

Allegations of land fraud against Kavalem Mutt Swami, advocate, dismissed as 'election stunt'

Team Herald

PONDA/PANJIM: The Advocate of Kavalem Mutt, Manohar P Adpaikar, has denied allegations of impersonation, cheating, and forgery filed against him, the 77th pontiff of Kavale Mutt, Shree Shivanand Saraswati Swami, and Math Attorney Avadhut Shivram Kakodkar.

The allegations stem from an FIR registered at Ponda Police Station on January 15, 2025, based on a complaint by Bhushan J Jack and Dr P S Ramani. The complaint accuses the trio of fraudulently executing a Power of Attorney (POA) on February 20, 2018, and misusing it to sell Mutt property located at Queula village, Ponda, on March 20, 2018.

The complainants allege that the POA, purportedly executed by Shree Shivanand Saraswati Swami, fraudulently used the name of his predecessor, Srimant Satchidananda Saraswati, the 76th pontiff of the Mutt,

THE KVALEM MUTT

Shri Gaudapadacharya Mutt, also known as Kavalem Mutt, is located in Ponda, and is the oldest Mutt of the Smarthan Saraswat Brahman Samaj. It was founded by Gaudapada around 740 AD, who was the guru of Govinda Bhagavatpada, the teacher of Adi Shankaracharya, a highly influential figure in Hinduism. There is a belief that Gaudapada himself established the Shri Gaudapadacharya Mutt during his time in Gomantak (Goa). Consequently, the Mutt came to be known as Shri Sansthan Gaudapadacharya Mutt. Shree Shivanand Saraswati Swami is the current and 77th pontiff of the Guru Parampara

who passed away in 2005. The POA authorised Kakodkar to act as the lawful attorney of the Mutt. This POA was allegedly used to execute a sale deed of the property, known as "Velpan", measuring 675 sq.m. under Survey No. 69/16.

However, Adv Adpaikar clarified that the property sale was annulled in court after it was noticed that Shree Shivanand Saraswati Swami's name was absent from the sale deed. "The sale deeds have been declared null and void, funds were returned to the purchasers, and the property

reverted to the Mutt," said Adpaikar. He attributed the issue to a clerical error and asserted that all signatures on the sale deed were made by Kakodkar as the POA holder.

The complainants allege that Shree Shivanand Saraswati Swami impersonated his predecessor to execute the POA in 2018. Adpaikar dismissed the allegations as baseless. "The case of impersonation does not arise as all signatures were made by the authorised attorney. This issue is being blown out of proportion with Mutt committee elections ap-

Case of impersonation does not arise. Sale deeds, as mentioned in the complaints have been declared null and void and the funds were returned to purchasers by the Math. The properties are already reverted to its original owners

— Manohar Adpaikar, advocate for Kavalem Math

proaching," he stated.

Kakodkar, identified as the Mutt Trust Secretary, allegedly approached Adv Adpaikar in 2018 with supporting documents, including ownership papers in the name of Srimant Satchidananda Saraswati. Adpaikar claimed that Kakodkar, alongside the buyer associated with Maharshi Adhyatma Vishwavidyalay, provided the documentation to draft the sale deed.

Upon discovering the error, the Mutt sought legal

TIMELINE

► **February 20, 2018:** A Power of Attorney (POA) allegedly executed by Shree Shivanand Saraswati Swami of Kavale Mutt authorises Avadhut Shivram Kakodkar to manage Mutt properties, including the land known as "Velpan" (Survey No. 69/16, Queula, Ponda).

► **March 20, 2018:** Using the POA, a sale deed is executed between the Mutt and Maharshi Adhyatma Vishwavidyalay. Allegations arise that the sale deed contains impersonation and false documentation, citing the use of the late Swami Satchidananda Saraswati's name, who passed away in 2005.

► **2020:** Following legal

proceedings, the sale deed is declared null and void. The purchaser's funds are refunded, and the property is reverted to the Mutt under Shree Shivanand Saraswati Swami.

► **January 15, 2024:** Bhushan J Jack and Dr P S Ramani file a complaint with Ponda Police alleging impersonation, forgery, and fraud against Shree Shivanand Saraswati Swami, Avadhut Shivram Kakodkar, and Notary Advocate Manohar P Adpaikar.

