

Prime accused, aide in police net for 'evicting' Anjuna family

Probe reveals main accused Janardhan Khorate and his accomplices kidnapped Sinary's maid; Mapusa security agency that provided 'goons' operating without a licence

Team Herald

ANJUNA: In a major breakthrough, Anjuna Police have arrested the prime accused, Janardhan Khorate, and his accomplice, Nikhil Shirodkar, for allegedly evicting the Sinary family from their Anjuna residence.

The investigation further revealed that Khorate and his accomplices had also kidnapped the Sinary family's maid. It has also come to light that Aryan Security Agency, based in Mapusa, was operating without a licence, which is mandatory under the Private Security Agency Regulation Act (PSARA). The Crime Branch is in the process of writing to the concerned authority to cancel the agency's licence.

Khorate had been absconding since the commission of the offence. Most of the stolen property has been recovered and attached under a panchanama. Meanwhile, the Crime Branch has formed teams to apprehend the remaining absconding accused persons.

The Sinary family, residing at St Michael's Waddo, Anjuna, had alleged that

Mapusa SDPO pays the price, shunted out for 'shoddy' probe

Team Herald

MAPUSA: Mapusa SDPO Sandesh Chodankar has been shunted over alleged lapses in the investigation into the eviction row, with Pernem DySP Ashish Shirodkar given additional charge. Chodankar has now been directed to police headquarters. Sources revealed that senior police officials were dissatisfied with his handling of the case, alleging that he showed undue leniency towards the main accused, Janardhan Khorate, who had been evading arrest.

Khorate has been charged with allegedly deploying bouncers to forcibly evict the Sinary family without a court order. The SDPO's transfer comes after the Additional Sessions Judge II rejected Khorate's anticipatory bail plea, stating that he could manipulate witnesses and destroy evidence. The court observed: "The incident occurred in broad daylight, and the involvement of the accused in the crime is established, at least at this prima facie stage, from the material placed on record. Khorate had engaged armed bouncers and attempted to dispossess the complainant (Sinary). The housemaid was abducted. This proves the gravity of the offence," noted Judge Ram Subrai Prabhu Dessai.

Sources revealed that the department has been left red-faced following the earlier Assagao house demolition case involving bouncers, which allegedly had links to a senior police officer. To avoid a similar controversy, officials acted swiftly in the current case. Meanwhile, sources within the department, speaking on condition of anonymity, said either DySP Wilson D'Souza or DySP Rajan Nigayale is likely to be appointed as the new Mapusa SDPO.

Khorate, along with 15-20 unidentified persons, crim-

inally trespassed into their property in their absence

and 310 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023,

GOAN OCCUPANTS BULLDOZED OUT OF THEIR ASSAGAO HOME, TORTURED & DUMPED IN ANJUNA

Law & order has gone for a toss, says Sidiem's BJP MLA Deeliah Lobos; Anjuna police station doesn't send cops on time, as staff had gone for lunch; water and electricity till today are in the name of the occupants who are now homeless



This case is reminiscent of another unlawful, violent eviction reported in June 2024, when the Agarwadekar family of Assagao was forced out of their home by goons, and their rented home, partially demolished with their belongings still inside

and stole household items. The complainant also claimed they received threatening calls from the accused.

The case was transferred to the Crime Branch on February 13.

The Crime Branch has revealed that the complainant's maid was abducted from the scene of the offence, following which Sections 309, 140, 61, and 310 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023,

and subsequently rejected.

Seraulim villagers take on P'yat, accuse Sarpanch, panchas of corruption

Team Herald

MARGAO: Villagers from Seraulim held a meeting with the Saclete Block Development Officer (BDO) on Thursday, demanding immediate action against their local panchayat for alleged involvement in illegal activities.

A delegation of villagers, led by Joaquim Dias, raised their concerns before BDO Nimisha Phaladesai, presenting evidence of several unlawful practices within the panchayat.

They accused the panchayat body of failing to conduct proper gram sabhas, and highlighted a series of illegal activities, including unauthorised construction and business dealings by elected panchayat members.

Joaquim Dias, speaking to reporters, said, "What is shocking is that gram sabha meetings are abruptly concluded without addressing the proposals brought forward by the villagers. Critical issues, such as illegal land filling and trade licenses issued to the elected members, are being ig-

A group of villagers reportedly met Saclete Block Development officer with evidence of illegal landfilling, unauthorised constructions and shady business deals by panchas; complain that gram sabha meetings are not conducted properly, and minutes manipulated

nored." He went on to express frustrations that, despite filing numerous complaints, the villagers have been forced to approach the BDO for action due to the lack of response.

