

DECIBEL BATTLE IN ANJUNA-VAGATOR

HC takes proactive stance to close gap in noise monitoring

Directs Amicus Curiae to appoint 'impartial and independent individual' as member of Noise Monitoring Committee a day after O Heraldo report on panel's plight

AUGUSTO RODRIGUES

ANJUNA: Residents of Anjuna and Vagator expressed cautious optimism as Justice M S Karnik of the Bombay High Court's Goa Bench directed Amicus Curiae Nigel Costa Frias to nominate an "impartial and independent individual" to join the Noise Monitoring Committee (NMC), in an effort to enhance the credibility of reports submitted to the court.

HERALD IMPACT

The court's directive comes a day after O Heraldo reported how an existing NMC member expressed the need for police protection in the party belt where decibel norms are routinely flouted with impunity.

The hearing of Contempt Petition 12 of 2023 began on Monday, with Amicus Curiae Costa Frias informing the bench, presided over by Justice Karnik and



Without police help, I am a toothless tiger: Noise Monitoring panel member

Justice Nivedita P Mehta, that NMC members were unable to carry out their duties due to safety concerns, requiring police protection. "We need to fix this system because this is a serious matter. Things cannot go on like this," Justice Karnik remarked. Advocate General Devidas Pangam supported the claim, stating that the State would comply by providing

necessary police assistance. "The complaint from the members is a serious issue. Stop giving assurances and start providing support," Justice Karnik insisted. Pangam assured the court that FIRs had already been filed. However, Justice Karnik expressed concerns that complaints about loud music continued unabated. "We need to appoint someone above reproach who can provide us with accurate reports,"

"The complaint (about NMC members' safety concerns) is a serious issue. Stop giving assurances and start providing support... We need to appoint someone above reproach who can provide us with accurate reports... We need to fix this system because this is a serious matter"
— Justice M S Karnik

"I will consult with an NGO for a name. I will ask Sr Adv Norma Alvares to suggest a suitable candidate"
— Amicus Curiae Nigel Costa Frias

he emphasised. At this point, Sr Adv Gilman Coelho, representing W Hotel, interjected, stating, "Your Honour, the government is on board, and all establishments are observing noise levels. There is no issue now that the court has intervened." This claim was quickly challenged by Costa Frias, who asserted that music was still being played well beyond permissible decibel levels and after 10 pm by multiple establishments.

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REGAL TRADITION



BSF personnel during the full dress rehearsal of the Beating Retreat ceremony at Vijay Chowk in New Delhi, on Monday

DRAMATIC TWIST: Post-mortem reveals Arambol assault victim died of 'heart attack'

Autopsy report could change the course of the investigation even as police have registered a murder case

Team Herald

PERNEM: The Sunday Arambol assault case, wherein Amar Bandekar, a local, was allegedly beaten up by shack workers, took a dramatic twist on Monday as the post-mortem examination report shockingly revealed that the victim died of a 'heart attack'.

The post-mortem conducted by a doctor from

the Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology at Goa Medical College and Hospital, Bambolim, cited that the cause of death was acute myocardial infarction with coronary artery occlusion, commonly known as a heart attack, compounded by blunt force impact injuries to the head, face, and brain, with an alleged history of assault.

The viscera has been pre-

served for chemical analysis, and the heart is preserved for histopathology, the police informed.

The autopsy report could alter the course of the investigation, even as the police have registered a murder case against the accused.

Surender Kumar, 39, a native of Kullu, Himachal Pradesh, arrested by Mandrem police on the charge of murdering Bandekar at

Arambol Beach, was remanded in seven days of police custody on Monday by the Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC), Pernem. The accused was working at the Sea Lounge Beach Shack, Arambol, and police stated that the interrogation of other shack staff allegedly involved in the incident is ongoing.

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GBS outbreak: Maharashtra reports first suspected death

Cases detected in Pune cross 100

PTI, PUNE: A man suspected to have contracted Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) has died in Maharashtra's Solapur district, while the number of cases of the immunological nerve disorder in Pune has crossed 100, health officials said on Monday. This is possibly the first death in Maharashtra suspected to have been caused by GBS.

The 40-year-old man, a native of Solapur, had come to Pune, where he is suspected to have contracted the disease, according to officials.

"The patient, suffering from symptoms like breathlessness, weakness in lower limbs, and diarrhoea, was admitted to a private hospital (in Solapur) on January 18 as he was on ventilator support on and off. He died on Sunday," Solapur Government Medical College Dean Dr Sanjiv Thakur said.

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GBS OUTBREAK IN PUNE

▶ A 40-year-old man from Solapur, suspected of having Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS), passed away on January 21

▶ The total number of GBS cases in Pune has reached 101 (68 males, 33 females), with 16 patients on ventilator support

▶ The Pune Municipal Corporation has set up a 45-bed facility at Kamla Nehru Hospital for GBS treatment

▶ A Rapid Response Team (RRT) is conducting surveillance and has surveyed 25,578 households in affected areas

Centre deploys expert team in Maharashtra

PTI, NEW DELHI: The Union Health Ministry has deputed a high-level multi-disciplinary team to Pune to aid state authorities in instituting interventions and managing the spurt in suspected and confirmed cases of Guillain Barre Syndrome (GBS) in the city. The central team sent to Maharashtra comprises

seven experts from National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) Delhi, NIMHANS Bengaluru, Regional Office of Health & Family Welfare and National Institute for Virology (NIV), Pune. Three experts from NIV, Pune were already supporting the local authorities.

