

Oppn, citizens turn the heat on govt over Madkaikar's bribery charges

Cong writes to Guv seeking CBI investigation; members of civil society submit representation to ACB demanding a probe

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Opposition and the members of the civil society on Thursday stepped up pressure on the government demanding an immediate, impartial and thorough investigation into the bribery allegations made by former minister and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Pandurang Madkaikar against the government.

The Opposition Congress party in a letter to Governor P S Sreedharan Pillai has requested him to order a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the allegations made by the BJP leader.

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Given the nature and severity of the allegations, I respectfully urge you to direct the State government to initiate an investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) under Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and the relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023. A fair and independent probe by the CBI will help ascertain the truth, bring the guilty to justice and restore public confidence in the State's governance

— Sunil Kawthankar,

Goa Pradesh Congress Committee Vice President

I respectfully urge you to direct the State government to initiate an investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) under Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and the relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023. A fair and independent probe by the CBI will help ascertain

the truth, bring the guilty to justice and restore public confidence in the State's governance," Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) Vice President Sunil Kawthankar said.

He said that the serious claim raises grave concerns regarding corruption at the highest levels of gov-

ernance and demands an immediate, impartial and thorough investigation.

Meanwhile, prominent citizens submitted a representation to the Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) demanding a probe into bribery charges made by Madkaikar.

In the complaint, the citizens stated that Madkaikar's allegations suggest that an exorbitant bribe was required to clear a file, indicating deep-rooted corruption within the system.

"This matter raises significant concerns about governance, transparency and adherence to the rule of law in Goa. Given the gravity of the allegation, we request to initiate an immediate and thorough investi-

gation into the matter," they stated.

The citizens have demanded that the authenticity of his claim that he had to pay a bribe of Rs 15-20 lakh to get his file cleared be determined, the officials involved in demanding the bribe or receiving it be identified, action be taken against the offenders if the allegations are true, action be taken against Madkaikar if his allegations are false and ensure transparency and public trust.

"Corruption undermines democracy, hampers development, and erodes public trust in governance. We urge you to take strict and expeditious action against the individuals involved," the citizens stated.

HC notice to govt for building Batim P'yat Ghar 'without acquiring land'

Team Herald

PANJIM: The High Court of Bombay at Goa issued notices to the State government and others in the matter related to acquisition of a private land for construction of a playground and the Batim Village Panchayat Ghar without acquiring the land.

According to the petitioner, Egidio Jose Nazarenio Braganza, an area measuring 335 square metres on Survey Nos. 21/2 and 22/19 of village Batim, were not acquired by the Notification dated 21-01-1997.

The petitioner stated that subsequent to the aforesaid acquisition, playgrounds and a Village Panchayat Ghar were constructed on the acquired land and both are in possession and maintained by the Batim Village Panchayat.

In June 2021, Braganza discovered that a portion of his property, Survey No. 21/2, had been unlawfully enclosed by ex-

cation dated 21-01-1997 under Section 6 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894. And acquired an area from Survey Nos. 19/1 (part), 21/1 (part), 21/3 (part), 21/4 (part), 21/5 (part) and 21/6 (part) of village Batim for the development of a playground at Batim village.

However, Survey Nos. 21/2 and 22/19 of village Batim, were not acquired by the Notification dated 21-01-1997.

The petitioner stated that subsequent to the aforesaid acquisition, playgrounds and a Village Panchayat Ghar were constructed on the acquired land and both are in possession and maintained by the Batim Village Panchayat.

In June 2021, Braganza discovered that a portion of his property, Survey No. 21/2, had been unlawfully enclosed by ex-

tending the compound wall around the playground and the Panchayat Ghar. The encroachment included a portion of Survey No. 21/2 of Village Batim, which rightfully belongs to him.

He stated that the work was carried out taking advantage that he was residing at Mapusa and was unable to visit the property situated at Village Batim on account of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The petitioner further informed me that this work has commenced very recently, taking advantage of the fact that my clients are residents of Mapusa and were unable to visit the property situated at Batim on account of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The petitioner has prayed that the State authorities be directed to initiate the process for acquiring the encroached portion of his properties and to pay adequate compensation to him under the Land Acquisition Act 2013 i.e. Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013.

The matter has been posted for further hearing on April 2.

WRD inspects multi-dwelling villa project at Porvorim Locals accuse Salvador-do-Mundo VP of reducing the proposed 10-metre wide road

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Water Resources Department (WRD) along with villagers on Thursday conducted an inspection against the alleged illegal deep earth digging cavity and filling of low-lying field and part of a wetland by a builder of a multi-dwelling villa project at Paithona, Porvorim.

Rama Naik and Nicholas Nogar, both complainants, were present during the inspection.

