

NOT BEING ABLE TO GET CCTV FOOTAGE ON NOISE POLLUTION IS RIDICULOUS: HC TO AG

Shoots down Pangam's explanations as unsatisfactory; slams Advocate General for trying to avoid the truth all along

AUGUSTO RODRIGUES

PORVORIM/VAGATOR: The High Court of Bombay at Goa show its displeasure with Advocate General Devidas Pangam for not being able to justify as to why the police could not present CCTV footage in the premises alleged to have played music beyond 10 pm during the Christmas week and that most petitioners had objected to the two names suggested by Amicus Curiae Nigel Costa Frias as members of the Noise Monitoring Committee (NMC).

"This is what happens when intentions are not clear. That you are unable to get CCTV footage a few days later is completely ridiculous. Serious note is being taken of your explanation," said an annoyed Justice MS Karnik.

Amicus Curiae Nigel Costa Frias, through his junior advocate Shane Coutinho, suggested the names of Inacio Fernandes and Jere-



my Ferreira to be the new members of the NMC.

"All the respondents are against the two names suggested and, instead, want me to suggest the names," Pangam informed the Justices. "We will decide this matter after the Amicus Curiae returns to Court," informed Justice Karnik.

"That the respondents are against the two names

suggested by the Amicus Curiae is understandable, but by accepting the recommendation of the Advocate General, we will be back to square one because it is the government's ineffectiveness that is the cause of this mess," explained Agnes D'Souza from Anjuna.

As advocate Gilman Coelho Pereira rooted for the AG to suggest the two

AG'S REPLY DRAWS HIGH COURT IRE

“This is what happens when intentions are not clear. That you are unable to get CCTV footage a few days later is completely ridiculous. Serious note is being taken of your explanation”

“How can they say that the footage has been overwritten? It is because of such explanations that we have still not been able to solve this problem. You are trying to avoid the truth all along and, that is why we have reached a stage where appointment of two new nominees to the noise monitoring committee is so crucial”

— Justice MS Karnik

names, Costa Frias's junior advocate Shane Coutinho brought to the attention of the Court that the police has yet to give the CCTV footage as ordered. (See O Heraldo edition dated January 29, 2025 - HC questions Goa govt's handling of noise pollution complaints).

"How can they say that the footage has been overwritten? It is because of such explanations that we have still not been able to solve this problem. You are trying to avoid the truth all along and, that is why we have reached a stage where

appointment of two new nominees to the noise monitoring committee is so crucial," said Justice Karnik as the AG tried to throw in explanations which were shot down as unsatisfactory.

"Now that we know there is a problem with their CCTV, we will get the footage as soon as we are made aware by the Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB) that there is a violation," the AG tried to explain to Justice MS Karnik and Justice Nivedita P Mehta.

"How can the CCTV footage be overwritten in a mat-

ter of few days? This explanation is not something we are ready to accept. There has to be a system to retract the footage," observed Justice Karnik.

Unable to counter the judges' reasoning, AG Pangam informed the Court that many times, "people make false allegations and that makes it difficult to believe everything they say."

Justice Karnik shot back saying, "Don't say they make allegations, when you cannot produce the CCTV footage which was supposed to be presented to

this Court."

"There are 15 FIRs filed so far," replied the AG, justifying that the government was keen on adhering to the Supreme Court directives on noise pollution.

"This is not an acceptable justification. We have to check why this overwriting happened because technology does not allow such things to happen. There has to be a mechanism where the footage can be retrieved," said Justice Karnik.

"How can footage of first January get erased in a few days?" asked a surprised Justice Karnik.

"Who is the highest police authority of this place? queried Justice Karnik to which AG Pangam said, "The Deputy Superintendent of Police." "It cannot be," shot back Justice Karnik. "If the SP is unable to appear physically, ask him to be present online because, he has to explain," stated Justice Karnik.

"We want to ensure there

is monitoring, where there are complaints, where loud music is played," emphasised Justice Karnik.

"My Lord" AG Pangam interjected and claimed that, "there have been instances where the petitioner has said loud music is being played and on inspection, such places do not exist."

"When the police reached the spots mentioned, there was no music being played as the places mentioned could not be found," the AG informed.

"Are they sealed? They could be in violation of sealed orders," wondered Justice Karnik.

"We are satisfied with what we are doing," stated GSPCB Advocate Manish Salkar. "Please give an affidavit stating what you are saying and the petitioner (Desmond Alvares) should also file an affidavit stating what has been presented by him. In this way, both are accountable," added Justice Karnik.

German national arrested with drugs worth Rs 24 lakh

Accused Sebastian Hesler was residing in Small Vagator since November last year; in Goa on tourist visa

Team Herald

PANJIM: In what is being hailed as the largest drug bust of 2025, the Anti-Narcotics Cell (ANC) of Goa Police conducted a raid on a rented property in Small Vagator on Monday night, resulting in the arrest of a German national. The suspect was found in possession of various narcotics, including LSD blot papers, ketamine powder, ketamine liquid, and 2 kilograms of ganja, all valued at approximately Rs 23.95 lakh in the international market.

The accused, identified

as 45-year-old Sebastian Hesler, had been residing in Goa on a tourist visa since November of last year.

Following a thorough investigation and the collection of intelligence through both human and technical surveillance, the ANC was able to pinpoint the suspect's location. A week-long surveillance operation culminated in the raid on the rented premises late Monday night.

