

Cong, artistes slam Kala Academy fiasco

Delegation demands minister's resignation over recurring technical failures and derogatory remarks

Team Herald

PANJIM: In a scathing attack on the State government, a delegation comprising Congress leaders and artistes visited the Kala Academy on Sunday, questioning the authorities over the recurring technical failures at Goa's premier cultural institution and calling for the resignation of Art and Culture Minister Govind Gaude.

The delegation also demanded that Minister Gaude publicly apologise to veteran actor Sharad Ponskhe and the wider artistic community for derogatory labelling Ponskhe a 'Suparibaaz' following the disruption of his performance last week due to lighting issues at the Academy.

They further claimed that the renovation of the iconic institution—designed by renowned architect Charles Correa—had tarnished Goa's reputation in the cultural domain.

"Earlier, when we used to come



Today, that capacity is missing. Art lovers pay to have a good experience here, but now it is in total mess

John Nazareth,
President, Santa Cruz Cong Committee

Before performing on any stage, artistes rehearse for weeks or even months. We can only imagine the pain they go through when their programmes are disrupted

Jitendra Gaonkar, Congress leader

to Kala Academy as artistes and as audience members, the sound system was so good that even the slightest sound would be picked up," said John Nazareth, President of the Santa Cruz Congress Committee.

"Today, that capacity is missing. Art lovers pay to have a good experience here, but now it

is in total mess."

Congress leader and advocate Jitendra Gaonkar condemned the minister's remarks and criticised the state's apparent disregard for the efforts of the artistic community.

"Before performing on any stage, artistes rehearse for

weeks or even months. We can only imagine the pain they go through when their programmes are disrupted," he said. "But the sad part is that Art and Culture Minister Govind Gaude, despite being an artiste himself, fails to understand this. On the contrary, he insults artistes by calling

them 'Suparibaaz'."

"Does this mean that artistes cannot question the authorities? Is there no freedom of expression in the country? We live in a democratic nation. A person who questions the system should not be demeaned in this way," Gaonkar added.

The Kala Academy has once again found itself in the spotlight for all the wrong reasons. Just a week after technical issues disrupted a Marathi play by Sharad Ponskhe, another production—'Shrimant Damodarant', featuring popular actor Bharat Jadhav—faced interruptions on Sunday when the air-conditioning system failed mid-performance.

The delegation criticised what they described as the government's failure to ensure basic functioning infrastructure at a venue of such cultural importance, demanding immediate accountability from those responsible.

Fair price shop owners threaten protest over long-pending demands

Team Herald

PANJIM: Fair price shop owners across Goa have threatened to march to the Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs office in Panjim on Friday, April 25, to press for long-pending demands and seek clarity on unresolved issues affecting their operations.

The All Goa Consumer Cooperative Society and Fair Price Shop Owners Association has written to Jayant Tari, Director of Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs and Member Secretary of the government-constituted committee, urging him to disclose the status and timeline of decisions regarding their grievances. The association said this would potentially save 452 fair price shop owners from having to travel to Panjim to voice their concerns in person.

One of the key demands is the reimbursement of over Rs 1 cr for services rendered during the free distribution of foodgrains, for which payments are still pending.

In a letter addressed to Jayant Tari, the association's General Secretary Gandhi Henriques stated:

"All the fair price shop owners and society members have long been agitating against our non-viable situation in respect of the essential services we have been providing under the public distribution system, delivering essential commodities to ration card holders."

He further added, "We have all decided to visit your office on April 25 to explain our plight, which our managing committee had earlier presented to your predecessor Gopal A Parsekar. He was very kind, held several meetings with us, and promptly took up our case, resulting in the formation of the government-constituted committee to address our issues."

