

There was no proper link road to the Tuem Electronic City housing the Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC) and it was causing major connectivity issues for businesses, workers, and logistics.
— Jit Arolkar, Mandrem MLA

HEARD IN THE HOUSE

The government will acquire land of about 2.30 km in length and around 30-35 metres in width for the proposed four-lane road. The proposal of land acquisition for construction of approach road to the Tuem Electronic City has been submitted in the Office of Deputy Collector, Pernem
— Pramod Sawant, Chief Minister

The government talks about development. Have we seen a developed Goa in the last three years? Has the government set a target for jobs? Has it promised government jobs to the youth? Therefore, we do not see how a developed Goa is going to be
— Venzy Viegas, Benaulim MLA

Akshay Patra: Oppn accuses govt of sidelining local SHGs

MLAs rush to the well of the House; demand discussion on government's decision to introduce Akshay Patra kitchen to provide mid-day meals

Team Herald

PORVORIM: The Opposition members on Tuesday rushed to the well of the House demanding discussion on the government's decision to introduce Akshay Patra in the State to provide mid-day meals to school students.

Speaker Ramesh Tawadkar told them that the matter has been listed for Wednesday.

Leader of the Opposition Yuri Alemao said that the calling attention notice signed by six MLAs was not listed for the day and that another calling attention notice which was to be tabled on Wednesday, was listed on Tuesday's agenda. The Opposition demanded a ruling by the Speaker.

UPROAR IN HOUSE

- Speaker Tawadkar told Opposition MLAs that the matter has been listed for Wednesday
- Opposition legislators said the calling attention notice signed by six MLAs was not listed for the day
- Said another notice which was to be tabled on

Wednesday, was listed on Tuesday's agenda

■ Demanded a ruling by the Speaker

■ The Opposition demanded a discussion on the issue

■ Accused the govt of sidelining local SHGs, who have been supplying mid-day meal to schools

mid-day meals cooked by Akshay Patra, part of the Iskcon movement.

Sawant said the State government has decided to start their services on a trial basis as their food is of a very high quality.

BIG FIGHT

"Students will get good quality and nutritious food which will promote good physical and mental health," he had said.

"We plan to slowly increase their food supply to more schools, besides hospitals and other government facilities, but without

stopping any of the existing self-help-groups which already supply food. A second kitchen will be started in south Goa also," he said.

Sawant said it was befitting that the Akshay Patra kitchen, set up at a cost of Rs 3 crore, is starting on the death anniversary of late Manohar Parrikar who was a hostel mate of their founder Madhu Pandit Dasa at IIT, Mumbai.

"Manohar Parrikar always wanted to start an Akshay Patra in Goa and now his dream has come true. Goa is the 18th State where they have a presence," he said.

The kitchen has a capacity to provide 5,000 meals within one hour which is useful during disaster management, he added.

Muthalik's entry will finish off tourism in Goa: Oppn

Fatorda MLA asks govt if it was trying to create a law-and-order situation

Team Herald

PORVORIM: Slamming the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government for allowing Sri Ram Sene chief Pramod Muthalik to enter the State, the Opposition questioned the government if it was trying to create a law-and-order situation and finish off tourism.

Replying to the Governor's Address in the State Legislative Assembly, Goa Forward Party president Vijai Sardesai said, "Manohar Parrikar had imposed a ban on Sri Ram Sene. Why? Because their chief would make communal and inflammatory speeches. Was Parrikar mad or has Muthalik changed his ways? He entered the State and spoke about 'love jihad'."

The Fatorda MLA said, "He (Muthalik) had gone to the Supreme Court to get the ban lifted but the SC said it will not lift the ban since

he does moral policing." "Isn't 'love jihad' moral policing? What is the government's stand on this? Is the government trying to create a law-and-order situation and finish tourism?" he asked.

BIG ISSUE

Sardesai said, "It is clear that any confusion created will have an impact on tourism. Till date, the Goans have refused to allow this spark of communal tension to spread. The government is going out of the way to destroy this brotherhood. Is this (being done) to create a diversion from scams?" he asked.

Pointing out that several BJP MLAs in Goa took people to see the Hindi-film

'Chhaava', which is based on the life of Sambhaji, son of Maratha king Chhatrapati Shivaji, Sardesai said, "History is to be learnt from books written by historians. Devendra Fadnis said in Maharashtra Assembly that violence in Nagpur occurred because people were instigated by this movie. And your MLAs are going and showing this movie."

