

# Pvt bus owners want Majhi Bus Scheme continued under Transport Department

Tamankar urges govt to retain bus scheme with Dept, not Kadamba

Team Herald

PANJIM: The All Goa Private Bus Owners' Association (AGPBOA) has urged the State government to retain the Majhi Bus Scheme under the direct control of the Transport Department, instead of transferring its management to the State-run Kadamba Transport Corporation.

Association's general secretary Sudip Tamankar, met with Director of Transport P Abhishek on Monday and submitted a detailed representation with regards to the administration of the Majhi Bus Scheme.

Tamankar highlighted that the Majhi Bus Scheme, currently operated by the Transport Department, comprises three main components—a Rs 3 fuel subsidy, a Rs 30,000 insurance benefit, and a Rs 10 lakh incentive for the purchase of new buses. He praised



Kadamba is merely an operator, just like me and is running at a loss while I generate consistent profits. The scheme should be run exclusively by the Transport Department

— Sudip Tamankar, AGPBOA General Secretary

the department's handling of the scheme and strongly opposed any move to hand it over to Kadamba.

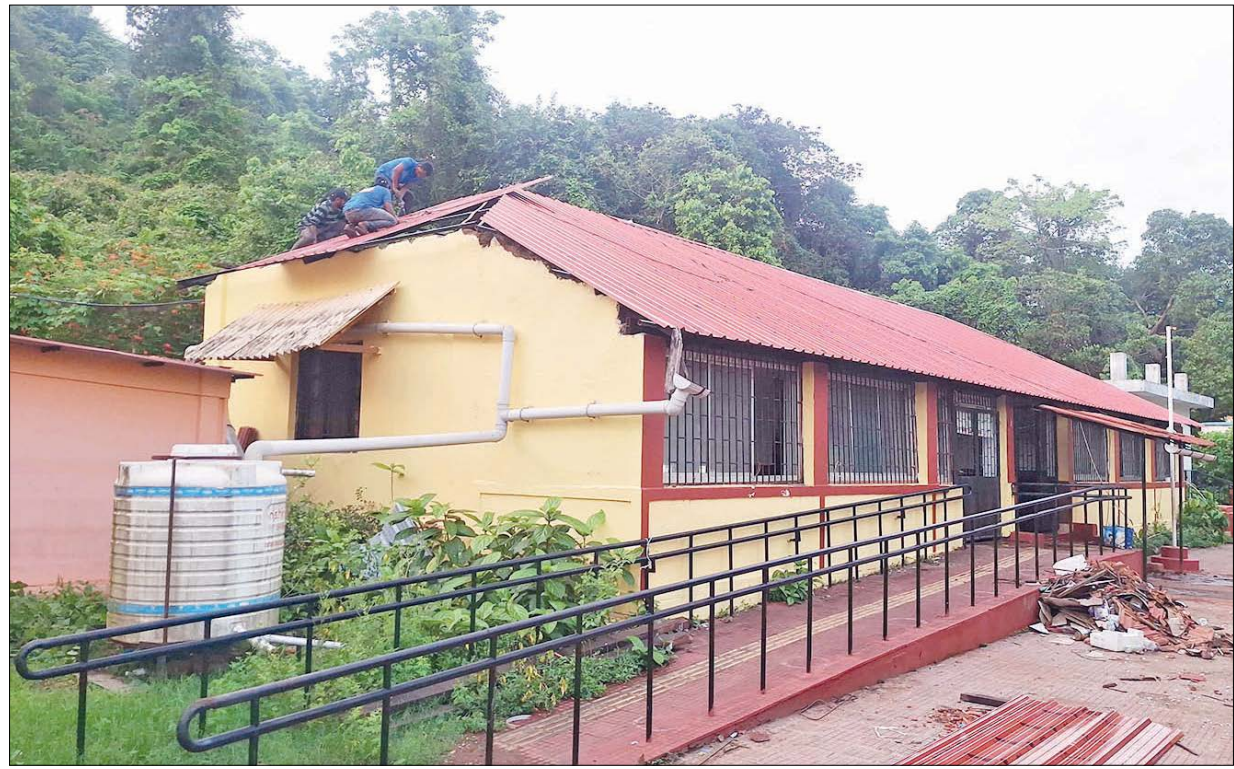
## MAJHI BUS SCHEME HIGHLIGHTS

- Rs 3 fuel subsidy
- Rs 30,000 insurance benefit
- Rs 10 lakh incentive for purchasing a new bus
- Bus owners demand scheme remain with Transport Dept
- Kadamba Transport Corporation described as just an operator running at a loss
- Private operators claim to generate consistent profits

Kadamba with the scheme.