"The deputy sarpanch, in particular, lacks the competence and knowledge to conduct gram sabhas in the absence of the sarpanch," he added.

According to the villagers, there are also serious concerns about disruptions during the gram sabhas, with elected members allegedly bringing their supporters and family

members to interfere with proceedings.

"In the past, even the BDO office has failed to conduct an inquiry into the complaints filed by villagers," Dias said. "We demand an immediate investigation into the actions of the sarpanch and deputy sarpanch, as well as the secretary and other panchayat members."

Further allegations were made regarding the inaccurate recording of the gram sabha minutes.

"Things that were never discussed are being falsely reported in the minutes," the villagers claimed. "It's shocking that the panchayat is responding to complaints about illegal activities involving villagers when they themselves are engaged in similar unlawful actions. The sarpanch and deputy sarpanch have no right to continue in their roles while engaging in such illegal practices."

The villagers are calling for swift and decisive action to address these grievances and restore accountability within the panchayat.

Chandor rail protest: Hearing pushed to March 11

Team Herald

MARGAO: The Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) Margao has adjourned the hearing in the case against ten activists accused of unlawful assembly during the Chandor protest against railway double-tracking. The hearing was pushed to March 11 after some of the accused sought additional time to file their replies to the prosecution's application for supplementary investigation.

While five of the ten-odd accused have already filed their replies opposing the prosecution's request, the remaining asked for more time. The Maina-Curtorim police have sought permission to conduct further investigation, arguing that critical evidence was left out in the original probe. In their application, they highlighted the absence of station diary extracts documenting the deployment of police officers at the protest site, which they claim is essential to establish the presence of key witnesses.

Additionally, they have requested the court's approval to record statements from three Salcete Joint Mamlatdars—Raghuraj Faldessai, Dattaraj K Gauns Dessai, and Gaurav S Gaonkar—whom they consider material witnesses.

The case stems from the midnight protest on November 1-2, 2020, when thousands gathered in Chandor to oppose the railway double-tracking project. The accused include activists, an MLA and Goa's prominent environmental campaigners.

AAP calls for probe, FIR after faulty speedbreakers cause fatal crash in Raia

Team Herald

MARGAO: The Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) Curtorim unit has officially submitted a complaint to the Public Works Department (PWD), urging immediate action regarding the hazardous speed breakers located at Arlem, Raia, which recently resulted in the tragic loss of a young life.

Roque Mascarenhas, a representative of AAP Curtorim, highlighted that the newly installed speed breakers near Livramento Chapel are poorly designed and fail to meet the standards set by the Indian Road Congress (IRC). This, he noted, has created a significant risk for both motorists and pedestrians.

Despite clear guidelines for road safety infrastructure, the speed breakers lack proper dimensions, visibility, and warning signage, making them more of a danger than a safety measure. "This tragic incident could have been avoided if the authorities had ensured proper planning and execution. The negligence in the design of these speed breakers is unacceptable," said Mascarenhas. "We de-

mand accountability for this loss of life and immediate corrective measures to prevent further tragedies."

In the complaint to PWD, AAP Curtorim has demanded a formal inquiry to identify and hold accountable the officials and contractors responsible for this faulty construction, filing of an FIR against those whose negligence led to the death of an innocent citizen, immediate rectification of the speed breakers to meet IRC safety standards, a comprehensive audit of all speed breakers in Curtorim constituency to prevent similar incidents and compensation for the family of the deceased, recognizing that administrative failures contributed to this tragedy.

AAP Curtorim has urged the government and relevant authorities to act swiftly to prioritize road safety and prevent further incidents. This incident, they say, should serve as a wake-up call to ensure that all road infrastructures in Goa is built with proper planning, adherence to safety regulations, and consideration for the well-being of the public.

Cardinal Ferrão urges faithful to pray for ailing Pope Francis

Team Herald

MARGAO: Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrão, Archbishop of Goa and Daman, has called upon the faithful of the Archdiocese to pray for Pope Francis, who remains hospitalised for treatment. In a message issued to the clergy, religious, and lay faithful, Cardinal Ferrão urged prayers for the pontiff's recovery, asking that the Lord grant him strength and complete healing so he may continue his mission of shepherding the Catholic Church.

Pope Francis, now in his seventh day at Rome's Gemelli hospital, is being treated for pneumonia. The 88-year-old pontiff was admitted on February 14 after experienc-

ing breathing difficulties for several days. The Vatican, in an update on his condition, reported that he is alert and was able to get out of bed to eat breakfast on Thursday morning. Vatican spokesman Matteo Brunni said that the pope had rested well and took his meal while seated in an armchair, indicating signs of improvement.