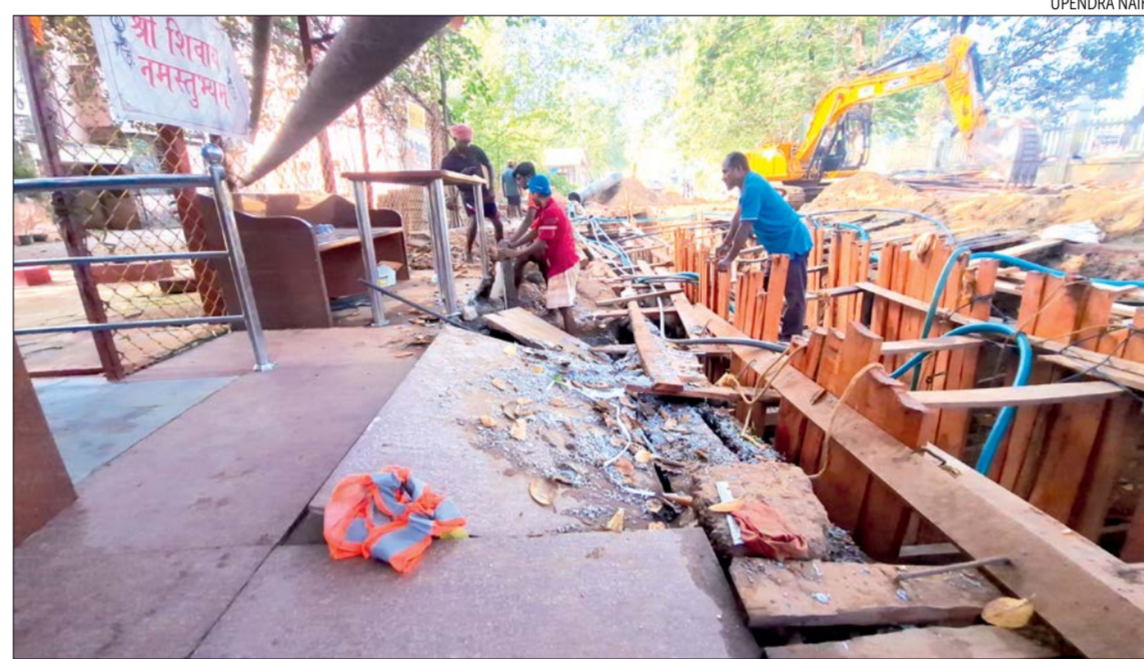
The villagers allege that the proposed 10-metre wide road has been reduced to six metres by the Salvador-do-Mundo

Panchayat, but there was only a pathway of one-metre width. They further claimed that low lying areas and the wetland area had been filled with mud by the project proponent.

The villagers argued that as per the approvals it was clearly mentioned that the builder will construct the road first and then start the construction work. But the builder had already started the construction work.

The locals said that they will write to the Salvador Do Mundo Village Panchayat demanding that the builder be asked to comply with the minimum road width of 10 metres.

DOWN THE DRAIN



The retaining gutter slab near the Taad Maad shrine at St Inez partially collapsed once again, when the workers were laying a 710mm HDPE pipeline as part of the sewerage work for the ongoing Smart City project. A similar incident had occurred in June last year

No plan to allow SEZs in Goa, says Goa-IDC chairman

Alleges some persons with vested interests making deliberate attempts to revive SEZs; says govt scrapped SEZ Policy in 2008

Team Herald

PANJIM: Goa Industrial Development Corporation (Goa-IDC) chairman and MLA Aleixo Reginaldo Lourenco on Thursday said that there was no plan to allow Special Economic Zones (SEZ) in the State when the government had already scrapped SEZ Policy in 2008.

"Some persons with vested interests are making deliberate attempts to revive the SEZs in the State. These are the few people who

Some persons with vested interests are making deliberate attempts to revive the SEZs in the State. These are the few people who are always in the forefront to create confusion
Aleixo Reginaldo Lourenco, Goa-IDC chairman

are always in the forefront to create confusion. The SEZ Policy was scrapped in 2008 following protests by the people in the State," Lourenco alleged.

The Government of India had notified seven SEZs while the State government had sought permissions to establish a total of 15 SEZs in the State and had also

allotted 1,500 acres of land mostly at Verna through the Goa IDC.

In October last year, Power Minister Ramakrishna 'Sudin' Dhavalikar had clarified that the government had no plans to revive SEZs and had allayed apprehensions that the Goa Tamnar Transmission Project Limited was to facilitate SEZs in the State.

However, Goa Foundation Director Claude Alvares had charged that the State government was preparing the ground to set up five SEZs in Goa via the Tamnar project.

Alvares had stated that while inspecting the files in the Electricity Department, he had come across that the department had proposed an additional 220 kv line to be installed on 400 kv transmission line and the reasons given was to allow five SEZs at different locations across the State.

Moira house raided, eight held for cricket betting

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Mapusa Police conducted a raid at a house in Pirazon, Moira, and arrested eight persons for allegedly running an illegal betting operation during Champions Trophy matches.