He stated, "Kadamba is running at a loss while I generate consistent profits. The scheme should be run exclusively by the Transport Department." Tamankar even claimed to have proposed taking over Kadamba's management himself.

## DAMAGE CONTROL



The exposed roof of the Government Primary School in Taleigao has finally been repaired, with the tiles replaced by polyurethane foam (PUF) sheets

## GCZMA postpones starred hotel hearing after activists object to short notice

Reschedules personal hearing for June 10

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) agreed to postpone the hearing of a starred hotel project at Bambolim after activists objected to the short notice given.

Reacting to the decision, Goa Green Brigade convenor Avertino Miranda said, "GCZMA has conceded to our demand for a fair and just advance notice to enable the complainants to participate in the hearing against the CRZ violator."

Miranda explained that the GCZMA had initially given only three and a half hours' notice, making it difficult for him to attend due to prior engagements. He requested the Authority to provide at least 10 days' advance notice in the interest of justice and fair play. Judith Almeida of the Colva Civic and Consumer Forum (CCCF) also expressed her resentment at the GCZMA's decision to fix the personal hearing on Tuesday. "I received a letter by post on Monday morning, asking to be present for the hearing the very next day," said Almeida.

The GCZMA has now rescheduled the personal hearing for June 10.

The complaint against the starred hotel was filed by Sant Andre MLA, Prof Ramrao Wagh, Avertino Miranda, Judith Almeida, Glean Cabral, Aditya Parulekar, Samil Volvoikar, Shena Gaonkar and Mohini Gaonkar, who alleged illegal construction carried out by a hotelier at Bambolim.

The GCZMA had already issued a show-cause cum stop-work order to the ho-

telier. During the GCZMA meeting, some complainants stated that the hotelier was constructing a compound wall without approval. However, the hotelier claimed to have obtained permission from the GCZMA dated January 23, 2021. He further explained that the current of the waves was so strong that the earlier gabion wall they erected collapsed, and therefore the new construction was necessary.

At the subsequent meeting on May 13, both parties were absent. The Authority granted another opportunity to both sides and scheduled the matter for 1 July 2025.

However, by a letter dated May 23, 2025, the hotelier requested the GCZMA to withdraw the stop-work order before the onset of the monsoon. In view of this, the Authority brought the matter forward from July 1 and at its meeting on May 29, decided to issue fresh personal hearing notices to the parties and scheduled the hearing for June 3.

I received a letter by post on Monday morning, asking to be present for the hearing the very next day,"

— Judith Almeida, CCCF Convenor

## VIC industries signs wage settlement with Goa Union of Ind Workers

Team Herald

PANJIM: After nearly two years of negotiations, the management of VIC Industries, Pissurlem, on Monday signed a wage settlement with the Goa Union of Industrial Workers, Ponda, under the leadership of Adv Hrudaynath Shirodkar.

The agreement includes a wage hike for workers and improvements in working conditions, with the union

assuring the management of continued discipline and cooperation. Both parties also agreed to work together in future for the welfare of the workforce and the long-term sustainability of the industry.

The settlement was signed by union president Vishnu Naik and the company's Senior General Manager (Industrial Relations and Human Resources), Vijay Naik.

## Goa contemplates hostels for PwDs within five years

Team Herald

BICHOLIM: The State government is planning to construct permanent hostel facilities for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in both districts within the next four to five years, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant announced on Monday.

He was speaking at the concluding ceremony of the ADIP Assessment Camp held at Ravindra Bhavan, Sakhalim. During the camps, which were held across the State, assistive aids and appliances were provided to eligible persons with disabilities.

The Chief Minister said the initiative also aims to address the concerns of parents of PwDs regarding the care of their children after their lifetime.

Social Welfare Minister Subhash Phal Desai, Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities Guruprasad Pawaskar, Director of Planning, Statistics and Evaluation Vijay Saxena, State Commissioner Taha Haaziq, and other dignitaries were present.