The association is now seeking immediate intervention and resolution to their grievances, warning of further action if their concerns remain unaddressed.

shorttakes

BENGALURU TOURISTS CAUGHT STEALING JEWELLERY FROM CANDOLIM SHOPS

CALANGUTE: Three tourists from Bengaluru were apprehended by the tourist security force for allegedly stealing imitation jewellery, including a bracelet, from shops in Candolim. Passersby who witnessed the theft alerted tourist police stationed at the Candolim promenade. The trio attempted to flee across the beach but were quickly intercepted and taken into custody.

ILLEGAL HILL CUTTING REPORTED IN SIRVOI-QUEPEM

MARGAO: Saurab Naik, Overseer at the Office of the Deputy Town Planner, Quepem, has filed a complaint with Quepem Police regarding illegal hill cutting and land development at Survey Nos. 62/3-A and 122/1-C of Sirvoi Village. The area, marked as a partial settlement zone and paddy field with no-development slope under the Regional Plan of Goa 2021, was allegedly developed without permission from the relevant authorities. The offence has been registered under Section 17(A) of the TCP Act. PSI Somesh Prabhudesai is investigating.

NEPALI YOUTH SUCCUMBS TO INJURIES AFTER CORTALIM FLYOVER ACCIDENT

MARGAO: Naisara Dangi 26, a native of Nepal, residing in Porvorim, succumbed to injuries sustained in a self-accident at Goa Medical College (GMC), Bambolim, Verna police confirmed. The police received a wireless message from PI Agassaim reporting that Dangi, admitted to GMC since February 15, 2025 following a vehicular accident, had died during treatment. Investigations revealed that Dangi was travelling as a pillion rider on a scooter from Margao to Panaji. The two-wheeler was being ridden by Ramesh Tomata of Patto, Panaji, originally from Dang, Nepal. The duo met with an accident on the Cortalim flyover, leading to both riders falling and sustaining injuries. Dangi later succumbed to his injuries.

MAN BOOKED FOR THEFT OF BUILDING MATERIALS IN CACORA

MARGAO: Curcholem Police have registered a case following a complaint by Varun Kudchadkar of Curcholem, who alleged that Ivo Fernandes of Pongirwal, Cacora, stole building materials including tiles, laterite stones, and Kota stones, valued at Rs 10,000, from Survey No. 1818 at Pongirwal. The offence has been booked under Sections 303(2) and 305 of the BNS, 2023.

QUEPEM LOCALS WANT SAFETY MEASURES ON KARALI ROAD

MARGAO: Following a recent crash, Quepem residents have called for immediate safety measures on the dangerous Karali road near the petrol pump. According to locals, the narrow road with a sharp turn has witnessed numerous accidents, yet authorities have taken no preventive action. Frustrated by this inaction, the community has now advocated the urgent need for improvements such as warning signs, speed breakers, or road widening to prevent future incidents. As concerns grow, they cautioned that further delays could result in more tragedies on the hazardous stretch.

power shutdown

CURTORIM: On April 22, from 8 am to 3 pm, at Raitolem DTC and Pandicol DTC, Curtorim. Affected areas are Raitolem, Sandeule, Cumbord, Pandicol, Argical and Anvotem.

CHANDOR: On April 22, from 8 am to 2 pm on 11KV Goa Carbon Feeder. Affected areas is Ralloi and surrounding areas.

OLD GOA: On April 22, from 9 am to 2 pm, on 11 KV Carambolim Feeder. Affected areas are Ella Farm, Vineeth Vision (Albert Developers), C3 Fernandes, Katyebhat, Jai Bhavan and Katyebhat area of Old Goa Village

OLD GOA: On April 23, from 9 am to 2 pm, on 11 KV Carambolim/Old Goa Feeder. Affected areas are Edmar, Pinto Garage, Goa Bazar, Mannat, ICAR colony, Dotorbhat, Peribhat, SFX 1, SFX 2, SFX 3, SFX building Old Goa and Vicinity of Old Goa Village.