► **Jan 15:** Ponda Police register an FIR under sections 420, 419, 465, 468, and 471, naming the three accused.

recourse, resulting in the Civil Court declaring the sale deed void. The property was restored first under the name of the late Srim-

ant Satchidananda Saraswati and subsequently transferred to his successor, Shree Shivanand Saraswati Swami, in 2020.

shorttakes

SIOLIM BASED CLUB BOOKED FOR VIOLATING SOUND POLLUTION NORMS

MAPUSA: Anjuna Police have registered a case against Siolim-based Thalassa Club for allegedly violating sound pollution norms on Wednesday, January 23, 2025, night. Goa Pollution Control Board filed a complaint stating the club played music beyond the permissible limit and the sound was found reading 67.6dB & 71.7 dB respectively. Hence there was a violation with regards to the sound level, thereby causing Noise Pollution in the locality, the police said, the case is under investigation with Sandesh Chodankar, SDPO, Mapusa.

TALEIGAO RESIDENT HELD IN ATTEMPT TO MURDER CASE

PANJIM: The Old Goa Police have arrested Akash Mudraj, a Taleigao resident, for assaulting a Chimbhel resident. According to police, Nagraj Bani, 34, resident of Indira Nagar Chimbhel, lodged a complaint stating that Akash and Adil Makandar and Akhtar Mulla, both from Chimbhel, hatched a conspiracy and Akash assaulted him with beer bottle and sickle (koita) due to which he sustained multiple injuries. The incident occurred on January 18, 2025. An FIR was registered and a team was formed to trace the alleged accused. The team succeeded in arresting Akash Mudraj on January 22, 2025. The accused was produced before JMFC, Panjim, which remanded him to four days' police custody. Police said the accused was involved in other assault cases in the past also and was absconding after committing the recent crime.

UP NATIVE HELD FOR STEALING ELECTRIC CABLES WORTH RS 50,000

PANJIM: The Old Goa Police have arrested Rajesh Kumar, 30, a native of Uttar Pradesh for allegedly stealing electric cables worth Rs 50,000 and recovered the stolen item from him. According to police, Prasad Prabhu, Asst Engineer of Electricity Department, Bambolim, had lodged a complaint stating that an unidentified person stole Polycab Electric 4 core 100 Volts LT Street Light Cables which were lying in the trench for testing. A team was formed and the alleged accused was arrested on January 22, 2025. Further investigation is in progress, police said.

CALANGUTE POLICE ARREST BIJAPUR NATIVE WITH GANJA WORTH RS 95,000

CALANGUTE: The Calangute Police have apprehended a 24-year-old man, Sachin Rathod, from Bijapur, Karnataka, for alleged possession of ganja worth Rs 95,000. During a raid conducted on the night of January 22 at Naikawado, police discovered Rathod in possession of 950 grams of ganja. An FIR has been registered, and the case is currently under investigation by PSI Apeksha Usapkar of Calangute Police Station. Meanwhile, as part of an ongoing crackdown on touts, the Tourism Department imposed a fine of Rs 5,000 on Thursday on Prakash Chavan, a resident of Bijapur. Chavan was detained by the tourist police for harassing tourists at Calangute beach.

MARGAO SHOPKEEPER ALLEGES THREAT BY FAKE TAX OFFICER

MARGAO: A shop owner in Margao, Gaja Rajput, has filed a complaint with the Margao police, alleging that an unknown individual impersonated a trade tax officer and demanded payment via online transaction. The accused allegedly threatened the shop owner with dire consequences. Based on the complaint, the police have registered an offence under Sections 351(4), 308, and 319(2) of the BNS 2023. However, no arrests have been made so far. Further investigation is being carried out by PSI Subhash Gaonkar of Margao Town Police Station.