"This remarkable effort, covering all 12 talukas, reaffirms our commitment to inclusivity and dignity for every citizen, especially our Divyangjan brothers and sisters," Sawant said.

The Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Government of Goa, in collaboration with the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and the Directorate of Planning, Statistics and Evaluation, and in association with ALIMCO (a Government of India undertaking), organised Assessment Camps across all talukas of Goa from May 20 to June 2.

## 25 armed goons assault pregnant woman, husband at Bastora

Victim Vivek sustains nasal fracture; assailants on the run

Team Herald

NACHINOLA: The law and order situation in the State has apparently gone for a toss as a shocking incident was reported at Bastora junction, where a pregnant woman and her husband were mercilessly assaulted by around 25 unidentified persons late Monday evening.

The attack took place at Bastora junction at around 8 pm, where a group of around 25 unidentified individuals brutally attacked Vivek Shirodkar and his three-month pregnant wife, Shruti Shirodkar. The couple, residents of Nachinola, Aldona, operate a Shawarma van at the junction.

According to the complaint, the attack stemmed from a minor argument earlier in the day over a parking issue, during which the group allegedly threatened Vivek.

In the evening, as the couple had just opened their food van, the group of 25 persons, armed with iron rods, wooden sticks, choppers, and knives arrived at

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the spot. The assailants dragged Vivek out of the van and began assaulting him and his wife.

Both Vivek and Shruti sustained grievous injuries and were later taken to the Mapusa Police Station to register a complaint and were subsequently shifted to Asilo Hospital for medical tests.

Police sources revealed that Vivek sustained nasal fracture and other injuries and was likely to be shifted to the Goa medical College and Hospital, Bambolim for further treatment. Further investigations are underway and the assailants are still at large.

## AAP seeks OC revocation for Azossim-Mandur project

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Goa on Monday demanded the immediate revocation of the occupancy certificate granted to a mega housing project at Azossim-Mandur.

AAP leader Ramrao Wagh criticised a local politician for blaming the Azossim-Mandur Sarpach while absolving himself of any responsibility regarding the issuance of occupancy certificates and alleged irregularities and corruption in the project.

Wagh questioned the politician's attempt to distance himself from the village panchayat, alleging it was a move to protect himself after previously

feigning ignorance on the matter. He pointed out that the politician had claimed to oppose the project for several years but was now shifting the blame onto the first-time sarpach of the Azossim-Mandur panchayat.

According to Wagh, AAP MLA Cruz Silva had raised the issue in the Assembly in February this year. The matter was also discussed during the last two gram sabha meetings. Villagers were reportedly shocked to learn that the panchayat had granted occupancy certificates for 94 flats—87 of which were issued on a single day.

He added that although the gram sabha had resolved to conduct an inspection of the project, the inspection had yet to take place.

## Goa Contractors Union welcomes scrapping of 'unjust' tender policy

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Goa Contractors Union (GCU) has welcomed the government's decision to abolish the 2007 circular that mandated the rejection of tenders quoting more than 20% below the estimated cost.

This circular, in effect for over 17 years, had been a major impediment to fair competition and fiscal prudence in public works, stated GCU president Sunil Signapurkar.

Signapurkar acknowledged the role played by the PWD Principal Chief Engineer Uttam Parsekar in facilitating the removal of what he described as an

unjust directive.

GCU spokesman Jitesh Kamat stated that the 2007 circular had long been criticised for fostering an environment conducive to corruption and favouritism. Notably, a 2005 noting by the Secretary of Vigilance highlighted that such a practice was absent in the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) and was an innovation within the PWD that created opportunities for alleged corrupt practices. The policy of setting a floor limit below which tenders could not be accepted was illogical and detrimental to the public exchequer, he said.

Despite these concerns,

successive administrations failed to address the issue. But the current government has taken this step to rectify a long-standing anomaly, Kamat said.

"We are aware that vested interests benefiting from the previous system may attempt to exert pressure on the government to re-implement such policies. But we have faith in the Chief Minister's resolve to uphold the principles of integrity and transparency. This move signifies a commitment to eliminating corruption and ensuring that public funds are utilised effectively for the benefit of the people of Goa," Kamat said.