Muthalik's entry in Goa was banned in 2014 - when Parrikar was the chief minister - after the former had announced his decision to set up his outfit in Goa and "fight against drug, alcohol and pub culture".

The decision to impose a ban on Muthalik's entry was based on police reports which said that the entry of members of Sri Ram Sene and its leader could lead to a law-and-order problem and his statements "will affect peace, harmony and create fear in the minds of the public".

Mundkars advised to file police complaint if denied water, power connections

Team Herald

PORVORIM: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Tuesday stated that mundkars should file police complaints if landowners deny the benefit of essentials such as water and electricity connections and toilet facilities.

Replying to a starred question tabled by Mayem MLA Anant Shet regarding protection to mundkars, Sawant intervened and stated no separate NOC is required for these basic amenities and that landowners cannot stop them from obtaining water and electricity connections and construction of a toilet within three metres of his house. A mundkar will

avail these basic amenities even before finalising the mundkarial declaration, he added.

However, Sawant clarified that mundkarial declaration is only necessary for renovation and rebuilding of the house.

Shet highlighted the hardships faced by mundkars due to undue interference from landowners and called for amendment in the Goa Mundkarial Act, 1975, in order to streamline the process and mitigate their hardships.

In his reply Revenue Minister Atanasio 'Babush' Monserrate asserted that the Goa Mundkarial Act provides for resolution of all the issues. The Act is enacted to give protection

to mundkars from eviction from dwelling houses and to grant them a right to purchase their houses. He informed that of the 2,500-odd cases, as many as 2,300 cases were disposed of in the last three years but another 1,800-odd cases were registered. Since there is no sunset clause, more and more cases continue to get registered, he added.

Shet said that due to a dispute between the landlord and the mundkar, the former denies the latter the benefit of essentials such as water and electricity connection and toilet facility. He urged the government to work out effective measures to expedite pending mundkarial cases and to provide relief to the Mundkar.

'Sattari Alvara land right holders still not rightful owners'

Team Herald

PORVORIM: Poriem MLA Deviya Rane on Tuesday stated that there was fear and anxiety in the minds of the people of Sattari taluka, who have inherited and are holding rights to Alvara Grants of Lands made by the government and have not been able to become rightful owners even after a century.

Rane raised this issue during Zero Hour in the Legislative Assembly and said that title holder is not clear and that the land holders are in a state of legal uncertainty. Land was given to them by the colonial Portuguese for agriculture use. Rane said that on December 11, 2017 the cabinet had decided to regularise them by paying a fixed amount. About 2,000 applications from Sattari taluka are pending for regularisation, she added.

Revenue Minister Atanasio 'Babush' Monserrate assured her that the government will look into the matter.

The MLA urged the government to release Grants-in-Aid to village panchayats from Sattari taluka. She said that 13 village panchayats from Sattari taluka are facing difficulties due to non-release of Grant-In-Aid (GIA) for three financial years.

Govt to examine HC order on illegal constructions

CM says will study Panchayat Dept's memo before deciding on the future course of action

Team Herald

PORVORIM: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Tuesday assured Members in the Legislative Assembly that the government will examine the High Court of Bombay at Goa's order dated March 6, 2025 regarding illegal constructions and the Directorate of Panchayats' memorandum issued in compliance with it before deciding on the future course of action.

The High Court had directed authorities to curb illegal constructions across Goa, emphasising the need to protect the State's fragile ecosystem. Municipal councils, the Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP) and the village panchayats were

instructed to inspect roadways, highways, and major roads within their respective jurisdiction and to submit reports on illegal structures within four weeks.

In line with this, on March 13, the Directorate of Panchayats wrote to village panchayats, Block Development Officers (BDOs) and panchayat secretaries to take phased action against illegal constructions, categorised into eight different categories such as illegal structures along national highways, roadsides, commercial buildings in municipal and panchayat areas, on government property, on comunidade lands and tenanted lands and constructions on paddy fields.

As part of compliance, the government has initiated a survey to identify such structures. This has triggered uncertainty among village panchayats and municipal councils and also triggered panic among people, especially in areas where land records are an unsorted and contentious issue.

Leader of the Opposition Yuri Alemao raised the issue before the start of the Question Hour and said that it was a serious issue and that the Chief Minister should make a statement.

The Chief Minister assured him that he will make a statement about the government's action after going through the circular and reading the High Court Order.