PONDA: On April 23, from 9 am to 2 pm, at Ravinagar T/C, Ponda. Affected areas are Ravinagar Khadpabandh. At Sairaj I and II Akash T/C, Ponda. Affected areas are Sairaj Park and surrounding areas. At ID Hospital T/C, Ponda. Affected areas are ID Hospital and surrounding areas.

CHANDOR: On April 23, from 8 am to 2 pm, on 11 KV Chandor Feeder (By opening Guirdolim S/o AB switch). Affected areas are Guirdolim, Mushroom Garden, Batchar, Rohinibhat, Moll and Novetem.

BATORA: On April 23, from 8 am to 3 pm, at Batora DTC, Curtorim. Affected areas is Batora.

PONDA: On April 24, from 9 am to 2 pm, at Friends Colony T/C, Khadpabandh Garden I, Ponda. Affected areas are Friends Colony, Khadpabandh and surrounding area.

OBSTACLE COURSE



The pavement on Rua de Ourem, next to the old Patto Bridge lies ripped open, a jumble of pipes and cables exposed, leaving pedestrians no choice but to walk on the road. The entire stretch of the footpath lining the creek has been dug up, mud and pavers left carelessly around

Missing children reunited with families at Calangute

Team Herald

CALANGUTE: Two children who went missing over the weekend at Calangute beach were swiftly traced and reunited with their families, thanks to prompt action by lifesavers and beach marshals. In the first incident, a six-year-old boy from Karnataka was found and handed over to his uncle after completion of handover protocol. In a separate case, a seven-year-old girl from Shimoga, Karnataka, was also

reported missing and was soon located by a beach marshal, who reunited her with her family.

At Baga, a 28-year-old man from Hyderabad panicked after entering a pocket of deep water in the river and was rescued by a lifesaver using a rescue tube. He was later handed over to his friends. Additionally, a 34-year-old man from Karnataka sustained minor injuries after being struck by a wave at Calangute beach and was administered first aid on-site by a lifesaver.

Goa govt hikes DA to 55%, revised rates effective from Jan

Team Herald

PANJIM: The State government has increased the Dearness Allowance (DA) for its employees and for staff of grant-in-aid (GIA) educational institutions to 55 per cent.

Adopting the Office Memorandum issued by the Government of India on 2 April, the State has revised the DA from 53 per cent to 55 per cent of Basic Pay, effective from 1 January 2025.

The hike applies to government employees and GIA institution staff drawing pay and allowances as per the pay order dated 30 November 2016.

The revised DA will be disbursed from May 2025, along with arrears for the months of January to April 2025.

MMC to crack down on encroachments

Team Herald

MARGAO: After a prolonged delay, the Margao Municipal Council (MMC) is finally set to take decisive action against individuals who have encroached upon council-owned properties.

This development follows a directive from the High Court, prompting the civic body to expedite its efforts to reclaim land spread across various parts of Salcete taluka.

MMC Chairperson Damodar Shirodkar confirmed that the council has already identified several encroached properties and will soon submit a comprehensive report to the High Court, detailing the issue and the proposed course of action.

"We have already prepared the list and identified the properties which have been encroached by individuals. There are High Court directions on

the issue and the civic body will follow the same once the report is submitted to the court," Shirodkar stated. The encroachment issue is not new. In 2022, former Chief Officer Rohit Kadam had issued directives to assess and compile a list of properties and open spaces donated or gifted to the MMC. However, little action was taken in the years since, raising concerns over land misuse and illegal occupation.

Repeated calls by municipal officials and citizens have urged the council to verify and safeguard its properties. Concerns have been particularly strong regarding plots in Curtorim, Benaullim, Margao, and Fatorda, where nearly 50 properties—either wholly or partially donated to the MMC—remain vulnerable due to lack of oversight.

The matter gained traction when residents and

councillors began reporting suspicious activity on council-owned land.

MMC Councillor Mahesh Amonkar had earlier raised the alarm after discovering a property in his ward being misused by a private entity for business purposes.