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US suspends all foreign aid

Trump administration orders review to ensure America First agenda

PTI, WASHINGTON: The United States has announced the suspension of all foreign aid and ordered the review of American financial assistance to other countries, to ensure they are efficient and consistent with its foreign policy under the America First agenda.

The move comes after President Donald Trump signed an executive order in this regard.

State Department Spokesperson Tammy Bruce Sunday said, "President Trump stated clearly that the United States is no longer going to blindly dole out money with no return for the American people. Reviewing and realigning foreign assistance on behalf of hard-working taxpayers is not just the right thing to do, it is a moral imperative."

She said Secretary of State Marco Rubio has

"President Trump stated clearly that the United States is no longer going to blindly dole out money with no return for the American people. Reviewing and realigning foreign assistance on behalf of hard-working taxpayers is not just the right thing to do, it is a moral imperative"
— Tammy Bruce, US State Department Spokesperson

paused all US foreign assistance funded by or through the State Department and US Agency for International Development for review.

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Uniform Civil Code comes into force in Uttarakhand

Makes legal processes related to marriage simple; Chief Minister Dhama launches UCC portal

PTI, DEHRADUN: Uttarakhand on Monday implemented the Uniform Civil Code, which promotes equal laws for every citizen across all religions and standardises personal laws on marriage, divorce and property.

The UCC applies to all people of Uttarakhand except those belonging to the Scheduled Tribe community. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama announced UCC's implementation at a programme at his official residence here, saying with this the constitutional and civil rights of people across all religions have become uniform.

"With the implementation of UCC, the BJP has fulfilled all its major ideological commitments including abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, illegalisation of triple talaq, the CAA and building of a Ram temple in Ayodhya," the chief minister said.

"The UCC creating equal laws for every citizen across all religions comes fully into effect at this moment. It is a constitutional tool to end all legal discriminations in the name of caste, religion or community. It will put an end to all evil social practices like 'Halala' and 'Iddat'"
— Pushkar Singh Dhama, Chief Minister, Uttarakhand

He unveiled the notification on UCC, released its rules and regulations and launched a portal designed for the mandatory online registration of marriages, divorce and live-in relationships in the presence of his ministerial colleagues and members of the UCC drafting committee.

The chief minister was the first to register his marriage on the UCC portal. State Chief Secretary Radha Raturi handed over the certificate of his marriage registration to him.

Chief Minister Dhama also gave certificates to the

first five people who registered on the UCC portal.

"The UCC creating equal laws for every citizen across all religions comes fully into effect at this moment. The credit for it goes entirely to the people of the state," Dhama said at the function.

Dhama said he had gone into the 2022 assembly polls on the promise of a UCC and the people gave the BJP a huge mandate for a second time in a row to form the government and fulfil its promise.

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MAX. TEMP 35.5 °C
MIN. TEMP 20.4 °C

idharudhar



Don't touch the cobwebs! The ceiling will collapse!

Mulgao impasse: Villagers-Vedanta meet fails to break ice

Villagers say there was no concrete assurance from Vedanta officials; firm emphasises it is carefully considering matters raised by the locals; Bicholim truckers protest company's move to outsource vehicles through a contractor for transporting ore

Team Herald

BICHOLIM: A day after Mulgao villagers along with panchayat members marched to the Bicholim mining block-I and stopped the extraction of iron ore as it was causing sound pollution in the village, their meeting with the Vedanta Limited remained inconclusive on Monday, with the locals claiming that the company officials gave them no concrete assurance.

However, Vedanta emphasised that all matters raised by the locals are being carefully considered.

Mulgao sarpanch Mansi Kavthankar, panchayat members, Shree Kelbai Devasthan Committee president Vasant Gad,

"There was no concrete assurance from the company officials except that it will discuss the issue. During talks the mining company representatives could not say 'yes or no' and the meeting remained inconclusive"
— Mulgao villagers

Comunidade of Mulgao president Maheshwar Parab and villagers were present during the meeting.

Vedanta Ltd was represented by Dheeraj Kumar Jagdish, Deputy CEO of Iron Ore Goa and Santosh Mandrekar, head of north cluster.



Mulgao villagers in discussion with Vedanta officials

The meeting discussed some of the main demands of the villagers and farmers such as desilting of paddy fields on priority, clearing compensation of farmers pending since 2011, releasing arrears of lease rent to Comunidade of Mulgao since nearly 2.21 lakh square metres

of area is falling in the Bicholim mining block.

The company representatives informed the villagers that compensation up to 2018 will be provided to them and added that the company was ready to discuss other issues as well. After the meeting, the vil-

"We have been proactive in addressing compensation issues and request concerned entities to share the long pending details we have sought and which will help bring closure to the matter"
— Vedanta Limited

"We will not allow the company to use their trucks. We have 180 truck owners and we will not operate our trucks till the time company withdraws the trucks outsourced by them to transport ore"
— Rajaram 'Satish' Gaonkar, president of Truck Owners Association of Sesa Mining

lagers said that there was no concrete assurance from the company officials except telling that it will discuss the issue.

"During talks the mining company representatives could not say 'yes or no' and the meeting remained inconclusive," said Vasant Gad.

Later, in a press statement the Vedanta Ltd emphasized that all matters raised by the Mulgao community are being carefully considered, and the company is focused on achieving a swift conclusion.

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