

Decision to lease Shyama Prasad stadium against spirit of sports, says Congress

Says it amounts to betrayal of public trust, alleges BJP willing to 'sell' Goa

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Congress and Citizens For Democracy on Saturday opposed leasing of Shyama Prasad Mukherjee multipurpose indoor stadium to a private party.

The Congress alleged that the BJP government had once again exposed its anti-people and corrupt governance by deciding to lease out the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium. This reckless decision is not only a betrayal of public trust but also a clear indication that the BJP is willing to sell Goa piece by piece for its selfish gains.



The stadium, named after the founder of RSS's Jana Sangh, was built with public money for the promotion of sports and the development

of Goan athletes. Instead of utilising it for the welfare of sportspersons, the Sawant-led government is handing it over to private entities

which is against the spirit of sports. This move raises serious concerns about the BJP's intentions - if they can lease out a stadium named

after their ideological founder, what stops them from selling Goa's land, heritage, and natural resources to crony capitalists? Asked Congress leaders.

The protestors said that it was anti-Goan decision and demanded immediate rollback. "We will not allow the BJP to continue looting Goa. We call upon all Goans to unite and resist this systematic destruction of our State," they said.

On the other hand, Citizens For Democracy convenor and former bureaucrat Elvis Gomes claimed that the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee indoor stadium

was located on the Goa University land and it cannot be leased without permission of the executive council of the University.

"The State government is on a gifting spree to the private sector," said Elvis and said that he had written to the Goa University stating that under no circumstances the Varsity should allow privatisation of the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee indoor stadium at Bambolim. He also claimed that he was responsible for the construction of this stadium and also recalled that in the past BJP had opposed privatisation and PPP model.

shorttakes

SCOOTER COLLISION CLAIMS ONE LIFE IN MARGAO

MARGAO: A collision between two scooters resulted in the death of Abdul Bashakadri from Sao Jose de Areal. The accident occurred near Carbon Factory, Nessai, when Sharad Malkarnekar from Quepem, riding a scooter, allegedly drove recklessly and crashed into an oncoming scooter. Bashakadri succumbed to his injuries at South Goa District Hospital (SGDH), Margao. Malkarnekar also sustained injuries. Maina Curtorim police conducted an inquest, and a post-mortem confirmed head and chest injuries due to blunt force trauma.

MAN BOOKED FOR OUTRAGING WOMAN'S MODESTY IN NUVEM

MARGAO: Maina Curtorim police have registered a case against Mahendra Singh Rawat of Murda Piqueno, Nuvem, for allegedly outraging a woman's modesty. According to the complaint, on March 1, Rawat made inappropriate remarks at the woman. When the woman's husband and son confronted him, Rawat allegedly threatened them with a machete (koita).

MISSING GUJARAT FARMER FOUND IN QUEPEM

MARGAO: A Gujarat farmer who was missing for four days was traced in Quepem by a police team led by LPSI Veronica Coutinho. Sagar Baraiya from Bhavnagar, Gujarat, had reported his cousin, Ashokbhai Premjibhai Baraiya, missing. Police tracked Ashokbhai's movements from Margao to Guddi and eventually found him in Ambaulim, Quepem. Two blacksmiths who were last seen with him were booked under preventive measures. The farmer was handed over to his relatives. The case was supervised by SP South, Tikam Singh Verma.

MAN ARRESTED FOR IMPERSONATION AND FRAUD IN MARGAO

MARGAO: Shabrish Manjrekar from Borda-Margao, has been arrested for impersonation and fraud. Investigations revealed that he employed a female manager in his illegally operated business, "SM Home Care Services," registered in Verna since 2016. Manjrekar allegedly posed as a licensed contractor and duped the woman by offering her a caretaker's job with a high salary. He took Rs 25,000 from employer Shyam Naik but never paid the victim. Police seized documents and Aadhar details of maids recruited by him. PSI Subhash Gaonkar is investigating the case.

HIT-AND-RUN IN FATORDA LEAVES TWO INJURED

MARGAO: A hit-and-run incident at Agali Junction left two people seriously injured. A motorcycle rider, yet to be identified, allegedly rode recklessly and crashed into a scooter, injuring Shrinivas Nayak and his pillion rider Purna Nayak from Fatorda. The motorcyclist fled the scene without assisting the victims or informing the police.

Cong to field 50 pc women candidates for ZP polls

Team Herald

PANJIM: All India Mahila Congress President Alka Lamba on Saturday said that the Goa Pradesh Mahila Congress will try to field 50 per cent women candidates for the Zilla (ZP) Panchayat elections scheduled in December this year.

Lamba also said they are in the process of building the Goa Pradesh Mahila Congress organisation and identifying 40 women leaders who could be fielded for the State assembly elections in 2027.

Speaking to reporters in the presence of newly-appointed GPMC president Dr Pratiksha Khalap at the Congress House, Panjim, Lamba said, "We are having the zilla panchayat elections in December and our party will have 33 per cent reservation for women. For all seats reserved for women as well as general seats, we are getting ready with women who can contest, and you will see 50 per cent of the total seats will be contested by women."

"For the Assembly 2027 in Goa, we are pressuring the Government of India to im-

plement the 33 per cent reservation for women. We will identify 40 women leaders who can contest and win. We will ask women across the State who want to contest and we will propose their names to the party high command," she said.

Lamba said the All India Mahila Congress is fighting across the country demanding implementation of 33 per cent women's reservation in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.

"The BJP-led government at the Centre is against women. The bill has been passed, yet it has not been implemented. This is betrayal and injustice by the BJP government. As we have been protesting across the country on this issue, we plan to gear up the Goa Chief Minister as well as raise the issue outside the Goa Assembly, for its enforcement.

Expressing her concern over increasing crimes against women in the State, Lamba said that the Mahila Congress will force the government that the issue of women's safety be discussed in the Assembly. "We will raise the issues of safety, equality and price rise for women," she said.

Retain buffer zone as per Regional Plan 2021, say Mulgao villagers

Demand houses, temples and schools be excluded from mining lease areas

Team Herald

BICHOLIM: The Mulgao villagers on Saturday demanded to retain buffer zone as per the Regional Plan 2021 and also threatened to take out a morcha on the Goa Assembly at Porvorim to seek their demands including removal of houses from the mining lease.

The meeting of villagers was convened at the Kelbai Temple hall, to brief the villagers about the meeting held before the North Goa Collector at Panjim last week which remained inconclusive with the villagers being firm on their demands.

The villagers have now

MORE GOA NEWS ON PG 7 & 9

heshwar Parab and activist Swapnesh Sherlekar were present and they expressed their views.

Gad said that the villagers have been fighting against indiscriminate mining activity in the village for the last nearly two years and demanded that houses and temples be removed from the mining lease. He said that the government had told them to adopt resolution in the village panchayat and they completed all the procedures but till date the government had failed to resolve the issue.

Parab said that if required the villagers will march to the Goa Assembly to seek their demands.

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