## Cong issues ultimatum to Captain of Ports over vessel safety audit

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Goa Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) on Monday issued a 15-day ultimatum to the Captain of Ports (CoP) to release the public safety and structural audit of all vessels operating within Goa's territorial waters, warning of a public protest if the demand is not met.

Addressing a press conference at Congress House, Panjim, GPCC president Amit Patkar alleged that the Captain of Ports Department has failed to implement adequate safety measures. He claimed that the department lacks both

equipment and preparedness to deal with onboard disasters.

Citing the recent fire aboard a passenger vessel at Malim jetty on Saturday, Patkar described the incident as a glaring example of the department's negligence. "The absence of a disaster management system is unacceptable. We demand a full audit of all vessels and immediate corrective action," he said.

Patkar accused the CoP of failing to conduct mandatory safety audits of vessels under its jurisdiction and warned, "If the CoP Department does not set things in order within the next 15 days, we will launch a pub-

lic protest at the Captain of Ports office."

He further alleged that the International Ship and Port Facility (ISPF) security code had not been implemented, that no radio officer was present in the department, and that radio communication was inactive on all vessels. "When there is so much vessel movement, it is the duty of the CoP to have designated roles for a radio officer and a safety officer to monitor the movement of vessels. The vessels are not being monitored in accordance with Indian Registrar of Shipping (IRS) norms," he charged.

## Govt transfers 10 officers of Registration Department

Team Herald

PANJIM: The State government has ordered the transfer and posting of ten district registrars/civil registrars-cum-sub registrars, comprising Group 'A' and 'B' Gazetted Officers from the Registration Department, with immediate effect and in the public interest.

Suraj Vernekar, formerly District Registrar (Headquarters) with additional charge of Civil Registrar-cum-Sub Registrar, Salcete, will continue to hold the additional charge of Civil Registrar-cum-Sub Registrar, Salcete.

Shradha Bhobe, who previously served as Civil Registrar-cum-Sub Registrar, Pernem, has been transferred to Valpoi in the same capacity. Malini Sawant, earlier posted in Bardez-II, will now serve as Civil Registrar-cum-Sub Registrar, Dharbandora.

Piedade Dias, earlier stationed at Sanguem, has been transferred to Bardez-II, while Soniya Halarnkar has been moved from Ponda to Pernem. Gouresh G Bugde, formerly at Dharbandora, will now serve as Civil Registrar-cum-Sub Registrar (Headquarters) with the additional charge of District Registrar (HQ).

Prachi S Naik, who held the post of Civil Registrar-cum-Sub Registrar (HQ) with additional charge of Joint Civil Registrar-cum-Sub Registrar in the office of the District Registrar (North), has now been posted solely as Joint Civil Registrar-cum-Sub Registrar in the same office.

Mahesh Prabhu Parriari, who was at Sattari, has been posted as Civil Registrar-cum-Sub Registrar, Ponda, and will additionally hold the charge of Joint Civil Registrar-cum-Sub Registrar-I, Ponda.

Pramod Velip, who served in Quepem and held additional charge of Joint Civil Registrar-cum-Sub Registrar in the office of the District Registrar (South), will now continue in Quepem with additional charge of Sanguem.

Freedra J B Gomes, previously at Canacona, has been posted to the same station with added responsibility as Joint Civil Registrar-cum-Sub Registrar in the office of the District Registrar (South).

## BJP programmes to mark 11 years of Modi govt

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday announced that it would organise programmes across the State to mark the completion of 11 years of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led NDA government, as part of a countrywide outreach initiative.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, BJP national general secretary Dushyant Kumar Gautam, party president Damu Naik, Cabinet Ministers, Rajya Sabha MP Sadanand Shet Tanavade, former MP Narendra Sawaikar, MLAs, and party office-bearers were present at the meeting held at the BJP headquarters in Pan-

jim. Party president Damu Naik said the meeting was convened to chalk out programmes commemorating the 11th anniversary of the Modi-led NDA government, as part of the national outreach campaign.

The programme, titled "11 Years of Modi Government - Sankalp se Siddhi" (from commitment to accomplishment), will be conducted in Goa over a fortnight.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant stated that the meeting highlighted the remarkable achievements of the double engine sarkar under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.