

DEPORTEES FILE FIR AGAINST AGENT WHO TOOK LAKHS

Captain George Consultancy Services from Vasco promised jobs but sent the two Goans illegally to Mexico to cross US border, claims complaint

Team Herald

VASCO: The two Goan deportees who returned home over the weekend after their nightmarish experience while trying to enter US have lodged FIRs against the agent who allegedly cheated them with false promises of jobs in the country.

The Vasco Police on Tuesday registered an FIR against Stoney George of Captain George Consultancy Services, a recruitment agent from New Vaddem, Vasco, for allegedly cheating the victims of Rs 18.5 lakh.

CONSULTANCY HAD NO LICENCE TO OPERATE

Investigation has revealed that Captain George Consultancy was operating without a valid licence from the Protector of Emigrants, Government of India, which is mandatory for recruiting people abroad

According to police sources, Advinct Mascarenhas, 23, a seaman from Sarzora lodged a complaint on Monday against George,

According to police, Advinct Mascarenhas, 23, a seaman from Sarzora, in his complaint stated that he paid Rs 8 lakh to George, who promised a job in the US in a hotel or restaurant

Gladson Souza from Mankem-Panchawadi,

stating that he was promised a job in the US in a hotel or restaurant and that he paid Rs 8 lakh. Similarly, Gladson Souza, the other

FALSE PROMISES

Shiroda, paid Rs 10.5 lakh

A total amount of Rs 18.5 lakh was received by George between May 2024 and Jan 2025

The duo was sent to Mexico to illegally cross into the US, but were apprehended and deported back to India

Goan immigrant, from Mankem-Panchawadi, Shiroda, paid Rs 10.5 lakh for the same promise. The total amount of Rs 18.5 lakh was

received by George between May 2024 and January 2025.

However, instead of legitimate employment, the two were sent to Mexico to illegally cross into the US, but were apprehended by US border officials and subsequently deported back to India.

An initial probe has revealed that Captain George Consultancy was operating without a valid licence from the Protector of Emigrants, Government of India, which is mandatory for recruiting people abroad.

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Forget 4 hours, parts of Taleigao get water for only 60 minutes!

CM's promise is just a pipe dream as Odxel, Sao Paulo Market and Posrem Bhat stay parched

ANIL KUMAR MISHRA
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PANJIM: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant's recent promise in the Assembly of providing four hours of water supply to each home in Goa by 2026 has little value for Taleigao residents, as many areas in the panchayat get water for only an hour and at times on alternate days.

Taleigao is witnessing a construction boom, which has resulted in water shortage, compelling the residents of Odxel, Sao Paulo Market and Posrem Bhat areas to heavily depend on "external sources" to meet their daily requirements.

The residents of Sao Paulo market and Posrem Bhat areas receive water for just an hour a day in the morning. The residential colonies in the area survive on water tankers, every alternate day. In Odxel, the situation has



Residents of the water-starved localities depend on filling up buckets and bottles from the meagre supply they get

CM'S FLUID CLAIMS ON WATER

In his 2019 Budget speech, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant had loftily claimed that every home in Goa would get 24x7 water supply by 2025. On February 8, 2025, he scaled his claim down to four hours a day in his Assembly speech - and that too by 2026

aggravated, with the residents receiving water only at 8.30-9 pm. The residents have accused the tanker operators of sucking water and have blamed the vil-

lage panchayat for issuing licences in a brazen manner, which has led to the grim water situation in Taleigao.

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"We are forced to wait as we receive water only around 8.30 pm or 9 pm. Earlier, we used to bring water from Taleigao. Our demand to the authorities is that water be provided in our area at least twice a day and for at least for two hours

- Laxi Kuttikar, a resident of Odxel

"We receive irregular water supply. Sometimes we receive water daily and at times on alternate days. We have no idea when we will receive water

- Rajmani Vishwakarma, a farmer

Conflict of interest in noise panel names

Court says nominees should not have any link to tourism or hospitality industries

AUGUSTO RODRIGUES

VAGATOR/ PORVORIM: The government's questionable stance on noise pollution in the Anjuna-Vagator belt came under the scanner in the High Court on Tuesday, with Amicus Curiae Nigel Costa Frias pointing out that the two names suggested by the government for the Noise Monitoring Committee (NMC) both had vested interests and were not acceptable.

"The two names suggested by the government cannot be considered, as they would create a conflict of interest and are not acceptable to those working to combat noise pollution in the affected areas," Costa Frias explained. The two names put forward were Nyron Reginaldo Dias and Rohan Gadekar, both having involvement in the hospitality/tourism industry, as per records.

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CURIOUS CASE OF THE 'MISSING' CCTV FOOTAGE

The High Court on Tuesday raised concerns about the lack of progress regarding the CCTV footage that had been requested during a previous hearing. Costa Frias reminded the Judges that the footage was crucial to ascertain the truth about noise violations.

"CCTV footage should be mandatory for the GSPCB before issuing opera-

tional licenses," Costa Frias argued.

"This will help ensure transparency, as different parties have been providing conflicting reports about the situation," Justice Karnik responded, stating, "We are not technically qualified to assess how CCTV systems work, but if you provide us with the necessary guidelines, we will pass an order to enforce it."

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BRIDGING THE GAP



LUPENDRA NAIK

A worker lays mastic asphalt on the Old Mandovi Bridge, a crucial link between Panjim and Porvorim that is currently shut for repairs, sparking huge traffic snarls in the morning and evening rush hours. RELATED REPORT ON PAGE 2

SC orders stay on Allahbadia's arrest

PTL, NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday granted interim protection from arrest to podcaster Ranveer Allahbadia over his comments on a YouTube show while calling it "vulgar" and saying he had "dirty mind" which put the society to shame.

FIRs were lodged against Allahbadia, popularly known as BeerBiceps, for the comment on parents and sex on comic Samay Raina's YouTube show "India's Got Latent".

"Where is the question of an individual's morality? We can understand if one person says I don't like these kinds of words," said Justice Surya Kant.

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Lawyer lauds prosecution's work to get justice for Danielle

Over eight years, Danielle's family received support of consulates and never lost faith in the judicial process

Team Herald

MARGAO: After nearly eight years of unwavering determination, justice has finally been served in the case of Danielle McLaughlin, the 28-year-old British-Irish backpacker who was raped and murdered in a forested area in Canacona on March 14, 2017. For years, flowers, candles, and photographs marked the spot where she was found, a testament to a life taken far too soon.

Fast forward to February 17, 2025, when the South Goa District and Sessions Court sentenced Vikat Bhagat, a local man who had initially posed as the victim's friend, to rigorous life imprisonment for her



Danielle McLaughlin's family members and well-wishers in court on the day of the sentencing

rape and murder, along with an additional three-year term for destruction of evidence, with all sentences to run concurrently.

"Having taken the victim to a secluded spot in the jungle late at night

where there would be no witnesses, the victim was raped and then brutally murdered," explained Vikram Varma, the lawyer representing McLaughlin's mother, Andrea Brannigan, to O Herald.

"In such cases neither can the victim provide direct evidence nor can any eye witness. The task of the police in such cases all over the world is extremely difficult because they have to rely upon circumstantial evidence. Which means that every circumstance related to the crime has to be substantiated with cogent and reliable evidence," he added.

Three days before Bhagat was sentenced, the court had convicted Bhagat on Friday, during which time, McLaughlin's mother Andrea, sister Joylene, and childhood friends were present, alongside members of the British embassy.

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