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SATURDAY, 25TH JAN 2025

KO: 7.30 PM | PJN STADIUM, FATORDA

CHANDOR PROTEST: Cops' fresh probe plea a ploy to derail trial, say activists

Maina-Curtorim cops file plea for supplementary probe before Margao JMFC

Team Herald

MARGAO: Four years after the landmark protest against the double tracking project, the Goa Police has now courted a fresh controversy by filing an application for supplementary investigation into the criminal case registered against 10 anti-coal activists in Chandor, who have characterised the development as a calculated attempt to derail the trial.

The application filed recently before the Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC), Margao, represents an unprecedented move that threatens to extend the already protracted legal proceedings.

It is pertinent to note that the protest was a defining moment of civic resistance, with thousands of Goans from diverse backgrounds converging in Chandor for a midnight vigil on the intervening night of November 1-2, 2020. Their unified



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stand was unequivocal: to resist the double tracking project and prevent Goa's potential transformation into a coal transportation hub. Now, more than two years after the initial charge sheet was filed, the police are seeking permission to conduct additional investigations raising serious questions on the integrity of the original inquiry.

In a detailed application submitted to the court, the Maina-Curtorim Police systematically outlined critical

10 ACTIVISTS FACING CHARGES

► Abhijit Prabhudesai, Freddy Travasso, Vikas Bhagat, John Douglas Coutinho, Diana Tavares, Creson Antao, Viriato Fernandes, Royle Fernandes, Sandesh Talekar and Sabita Mascarenhas

► They stand accused of forming an unlawful assembly and obstructing movement during their protest against the double tracking railway project

POLICE IN STRONGLY-WORDED STATEMENT

► The Maina-Curtorim Police systematically outlined critical investigative gaps they claim need to be addressed urgently

► 'Explicitly' highlighted that station diary extracts documenting the deployment of police inspectors and staff during the protest remained uncollected

► The station diary extracts essential to present

the truth of presence of the complainant and witnesses at the time of commission of the crime

► The investigative scope has expanded to include unrecorded statements from key govt officials.

► The application asserted that the additional probe is "crucial, essential, and significant for effective adjudication" & to "meet the ends of justice"

► The development is a calculated attempt to derail the trial. 'Tariq Pe Tariq' (date after date), is a systematic effort to prolong the legal proceedings. The government's actions reveal a deeper conspiracy. If there was substance in the case, the trial would have started long ago

– Capt Viriato Fernandes, Cong MP & one of the 10 activists facing charges

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deployment of police inspectors and staff during the protest remained uncollected.

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DEAD END



The road near Vidyut Bhavan, Panjim has been dug up to lay pipes, causing inconvenience to the residents and those visiting the capital city

Ex-serviceman kills wife, cooks body parts in pressure cooker in Hyderabad: Police

PTI, HYDERABAD: P Madhavi went missing on January 16 after an argument with her husband. Her mother filed a police complaint on January 18, leading to an investigation.

A six-day search for 35-year-old P Venkata Madhavi, who was reported missing in Hyderabad, ended in a shocking revelation

when her husband, Gurumurthy, confessed to murdering her.

He confessed to dismembering her body, cooking the remains in a pressure cooker, and discarding them at multiple locations, including the Jillellaguda lake.

However, the police have yet to recover any body

parts and are in the process of verifying the claims made by 45-year-old Gurumurthy, an ex-serviceman from Prakasam district in Andhra Pradesh.

The police are interrogating the man, who claimed to have dumped the body in a lake.

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Parsekar padding up with eye on 2027 polls?

Claims he is still a political force to reckon with

Team Herald

PANJIM: After accusing the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of betraying and insulting him just days before the 2022 State elections, despite his long-standing loyalty to the party, former Chief Minister Laxmikant Parsekar now has kept his options open for 2027 Assembly polls by claiming that he is still a political force to reckon with.

Speaking to O Herald, Parsekar cryptically said, "After resigning from the BJP in 2022, I never joined any other political party. Therefore in the 2027 polls, time will decide my future course of action. Nowhere I have made a statement that I have left the (political) field."

Claiming that he is still a political force to reckon

with, he said, "People still invite me for events/weddings, they inform me about any death in the village. They also invite me for tournaments despite knowing that I don't give donations. Media too come to me to seek my opinion. This only implies that people want me

– Laxmikant Parsekar, former Chief Minister

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Cont on Pg 11 >>

93 years on, Bengal police station preserves tea cup, saucer offered to Netaji by British officer

PTI, JAGGATDAL (WB): Barely a kilometre-and-a-half from Shyamnagar railway station in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district lies the unassuming Noapara police station, which holds a unique historical connection to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

On January 23 every year, policemen at the station not only celebrate Netaji's birth anniversary, but also commemorate the freedom

fighter's brief yet significant "stay" at the station when he was detained by the British in 1931.

Nearly 93 years ago, around 5 pm on October 11, 1931, Netaji was arrested by the British police while on his way to address a meeting of the Bengal jute mill workers' organisation at Golghar in Jagaddal.

He was taken to Noapara police station, where he was detained for a few



hours. During his detention, Bose was offered tea, which he declined because it was given by a British officer. The ceramic cup and saucer used on that occasion have been carefully preserved by the police station as a trib-

The Noapara Police Station where Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was detained for a few hours on October 11, 1931, in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal

ute to the legendary freedom fighter.

As a mark of respect, the police station installed a small memorial inside its premises. It includes a photograph of Netaji placed beside the preserved cup and saucer. A room has also been converted into a library featuring books on Netaji's life and legacy.

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