

## My second viral video was 'fake', recorded at gunpoint: Siddiqui

The land grab accused alleges on court premises that police are trying to eliminate him; claims he was given electric shock by a PI

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** The Goa Police personnel have been left red-faced once again, with the prime accused in the land grabbing cases Siddiqui alias Suleman Khan on Wednesday reiterating his claim that his second viral video was "fake" and recorded at gunpoint following his re-arrest in Kerala in December last year.

Claiming that there was threat to his life, Suleman lifted his hand and showed the wound to the media persons, alleging that police were trying to eliminate him.

"Yes, my second video was fake. It was taken at gunpoint. I was given an electric shock by a PI. My first video (accusing the police) was real," Suleman told mediapersons outside the Court of Principal District Judge and Sessions Judge, North Goa premises at Altinho, Panjim court as the police whisked him for a hearing.

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Siddiqui alias Suleman Khan being escorted by police personnel on his way out of the Court of Principal District Judge and Sessions Judge, North Goa at Altinho, Panjim

### SULEMAN FACES CHARGESHEET IN CB LOCK-UP ESCAPE CASE

■ The Old Goa Police on Wednesday filed a chargesheet against Suleman in the Crime Branch, Ribandar lock-up escape case

■ Suleman had escaped from the lockup on the night of December 12, allegedly with help from an IRBn constable, who has now been dismissed from service



Chief Minister Pramod Sawant maintained silence on the allegations made by Siddiqui

“Yes, my second video was fake. It was taken at gunpoint. I was given an electric shock by a PI. My first video (accusing the police) was real

– Siddiqui alias Suleman Khan, prime accused in the land grabbing cases

## Outrage in Velsao as Collector revokes Railways stop work order

Railways resumes construction work under police protection despite locals furnishing documents asserting the matter is sub-judice

Team Herald

**MARGAO:** In a dramatic turn of events, South Goa District Collector withdrew its previous stop work order against the alleged illegal land filling at Velsao, prompting the Railways to resume the construction work in the village with police protection, despite ongoing legal disputes and opposition from the locals.

While withdrawing its order, the Collector cited that the respondent was initially unknown, even though the withdrawal order simultaneously referenced Rail Vikas Nigam Limited's (RVNL) response to the notice.

The disputed work site at Primeiro Vaddo, Velsao, adjoining the heritage homes of several residents, has become a flashpoint of tension as railway work has blocked the traditional right of way that villagers have used for over 200 years.

“Goa Police personnel are just acting as bystanders, instead of protecting the villagers' rights – Velsao resident

“Didn't the report not mention as to who was responsible for the dumping of mud and construction material in land which the Railways has no land title?

– Orville Dourado Rodrigues, founder of Goencho Ekvott



Railways resumed the construction work in Velsao

### David versus Goliath: Velsao VP firm on Railways stop work order

**MARGAO:** The Velsao-Pale-Issorcim Village Panchayat has firmly rejected Railways' request to withdraw the stop work order on the ongoing railway construction, asserting its authority to issue such notices and highlighting violations of human rights due to blocked access to villagers' homes. In a detailed response to RVNL, Sarpanch Maria Diana Gouveia maintained that the stop work notice remains in force, outlining several critical grounds for the decision.

The panchayat's primary concern centres on the railway works blocking motorable access to villagers' houses, effectively leaving them landlocked – a situation the panchayat has deemed as violation of human rights. The panchayat has also challenged the Railways' invocation of Section 11 of The Railways Act, 1989, arguing that this provision only applies to lands where Railways has acquired clear title.

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RVNL, in its response to the Collector, maintained that the South Western Railway's (SWR) Hospet-Vasco da Gama double tracking project was being undertaken in compliance with the Railways Act, 1989, and that no illegal activities were being carried

out in the specified areas. Orville Dourado Rodrigues, founder of Goencho Ekvott, questioned the basis of withdrawing the stop work order, noting that it was originally issued based on the Flying Squad's report.

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## BETTER SENSE PREVAILS



Heavy construction machinery was brought in to begin the demolition of the "mindless" gigantic triangle built in front of Cafe Bhonsle and other establishments as part of Smart City works following complaints from shopkeepers and O Herald reportage highlighting the "ridiculous" planning (inset) the massive triangle that was constructed in the area

## 'Are we not creating a class of parasites?': SC slams freebie culture

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** On political parties promising "freebies" ahead of polls, the Supreme Court on Wednesday said instead of bringing people into the mainstream for national development "are we not creating a class of parasites?"

A bench of Justices B R Gavai and Augustine George Masih said it would be better to make people a part of

the society's mainstream and contribute towards national development.

"Rather than promoting them to be a part of the mainstream of the society by contributing to the development of the nation, are we not creating a class of parasites?" it asked.

Justice Gavai went on to add, "Unfortunately, because of these freebies, which just

on the anvil of elections are declared, like 'Ladki Bahin' and other schemes, people are not willing to work."

The apex court was hearing a matter concerning the right to shelter of homeless persons in urban areas and said people got free rations and money without working.

The bench asked: "We quite appreciate your concern for them but would it

not be better to make them a part of the mainstream of society and permit them to contribute to the development of the nation?"

Advocate Prashant Bhusan, appearing for one of the petitioners, said there was hardly anybody in the country who did not want to work, if they had work.

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## Sancoale Comunidade chief dismissed for 'illegal' land holding

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** Revenue Minister Atanasio alias Babush Monserrate has disqualified and dismissed Sancoale Comunidade President Pratap Mardolkar with immediate effect.

A fine of Rs one lakh has also been imposed on Mardolkar for "illegally" holding and possessing the Comunidade No. 115/1 of Sancoale for over 20 years for commercial use. The penalty shall be deposited in the office of Administrator of Comunidade South Zone within 60 days from the date of order, failing which the Administrator of Comunidade South Zone shall recover the amount as arrears of Land Revenue under the provisions of Goa Land Revenue Code 1968.

The action has been taken based on the proposal of the Administrator of Comunidades, South Zone, who submitted that Mardolkar had encroached upon the comunidade land and constructed illegal structures and used it for commercial purposes.

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## Eco-sensitive zone spared as trance festival 'turns turtle' at Dream Beach

Stage set up for the six-day 'Karacus Marakus' music festival at Vagator dismantled after O Heraldo report

AUGUSTO RODRIGUES

**VAGATOR:** At last, O Heraldo report "Trance fest nightmare at Dream Beach turtle site" provided the much-needed relief for turtle lovers, environmentalists, locals and foreigners in and around Vagator and Anjuna, as the stage set up for the six-day trance music festival "Karacus Marakus" at Dream Beach, was finally dismantled hours after the report.

A Kerala lad, who bought a ticket, said, "The festival is going to be held at Origins on the hill at Vagator. No messages have been circulated on the website or the site where tickets can be



The Dream Beach at Vagator after the O Heraldo report

booked but I have been intimidated."

"There was no activity on the beach following the O Heraldo report. Were they to have the party on the beach, work on the stage would have started. Instead, they are building a small stage at Origins Jungle Club on

top of Vagator Hill," disclosed a local on the condition of anonymity.

"I have neither given permission to anybody nor have we received any application to hold any festival at Origins," stated Dominic Pereira, Anjuna Comunidade president.

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“There was no activity on the beach following the O Heraldo report. Were they to have the party on the beach, work on the stage would have started. Instead, they are building a small stage at Origins Jungle Club on top of Vagator Hill

– A local on the condition of anonymity

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