Amonkar expressed shock at the council's ignorance of the property's status and its failure to take preventive measures. "There have been instances of private parties misusing council land, and despite earlier efforts to verify and secure these properties, nothing concrete was done," he said.

Chairperson Shirodkar assured that the council is now treating the matter with seriousness and is committed to reclaiming and protecting its assets. He emphasised that legal action would be taken against encroachers without hesitation.

Minor girl goes missing in Sanguem, kidnapping suspected

Team Herald

MARGAO: Sanguem police have registered a case of kidnapping against an unknown person after a minor girl went missing near the PHC, Sanguem, on Saturday morning. The girl, originally from Gumla, Jharkhand, and currently residing with the complainant in a village in Sanguem taluka, disappeared at around 9.15 am on 19 April 2025,

without the complainant's knowledge. An offence has been registered under Section 137(2) of the BNS, 2023, and under the Goa Children's Act, 2003.

Police have circulated detailed descriptions of the missing girl across Goa and neighbouring states via wireless messages in efforts to trace her. Further investigation is being handled by PSI Krishnadeep Borkar of Sanguem Police Station.

'Waqf Amendment Bill is a constitutional, not religious, concern'

Team Herald

PANJIM: Political analyst Trajano D'Mello on Monday asserted that the Waqf Amendment Bill is not a religious matter but rather a violation of constitutional rights.

Speaking to reporters, Trajano said, "The Waqf Bill is a constitutional concern. It is not merely a religious issue but a constitutional one. We firmly believe the Bill violates the spirit of Article 25 and Article 26 of the Constitution of India, which guarantees the freedom of religion and the autonomy of religious institutions."

He emphasised that the position of the opposition parties on the matter is unequivocal. "When they come back to power, they will reverse this amendment. The opposition parties will continue to oppose

it with all democratic and legal means available."

Trajano further stated that he and his party will continue to raise critical Goan issues, particularly the Scheduled Tribes Reservation Bill and pressing environmental concerns, with renewed vigour.

"Our firm stand against the dilution of the ST Reservation Bill and the alarming conversion of green zones into concrete jungles benefiting only a privileged few has resonated widely with Goans. Our commitment is rooted in accountability and public interest. We will continue to be the voice of the people and hold those in power accountable for decisions that adversely affect Goa's environment, communities, and constitutional safeguards," Trajano and social worker Mariano Rodrigues said.

केनरा बँक Canara Bank

BRANCH OFFICE: MARGAO(314)

DEMAND NOTICE

To
M/s Psytech Infosolutions (INDIA) PVT LTD (Borrower), Office No B-203 204 2nd Floor Asian Costa Pinnacle Behind Bank Of India Fatorda Margao Goa 403602, Sandeep Subhash Prabhudesai (Borrower/Director/Guarantor/Legal heir of Subhash Prabhudesai), A 4 Shalimar Apts Pajifon South Goa Goa 403601, Jaanavi Sandeep Prabhudesai (Borrower/Director/ Guarantor), W/O Sandeep Prabhudesai Nisarg Near CD Flowey Valley South Goa Salcete South Goa Goa 403601, Mrs. Savita S Prabhudesai (Borrower/Director/ Guarantor) G-5, Shalimar Apartments Pajifon South Goa Goa 403601.

Dear Sir,
Sub: DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002
That M/s PSYTECH INFOSOLUTIONS (INDIA) PVT LTD (Borrower), SANDEEP SUBHASH PRABHUDESAI (Borrower/Director/Guarantor/Legal heir of Subhash Prabhudesai),JANNAVI SANDEEP PRABHUDESAI (Borrower/Guarantor), and Mrs. Savita S Prabhudesai (Borrower/Guarantor), has availed the following loans/credit facilities from our Margao Branch.