During the operation, authorities seized 13 LSD blot papers, 10 grams of ketamine powder, approximately 406 grams of ketamine

liquid, and 2 kilograms of ganja, all valued at Rs 23.95 lakh. Additionally, police confiscated cash amounting to Rs 35,000 in Indian currency and euros.

It is noteworthy that last month, the ANC arrested a West Bengal native, Agni Sengupta, for possessing a commercial quantity of MDMA and a variable quantity of cocaine worth Rs7.5 lakh.

Superintendent of Police ANC Tikam Singh Verma stated that the recent raid was a direct result of the investigation and interrogation of Sengupta. "The previously arrested indi-

vidual has been frequently travelling to Germany and has been in contact with the German national. We are currently investigating the sources and further connections related to this case," he said.

The raid was led by PSI Dindyalnath Redkar, with assistance from HC Cedric Fernandes and others, under the supervision of PI ANC Sajith Pillai. The operation was conducted under the continuous monitoring, guidance, and leadership of DySP ANC Nerlon Albuquerque and SP ANC Tikam Singh Verma.

- **TALEIGAO:** On 5 February from 9:30 am to 2 pm at Nagalli Hill street 1 Lane 1 and surrounding areas.
- **MARGAO:** On February 5 from 9 am to 6 pm at Old fish market, C P Da Costa, Tintho Farm Shop, Om Sai Garments, Dr Dipak P Kamat
- **CURTORIM:** On February 5 at Aqxm old DTC, the affected areas are Aqxm. On February 6 at Pandicol, Argicol and Aqxm.

power shutdown

New DTC, the areas affected are Conjem, on February 8 from 9 am to 7pm at Maina Waddo and Gina.

- **CANACONA:** On February 6 from 9 am to 2 pm at Village panchayats of Cola, Agonda and part of Devabag Apem.
- **VASCO:** On February 6 from 9.30 am to 1 pm at Mestawada, Orulem, Belabai, Driver hill, Mangor hill, Prime Royale, St. Therese's, Amba Bai temple area, Down Mangor, Gurudawara, Navy gate, Sainagar, Gandhinagar at Vasco da Gama.

Eight years on, Danielle's mom still battling for justice

In an emotional post, Andrea Brannigan says instead of celebrating her daughter McLaughlin's 36th b'day, family is worried about each court date

Team Herald

PANJIM: Eight years after Danielle McLaughlin, an Irish-British citizen, who was found raped and murdered at an isolated spot between Agonda and Palolem on March 14, 2017, her mother Andrea Brannigan has kept the fight for justice on.

An emotional Andrea Brannigan, Danielle's mom, in a post, stated: "Today we should have been celebrating your 36th birthday. Instead, it's a day we dread, because it's another birthday, without you and instead of celebrating you, we are worrying about each court date and what it might mean for you again."

"Today we should have been celebrating your 36th birthday. Instead, it's a day we dread, because it's another birthday, without you and instead of celebrating you, we are worrying about each court date and what it might mean for you again"

— Andrea Brannigan, Danielle's mom, in an emotional post



Danielle McLaughlin was murdered in Canacona

ed not guilty. Expressing her frustration over the eight-year long ordeal in pursuit of justice, Brannigan said: "On your 36th birthday, we are worrying about another court date scheduled for today, knowing that final



FOREIGNER DEATHS SHROUDED IN MYSTERY

■ 28-year-old Danielle McLaughlin, an Irish-British citizen, was found raped and murdered in an isolated spot between Agonda & Palolem on March 14, 2017

■ Denyse Sweeney, a 34-year-old UK national, was found dead on April 16, 2010, in Anjuna

■ Sweeney's death was initially explained by the local police as a drug overdose, but the inquest found no narcotics in her body. The initial probe reportedly overlooked evidence of several injuries on her body, including lethal skull injuries that were identified in the inquest of the Home

Office in Britain

■ 15-year-old Scarlett Keeling from UK died on raped and murdered on February 17, 2008, in Anjuna. Keeling was drugged by a cocktail of narcotics and medication in Luis' Shack, and was later seen trying to get a lift home. She was raped and murdered by pressing her in the shallow sea waters until she drowned

■ Felix Dahl, a 28 year-old, Finnish/Swedish citizen died on January 28, 2015, at Patnem.

■ Dahl's body was found a few 100 metres away from the Mini Goa restaurant where he was last seen. Police registered a case of unnatural death

It's been eight years since Danielle's death, Brannigan has been waiting for the case to meet its logical end. In October the family was told it would be soon and they were preparing to travel to Goa. But the case saw another setback.

Brannigan said, "For nearly 8 years we have been worrying about what we will learn with each new court date. We are

so emotionally exhausted fighting for this to end, so we can finally start grieving you and the life you should have been allowed to have."

The eight-year long trial has been mentally and financially exhausting for Danielle's family to such an extent that they had to start a fund raiser to travel to Goa, India and to pay the legal fees.

Beware of such calls!

- ✗ Don't panic - there is nothing like digital arrest
- ✗ Don't share any personal/financial information
- ✗ Don't pay
- ✓ Immediately report to cybercrime.gov.in or call 1930 for help

For more details, visit <https://rbikehtrahai.rbi.org.in/da>
For feedback, write to rbikehtrahai@rbi.org.in

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