Police force facing crunch of nearly 1,000 staff across ranks: CM

Team Herald

PORVORIM: The Goa Police force was facing a shortage of nearly 1,000 personnel of different ranks, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant told the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday.

"As against the total sanctioned strength of 7,791 posts, 910 are vacant as only 6,881 police personnel are currently working in the department. The shortage is seen across all the ranks in the police force," Sawant said in reply to a question tabled by Navelim MLA Ulhas Tuenkar.

At the highest rank, the post of Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) is vacant. One post of Superintendent of Police is vacant, while of nine sanctioned vacancies for Deputy Commandant of India Reserve Battalion (IRB), all the posts are vacant, the data submitted in the House revealed.

Similarly, out of the 21 sanctioned posts of Deputy Superintendent of Police for IRB, only two are filled, while all others are vacant, it said.

Out of the 42 sanctioned posts of Deputy Superintendent of Police, only 26 are filled, it added.

The post of PSI faces the highest shortage. There are 514 posts of PSIs sanctioned, of which 331 are filled. There is also a shortage across the ranks like head constable and constables, it said.

FRAMED IN THE HOUSE



Opposition MLAs demand discussion on Akshay Patra



Venzy Viegas joins the discussion

Rohan Khaunte replies to calling attention notice on Old Goa issue



Fatorda MLA Vijai Sardesai makes a point in the Assembly

Four-lane road to Tuem Electronic City by October, House told

Skill development centre at Electronic Manufacturing Cluster to start from June: CM

Team Herald

PORVORIM: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Tuesday told the Goa Legislative Assembly that the long pending construction four-lane road connecting National Highway-66 to the Tuem Electronic City will be completed within the next six months i.e. by October this year.

Replying to a starred question tabled by Mandrem MLA Jit Arolkar regarding road connectivity to the Tuem Electronic City, the Chief Minister stated that 80 per cent of land acquisition for the road is complete, and the remaining 20 per cent will be finalised by April, as the landowner has agreed to give his consent. Sawant assured the

House that he would personally visit the site with local MLAs. Additionally, he confirmed that the skill development centre at the Tuem Electronic Manufacturing Cluster will commence operations from June this year.

Arolkar said that there was no proper link road to the Tuem Electronic City housing the Electronics Manufacturing Cluster

(EMC) and it was causing major connectivity issues for businesses, workers, and logistics.

Sawant that the government will acquire land of about 2.30 km in length and around 30-35 metres in width for the proposed four-lane road. The proposal of land acquisition for construction of approach road to the Tuem Electronic City

has been submitted in the Office of Deputy Collector, Pernem.

He also told the MLA that the basic infrastructure works had already been completed, while 14 plots were also allotted to the entrepreneurs.

Leader of the Opposition Yuri Alemao said Amarnath Naik, a farmer, was paid a compensation of paltry Rs 40,000.

Old Secretariat to house museum in honour of late Mario Miranda: CM

Team Herald

PORVORIM: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Tuesday said the government is in the process of establishing a state-of-the-art museum at Old Secretariat building in honour of late Mario de Miranda and a committee for the same has been constituted under the chairmanship of Secretary (Museum).

Replying to a calling attention notice tabled by Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemao, the Chief Minister said, the government

has utmost respect for Padma Vibhushan late Mario de Miranda and fully agrees that a state of the art government museum is required to be set up in honour of late Mario de Miranda depicting his art work which will be a fitting tribute to his remarkable contribution in field of Art and Culture.

"The Department of Museum is already in the process of establishing a State of Art Museum at the Old Secretariat Building (Adil Shah Palace). Few galleries in this Museum shall be dedicated

solely to the late Mario de Miranda," he said.

He said the government has already set up a committee to establish the Museum at Old Secretariat Building with the Secretary (Museum) being its Chairman and Principal Chief Engineer or his Representative, Public Works Department, Marwin C Gomes, Chief Architect, Public Works Department, Arch Ketak Nachinolkar, Conservation Architect, Natasha Da Costa Fernandes, Curator, Museum of Christian Art, Baiju Parthian, well known Artist, Rohit Phal-

gaonkar, Expert of Goan History and Archaeology, Karmal (Prita) Sardesai, well known Architect, Querezito De Souza, well known Painter, Anjali Sen, former Director of National Gallery of Modern Art, Viraj Naik, well known painter, Prashant Panjiar, well known photojournalist and Tallulah D'Silva, well known architect, as members and Director of Museums, being Member Secretary.

The committee will be asked to establish the Mario de Miranda Museum or Art Galleries and oversee the project.