work is completed. I am not saying that there are no problems. We had faced problems when the new Zuari Bridge was being con-



structed. Once I missed my flight. But those were the days when people would say that they were not certain when they would reach their destination but now you can give someone time and reach accordingly." Reacting to Tanavade's remark, Dr Odette Lobo, a city resident, said, "What benefit we are talking about. People are facing hardship as vehicles are parked haphazardly.

Many coconut trees have been cut using earthmovers. There is no proper supervision of the work. They are breaking pipelines, sewage pipes, and cables. They break footpaths and roads again and again." "There are no proper signboards. Traffic police are not seen on the roads. There are neither proper lights nor proper signages. It is our life which is at risk. Most roads are either partially closed or

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- Sadanand Shet Tanavade, Rajya Sabha MP

"What benefit we are talking about. People are facing hardship as vehicles are parked in a haphazard manner. Many coconut trees have been cut using JCBs. There is no proper supervision of the work. They are breaking pipelines, sewage pipes, cables. They breaking footpaths and roads again and again

- Dr Odette Lobo, Panjim resident

fully closed. How will people move in the city? There is only mismanagement. The smart city work is being executed without planning. I do not think it is a smart city. It is only for the smart pockets. You can see what has happened at Cafe Bhonsle. It is a complete mess. A beautiful triangle has been finished," she said. "They allowed buildings to come up on the original drains which were con-

structed during Portuguese rule. They should have consulted those who knew the city well. It is a racket. Roads are being dug twice and thrice," she added. Ketan Govekar, another resident, said, "The infra project is taking time. Always patchwork was done. I don't think that the work will be completed by March 31, 2025. It is not a realistic deadline."

Co, contractor asked to submit affidavit, Smart City work plan

Issued notice to appear before State Commissioner for PwD

Team Herald

PANJIM: Acting on a complaint from a Panjim resident, State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (PwD) Guruprasad Pawaskar issued a notice to Chief General Manager of Imagine Panaji Smart City Development Ltd (IPSCDL) and the General Manager of M Venkata Rao Infra Project Pvt Ltd asking them to appear in person or by duly authorised agent or pleader on February 18, at 11 am in its office at Porvorim.

They have been asked to submit an affidavit and the

plan of Smart City works to adhere to the guidelines and provisions as laid down under the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities Act 2016.

The complaint on Raj Vaidya, a Panjim resident, has sought direction from the commission directing the IPSCDL to comply with the guidelines of the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 and Rule 15.1 (a) of RPwD (Amendment) rule 2023, harmonised guidelines and space standard for universal accessibility in India 2021 in respect to ongoing work of

the Smart City in Panjim violating Section 40, 42 and 45 thus read with Section 2 y and Section 3 of the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities Act 2016.

Earlier, IPSCDL had said submitted before the Commission that all the ongoing works, which are not in line with the harmonised guideline, are done by the assigned contractor and will be corrected and compiled by May 31, 2025. It submitted that an accessibility consultant will be appointed for the project to ensure that accessibility guidelines are followed and executed.

A special night drive to ensure law and order

Team Herald

PANJIM: To enhance public safety and curb violations, the Goa Police conducted a special night drive by deploying police personnel in key areas across the State ensuring strict monitoring of law and order.

To ensure the drive's success, police personnel deployed included officers from the District Police, Traffic Police, IRBn, and GRP. A total of 658 personnel were on duty, with 392 from the District Police, 122 from the Traffic Police, 110 from IRBn, and 34 from GRP.

During the drive, intensive checks were conducted through nakabandis, foot patrolling, mobile patrolling, and beach patrolling. A total of 61 nakabandis and 71 pickets were deployed to enhance vigilance. Traffic violations were strictly monitored, resulting in 591 cases being

THOROUGH CHECKS

- Intensive checks were conducted through nakabandis, foot patrolling, mobile patrolling, and beach patrolling
- A total of 61 nakabandis and 71 pickets were deployed to enhance vigilance
- Strictly monitored traffic violations resulted in booking of 591 cases,

including 56 for drunken driving and 535 for other traffic violations

Additionally, 160 cases were registered under minor acts such as smoking and spitting in public places

1,220 vehicles were thoroughly checked, and several persons were rounded up for verification

booked, including 56 for drunken driving and 535 for other traffic violations. Additionally, 160 cases were registered under minor acts such as smoking and spitting in public places.

As part of the enforcement efforts, 1,220 vehicles were thoroughly checked, and several persons were rounded up for verification. The special drive aimed at ensuring a safe environment for citizens by main-

taining strict vigilance on any suspicious activities, a statement from the police department said.

The drive was personally supervised by Director General of Police (DGP) Alok Kumar, IPS, along with other senior officers, including DIG (Range) Varsha Sharma, IPS and SP, North Goa, Akshat Kaushal, IPS, among others, who supervised operations to ensure efficiency and effectiveness.

High Court orders fresh inspection of 'dance bars' in Calangute

Directs Deputy Town Planner to submit a comprehensive report on or before March 3; PIL writ petition posted for further consideration on March 5

Team Herald

PANJIM: The High Court has directed the Deputy Town Planner, Mapusa-Bardez to conduct a fresh site inspection of the "unauthorised structures" used as dance bars at Calangute and to submit a comprehensive report to the Court. The Court stated that the hearing be scheduled on February 20 after giving intimation to both the parties

i.e. the applicant seeking to desal the premises and the original petitioners Sudesh Mayekar and another.

The Deputy Town Planner has been asked to prepare a comprehensive report based on the rival claims on or before March 3. Nasim Parvaiz Jafraan had filed a miscellaneous civil application pleading to desal the premises.

The PIL writ petition has now posted for further con-

sideration on March 5.

In January last year the Court had ordered to desal the premises which did not have occupancy certificates or other NOCs, permissions from the authorities.

"Without any occupancy certificates or consents to operate, where the law requires such consents, none of the respondents can occupy or carry out any activities from the premises. Accordingly, leave of

this Court must be sought before the sealed premises are unsealed or occupied or used for any purposes," the Court had stated.

Arguing on behalf of the applicant, senior advocate S S Kantak submitted that the structure was existing prior to 1970 and therefore the Goa Land Development and Building Construction Regulations 2010 was not applicable. He said the GCZMA had found that the structure

was beyond 500 mts of the HTL and prayed that the applicant be allowed to operate the business by desalting the premises.

Adv Rohit Bras De Sa, counsel for the original petitioners Sudesh Mayekar told the Court that it was a newly-built structure and relied upon an application for regularisation which presupposes that structure was unauthorised.

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