As prayers continue worldwide for the Holy Father's recovery, the Archdiocese of Goa and Daman has joined in solidarity, responding to Cardinal Ferrão's call for intercession. Priests, religious, and the faithful have been urged to dedicate their prayers for his well-being, hoping for his swift return to health and active ministry.

Goans deported from US: Citizens demand crackdown on fake recruiters, visa agents

Team Herald

MARGAO: A group of angry citizens has voiced their displeasure over the recent deportation of two Goans from the United States, urging the government to take stringent action against agents involved in illegal recruitment for foreign job placements.

These citizens have highlighted that despite such incidents and the growing issue of illegal immigration in search of employment, many agents continue to deceive Goan youth, taking large sums of money under the false promise of securing overseas jobs.

It is worth noting that recently, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant had issued a stern warning to agents involved in the illegal trafficking of youths to other countries for work. Speaking to reporters, Milagres Fernandes, a resident of Fatorda, expressed concern over the issue of Goan youth illegally entering foreign countries for employment.

"It is a worrying situation, and there is an urgent need for proper guidance for our youth. Many families are facing immense hardship after their children have fallen into trouble for entering and staying illegally in the US and other countries. Following the legal

While it is natural for youth to seek job opportunities abroad to earn a living, many of them fall victim to unscrupulous agents. Despite paying huge sums, they are now facing legal issues in foreign countries for their illegal entry — Suresh Naik, citizen

procedures is the right way to seek employment. However, what's more shocking is that some agents in Goa continue to take large sums of money, promising jobs in foreign countries without adhering to the proper legal channels," he said.

Suresh Naik, another concerned citizen, stressed the importance of vigilance against such fraudulent practices.

"While it is natural for youth to seek job opportunities abroad to earn a living, many of them fall victim to unscrupulous agents. Despite paying huge sums, they are often left duped and are now facing legal issues in foreign countries for their illegal entry," he said.

Naik called on the government to take this issue seriously, urging authorities to target the agents and individuals profiting from these illegal activities.

FISHY AFFAIRS



With day temperatures soaring to 33 degrees already, fisherfolk and local vendors make efficient use of the scorching sun to dry excess fish and produce like kokum in preparation for the rains, albeit on the dirty pavements at the SGPDA market in Fatorda that are milling with stray animals and large rodents



The Goa Cabinet on Wednesday decided to ban Rottweiler and pitbull dog breeds, a decision made in the wake of a few incidents in the recent past where people have been attacked, by such dogs. Last year, a child was also mauled to death by a dog. Herald media asked citizens if they believe the government has taken the right decision in announcing the ban

SHOULD ROTTWEILER AND PIT BULL DOG BREEDS BE BANNED IN GOA?

My question to the government is, what will you achieve by banning these breeds? If you feel like putting down bans, ban corruption. Ban the conversion of fields. If you feel like banning, ban the grabbing of forest land in the name of eco-tourism, where you are disturbing the life of animals. There is no benefit in banning dog breeds. They don't attack anyone without reason. Unless someone messes with them or enters their house, they do not attack anyone. If you feel like banning, ban the Panchayat Members, ban the MPs, ban the ZP members. What bad have the poor animals done to you? My appeal to the people is, today let us ban the worms which indulge in corruption. Let us ban them. — Shailesh Gawas, advocate

Whatever Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has done with regard to the ban, he must have done it on the advice of some of his advisors. Instead of banning the Rottweilers, there is a need to ban some rotten people who are in the cabinet, as also some MLAs. And instead of banning the pit bulls, some of these bureaucrats and police officers should be banned. These should be streamlined first. Yes we have to put restrictions on the dog breeds and dog owners. But there is also the other side, where people have suffered due to negligence of the dog owners. But more importantly those who gnaw and eat Goa should be banned. — Anthony D'Silva, social activist

The ban on dog breeds is of no benefit to common people. It is for a certain section of people, and for those who are concerned. But in the larger context, the bigger threat is from the two-legged creatures. If we have to save Goa, there should be a ban on two-legged threats. There should be a ban on bouncers. There should be a ban on the drug cartel, because of which Goa's name and our youth have been spoiled. There should be a ban on corruption. There should be a curb on the crime rate and that has to be brought down. An ordinance should be brought to bring the law and order situation under control. There should be a ban on cash for job scams — Mariano Ferrao, social activist

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