GOA DENTIST WINS INTERNATIONAL AWARD AT 13TH WORLD DENTAL CONFERENCE

MARGAO: Dr Atrey Jagdish Pai Khot, a lecturer in the Department of Public Health Dentistry at Goa Dental College and Hospital, Bambolim, represented India at the prestigious 13th World Dental Conference (WDC) 2025, held in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam on January 15. Dr Atrey presented his innovative "Picture Assisted Illustration Reinforcement (PAIR)" technique, which aims to improve oral health awareness among children with autism. The technique received widespread recognition from the international dental community. During the event, Dr Atrey was honoured with the 'Best Young Researcher Award' for his outstanding contributions to dental research. His pioneering work continues to revolutionise dentistry, enhancing patient care and advancing oral health outcomes globally.



CORRIGENDUM

In the news item published on Thursday, January 23 under heading UP native assaulted over taxi business issue at Mopa airport, it was erroneously reported that the complainant was Sandeep Bavkar of Nagzar, Pernem. The complainant was Hashim Ansari, currently residing at Nagzar, Pernem, and a native of Etah, Uttar Pradesh. The error is regretted.

STINKING STREET



Sewage from a hotel's chamber overflows near Cine National, Panjim, which caused the area to stink

Goa Police launch cyber safety initiative for R-Day

Team Herald

PANJIM: Goa Police, as part of their ongoing "Cyber Surakshit Goem" initiative, has developed concise and impactful audio clips focusing on various aspects of cyber safety and the methods used by cyber fraudsters. These clips aim to educate students, teachers, and parents about staying safe in the digital world by covering topics such as online fraud prevention, safe internet practices, and protecting personal information.

The Superintendent of Police (SP), Cyber Crime,

Ribandar, Tiswadi, has suggested that these audio clips be played during Republic Day celebrations in schools, either before or after the scheduled programmes. In addition, the Cyber Crime Cell has provided a Google Drive link for schools to access the audio clips: [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1y8Ku4Yh9kRM-QRr2d_ysUwKw6k2_Gd-WI?usp=sharing]. Schools have also been instructed to arrange for the viewing of these audio clips. For resource persons, schools can contact 7875756198.

HC issues notices to govt for altering seniority list at Animal Husbandry dept

Team Herald

PANJIM: The High Court of Bombay at Goa has issued notices to Goa government and others for altering seniority list by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services.

The notices were issued while hearing a writ petition filed by Deputy Director of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Dr Veena Kumar. The petitioner has challenged the final seniority list dated June 25, 2024 by overlooking the seniority list dated May 30, 2024. The final seniority list has resulted in the petitioner reporting to her junior Dr Nitin Naik, which was unfair and discriminatory vis-a-

vis the petitioner.

The petitioner has prayed to withdraw/cancel/revoke the order and further direct the government to issue orders appointing her to hold the charge of the Director on officiating basis, being senior-most officer after her reposting from the Goa Meat Complex Limited.

The government had earlier issued orders to Dr Veena Kumar to take charge of the Director of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Service being the most senior-most officer in the head office.

The petitioner was appointed as Veterinary Officer (VO), Group B Gazetted post on ad-hoc basis vide order dated September 20, 1991 which was

later regularised and confirmed in the post of the V.O. vide order dated September 9, 2011. She was promoted as Assistant Director (Group A Gazetted) on regular basis through an order dated January 31, 2019 and was placed on seniority at Serial No. 2.

The petitioner has claimed that being the senior-most officer, she was entitled to take the additional charge of the Director in place of Dr Naik. This has not happened yet after Volvoikar relinquished his charge as Director of AHVS. This has resulted into the petitioner reporting to her junior Dr Naik, an embarrassing situation and arbitrary and discriminatory towards her.

Flipped visitors lay 115 eggs at Anjuna-Vagator beach stretch

Team Herald

MORJIM: Flipped visitors sparked some excitement for the first time in 2025 after they laid around 115 eggs along the Anjuna-Vagator beach belt and kicked off the nesting season for Olive Ridley turtles.

Forest officials have shifted the clutch of eggs to the nesting site at Morjim for safety purposes.

Officials from the Forest Department have been camping for the last 3 days at this stretch and keeping a close watch on the movements of the turtles and finally discovered quite a number of eggs laid by the visitors.