According to police, Rs 2 lakh in cash, mobile phones, laptops and routers used for the betting activities were seized during the raid.

The gang was handling transactions by luring the bettors with high returns. They were using digital wallets to evade detection.

The accused have been identified as Pradeep Kumar Sharma, 34, Omprakash Kumar Yogi, 28, Rakesh Kumar Darji, 25, all from Rajasthan, Sanjay Laxmandas Lalwani, 28, Deepak Sudhir Bagga, 36, Laxmikant Parasram Joshi, all from Nagpur, Maharashtra, Krishna Mahender Mukhiya, 24, from Darbhanga, Bihar, and Sparsh Lalit Bhargava, 32, from Delhi.

The accused were produced before (JMFC) Mapusa and remanded in six days police custody.

power shutdown

DABOLIM: On March 8, from 9 am to 3 pm. Affected areas are Dabolim Junction, Umiya Building near Dabolim Airport. **CURTORIM:** On March 8, from 9 am to 7 pm. Affected areas are Bhatti DTC and Sanduel areas. **MARGAO:** On March 8, from 9 am to 6 pm. Affected areas are Devrai building and surrounding areas.

Goa's first STEM lab inaugurated at Sada

Team Herald

VASCO: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant inaugurated Goa's first STEM lab at Murgao School, Sada, in the presence of Mormugao MLA Sankalp Amonkar.

The lab aims to foster creativity, innovation, and a strong interest in science among students. Sawant announced plans to expand STEM labs across the State and encouraged students from other schools to visit the Murgao facility and benefit from its resources.

"The government has already introduced coding, robotics, and provided free equipment to schools. This interactive panel-based STEM lab will be highly beneficial, and teachers should maximise its use for students," he said.

Amonkar thanked the CM for selecting his constituency for Goa's first STEM lab, stating that it would be of great benefit to students.

No relief for Goa from intense heat

IMD predicts hot and humid conditions on Mar 7 & 8; max temp to be around 35 to 37 °C

Team Herald

PANJIM: The coastal State is experiencing persistent rise in temperatures with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Goa on Thursday issuing a heat warning, forecasting hot and humid conditions to prevail over isolated pockets of South and North districts on March 7 and 8, as temperatures are expected to hover around 35 to 37 degree Celsius.

"Hot and humid conditions are very likely to prevail over isolated pockets of North and South Goa on March 7 and 8. Weather is very likely to be dry over North Goa and South Goa districts of the State. Maximum temperatures are very likely to prevail between 35-37 Celsius over Goa. Shallow to moderate fog is very likely in the morning," the IMD said in a statement.

The weather office also

FORECAST FOR NEXT 24 HOURS

■ Maximum and minimum temperatures in Panjim and Mormugao, are likely to be around 36°C and 25°C respectively in the next 24 hours

TEMP IN THE LAST 24 HOURS

■ Highest max temp: 36.8°C recorded in Panjim
■ Lowest minimum temperature: 25.0°C recorded at Dabolim ending on March 6, 2024

Hot and humid conditions are very likely to prevail over isolated pockets of North and South Goa on March 7 and 8. Weather is very likely to be dry over North Goa and South Goa districts of the State. Maximum temperatures are very likely to prevail between 35-37 Celsius over Goa. Shallow to moderate fog is very likely in the morning

— India Meteorological Department

said that in Panjim and Mormugao, maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to be around 36°C and 25°C respectively during the next 24 hours.

Meanwhile, the highest maximum temperature of 36.8°C was recorded in Panjim, while lowest minimum

temperature of 25.0°C was recorded at Dabolim during the last 24 hours ending on March 6, 2024.

Meanwhile, Directorate of Health Services (DHS) has issued a public health advisory in anticipation of the upcoming heat season for safeguarding self and others

DHS ADVISORY

■ People advised to consume lemon-based drinks, coconut water, buttermilk, ORS, watermelon, muskmelon, oranges, cucumber, etc
■ Use head coverings/ umbrellas plus sunscreen and light coloured, loose cotton clothes when venturing outside
■ Not to move out be-

tween 12-3 pm

■ Avoid tea/coffee/alcohol/soft drinks
■ Not to consume oily, high protein diet
■ Against leaving children, pets, etc, in closed parked car
■ Avoid cooking in afternoon
■ Complete cooking at cooler times

from heat related illnesses.

DHS has advised people to stay hydrated-by consuming liquids such as water, lemon based drinks, coconut water, buttermilk, ORS and watery fruits and vegetables like watermelon, muskmelon, oranges, cucumber etc, use head coverings/ umbrellas plus sunscreen and light coloured, loose cotton clothes when venturing outside.

It has also advised to avoid moving out between 12-3 pm especially on days that heat alerts are announced, avoid tea/coffee/alcohol/soft drinks, avoid oily, high protein diet, avoid leaving children, pets, etc, in closed parked car as temperatures could increase markedly and avoid cooking at afternoon and high temperatures- complete cooking at cooler times.

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