NATURE OF LOAN	LOAN AMOUNT	LIABILITY AS ON 10.04.2025	RATE OF INTEREST
MSME-ODI/OCC	3,40,00,000/-	3,40,00,203.55(Liability)+8,09,217.00 (Interest) = 3,48,09,420.55	13.15%
CANARA VYAAPAR	36,75,000.00	19,60,000.00(Liability)+ 36,216.00 (Interest) = 19,96,216.00	13.70%
GECL 1.0 (EXTENSION)	10,00,000/-	4,33,322.00 (Liability)+6,544.19 (Interest) = 4,39,866.19	11.25%

The above said loan/credit facilities are duly secured by way of mortgage of the assets more specifically described in the schedule hereunder, by virtue of the relevant documents executed by you in our favour. Since you had failed to discharge your liabilities as per the terms and conditions stipulated the Bank has classified the debt as NPA on 09.04.2025. Hence, we hereby issue this notice to you under Section 13(2) of the subject Act calling upon you to discharge the entire liability of Rs. 3,72,45,502.74 Lakh (Rupees Three Crore Seventy Two Lakh Forty Five Thousand Five Hundred Two and Paise Seventy Four Only), with accrued and up-to-date interest and other expenses, within sixty days from the date of the notice, failing which we shall exercise all or any of the rights under Section 13(4) of the subject Act.

Further, you are hereby restrained from dealing with any of the secured assets mentioned in the schedule in any manner whatsoever, without our prior consent. This is without prejudice to any other rights available to us under the subject Act and/or any other law in force.

Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The demand notice had also been issued to you by Registered Post Ack due to your last known address available in the Branch record.

SCHEDULE

The specific details of the assets Mortgaged/Hypothecated are enumerated hereunder:

Detailed Description to be given, Mortgaged/ Hypothecated assets item wise : Immovable Property

All that Office Premises being office No B-203 & B-204 comprising of a carpet area of 78.78 sq mts situated on the second floor of the said building known as "Asian Costa Pinnacle" corresponding to a built up area of 87 sq mts and super built up area of 101.14 sq mts constructed on the property comprising of the sub-divided Plots nos.2 and 3, forming an integral part of all that Larger Immovable property known as CHONROVADDO, situated in ward Chandrawaddo of Fatorda, in the city of Margao, within the limits of the Margao Municipal Council, Taluka and Registration Sub-District of Salcete, District of South Goa and State of Goa which property is registered in the land registration office of Salcete under No.33215 of Book B-84, New series, is not found enrolled in the Land Revenue Office of Salcete, which property is surveyed originally under Chalta No.6 of P.T. Sheet No.26 of the City Survey of Margao, admeasures an area of about 8832 sqtrs., which property, as a separate, distinct and independent entity, admeasures an area of 94.1 sqmtrs, surveyed under Chalta No.54 and 55 of P.T. Sheet No.26 of the City Survey of Margao, which office, as a single independent unit, is found registered in the records of the Margao Municipal Council and is assessed to tax and identified as H.no.29423/, "Asian Costa Pinnacle", Second Floor, Office No B-203 and B -204 Behind Surya Hotel,Fatorda Margao and is bounded as follows: East: by the set back up to the boundary, West: by Office No B-201 and B-202, North: by the lift well and stair case block, South: by the set back up to the boundary.

EMT of property at Residential flat no 405 on the 4th floor in B wing admeasuring area 914.41 sq feet (carpet area) on the Fourth Floor of building society known as Ravikiran Cooperative housing society ltd situated at Tejpal scheme road No.1 Vile Parle Mumbai 400057 constructed on the land bearing CTS No 526A of Village Vile Parle(East) Taluka Andheri in the district and registration District Mumbai (Mumbai Sub urban district) and also within the city limit of Mumbai Corporation of Gr. Mumbai and is bounded by North : By under construction building South : By Sukhjyot CHS, East : By Udayan Vikas CHS, West : By Anandhi High School.

DATE : 10/04/2025
PLACE : MARGAO
AUTHORISED OFFICER
CANARA BANK