According to locals and forest officials, the possible crackdown on loud music has enabled the turtles to come to the shore to lay their eggs however in what could be a disappointing factor is some unruly tourists who drink and make noise late in the night also drive their vehicles along the beach



Trail left by Olive Ridley turtles at the beach

“We have been urging the Forest Dept and other authorities concerned to declare Anjuna-Vagator stretch as an eco sensitive zone and a nesting site because it is frequented by the turtles but till date no action is forthcoming

— Ramesh Naik, Anjuna BMC Chairperson

could discourage the turtles from coming ashore.

Chairman of the Anjuna Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) Ramesh Naik informed that during the last 3 years about 20 times there were reports of the turtles coming ashore to lay eggs.

“We have been urging the Forest Dept and other authorities concerned to declare Anjuna-Vagator stretch as an eco sensitive zone and a nesting site because it is frequented by the turtles but till date no action is forthcoming,” said Naik.

Local tourists becoming a ‘nuisance’ in Calangute: sarpanch Says unregulated water sports activities, influx of domestic tourists more of a bane than boon

Team Herald

CALANGUTE: The state government and the tourism department must take urgent measures to address the decline in tourism, particularly in Calangute, said Sarpanch Joseph Sequeira.

Speaking to the media on Thursday, Sequeira highlighted several issues affecting the Calangute-Candolim beach belt, ranging from assaults on tourists by beach shack workers to accidents involving watersports operators. “All these tourism-related activities on the beach, like beach shacks and watersports, are directly under the control of the tourism department. We [the village panchayat] have no control over them,” Sequeira stated.

Sequeira shared that he had proposed measures to the state government to manage the surge of low-budget tourists, which he claimed had created

numerous problems for the region. “When tourists enter Goa, they head to Calangute. How can we stop anyone from coming to Calangute? So, everyone comes. I have put a proposal to the state government that all these jeeps that are coming should be checked to see if they have hotel reservations. I suggested setting up four checkpoints at the entrance of Calangute. It is still pending. Our government is not interested—it is still under consideration,” he remarked.

He further alleged that the uncontrolled influx of domestic tourists has caused foreign tourists to avoid Calangute. “The number of foreigners has really dropped. It's very sad that foreign tourists are not coming to Calangute anymore. It's because of the Indian tourists on the beach who want to take selfies with foreigners and click

their photos. That's why foreign tourists don't want to stay here,” he added.

Sequeira also criticised the proliferation of cheap and illegal biryani stalls, which he said were harming tourism stakeholders. “A lot of people come in cars and jeeps, park, go to the beach, use public toilets, buy Rs 100 biryani, sleep on the beach, and leave. Where is the business for the public of Calangute? Where is tourism? Earlier, guests who came to Calangute would spend around Rs 1,000 on food. Now it's gone from Rs 1,000 to Rs100,” he said, emphasising that such tourists do not contribute to the tourism industry.

Sequeira called for immediate intervention from the government to address these challenges and revive tourism in Calangute, which was once a preferred destination for both domestic and international tourists.



Union Bank of India, Regional Office Goa, Second Floor, Jeevan Vishwas, LIC Building, EDC Complex, Patto, Panaji, Goa-403001

PREMISES REQUIRED ON LEASE

Union Bank of India requires a well-constructed commercial premise in ready possession on lease for Margao Branch at Margao city near to Gosalia building on Ground floor. The premises should be commercially approved with adequate parking space and should be visible from main road with carpet area requirements of 1850 ± 10% sq. ft up to 2040 sq. ft.

Detailed terms and conditions along with format of Technical bid and financial bids are available in tender document. Owner/representative owning suitable premises or property may collect the tender document from our Regional Office Goa situated at below mentioned address during office hours till 07.02.2025.

Union Bank of India, Regional Office Goa, Second Floor, Jeevan Vishwas, LIC Building, EDC Complex, Patto, Panaji, 403001, Goa. Alternatively tender document can also be downloaded from Bank's website www.unionbankofindia.co.in and e-procurement portal www.eprocure.gov.in. Technical bid in a sealed envelope and price bid in separate sealed envelope to be submitted at Regional Office, Goa on or before 07.02.2025 by 3.30 pm. The technical bids will be opened on 07.02.2025 by 4.00 pm in presence of bidders/ authorized representatives.

Note: Bank reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

Date: 24.01.2025

Place: Panaji Goa

Regional Head