

Siddiqui video case: Palekar issued fourth summons

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Old Goa Police have sent yet another summons to Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) State president Amit Palekar in the Suleman Khan alias Siddiqui escape and video release case, warning him of arrest, if he fails to remain present for investigation.

This is the fourth summons that Palekar has received in the investigation of the Siddiqui case.

Meanwhile, Palekar has said that the police are least concerned about Siddiqui's escape and are harassing him in the name of investigation.

Palekar has been sent the summons under subsection (3) of Section 35 BNSS 2023.

The Old Goa Police in their summons said, "It is revealed that there are reasonable grounds to question you to ascertain facts and circumstances from you, in relation to the present investigation. Hence you are directed to appear before undersigned on February 21 at 11.00 hrs at Old Goa Police Station."

Additionally, 11 conditions have been laid by the police for Palekar. The ones that have raised eyebrows are: "You will disclose all the facts truthfully without concealing any part relevant for the purpose of investigation to reach to the right conclusion of the case" and "You will render your full cooperation/assistance in apprehension of the accomplice."

Reacting to the summons, Palekar said, "Police are not taking objection to the freeing of Suleman, but are more interested in summoning me for no reason. For once, arrest me and finish the matter once and for all," Palekar said and termed the constant summoning exercise as harassment.

AN EXTRAORDINARY SAINT IN GOA, BUT UNKNOWN: My Tryst with Jeanne Jugan

- Edmund Antao

It was the year 1999 and I was in Bangalore. A visiting Bishop from Europe with me pointed to the large Home of the Little Sisters of the Poor (LSP) there, remarking that the LSP was the fastest growing congregation of nun sisters in the world. He asked me if I knew about their founder Jeanne Jugan and to my negative reply, he challenged me to read about her, adding that I would surely find in it the secret of why her congregation was so fast growing. He attributed it to her having paid the price as Founder. That strange remark would lead me to hunger to know about Jeanne Jugan but in 1999 this was no easy task with no internet in our country. Besides Jeanne was also then not yet a Saint and would be canonised only ten years later in 2009. Yet I could not but be infused by a spirit of relentlessly pursuing all that could be known about Jeanne Jugan.



St. Jeanne Jugan

What I found?

I found she was born in 1792, in the port city of Cancale in France, the sixth of eight children. She grew up during the political and religious upheavals of the French Revolution. Four years after she was born, her father, a fisherman, was lost at sea. Her mother struggled to provide for the young Jeanne and her siblings, while also providing them secretly with religious instruction amid the anti-Catholic persecutions of the day. Jeanne worked as shepherdess while still very young, and learned to knit and spin wool. She could barely read and write. This French lay woman raised in poverty & hardships and with no formal education worth the name, laboured as a domestic servant in households; but yet felt deep within her that God was calling her for "a new thing, a work that was yet to be revealed".

Refusing to get distracted by offers of marriage by suitors and other pursuits, Jeanne continued to wait and wait with hope, for something that never seemed to happen year after year. Finally one cold winter night in 1839, Jeanne then nearly 45, found by the roadside an elderly, blind and partially paralyzed woman named Anne Chauvin. With no one there for the woman, Jeanne carried her to her apartment and took it upon herself to begin caring for her. She let Anne have her bed and Jeanne slept in the attic. A short time later, Jeanne took in two more old women in need of help and by 1841, she rented another space to house a dozen of elderly people. The next year, she attained an open convent and housed 40 more people. With approval from her peers, Jeanne began focusing her attention on her new mission - assisting abandoned elderly women. This marked the beginning of the religious congregation known now as **The Little Sisters of the Poor**.

Jeanne constructed a simple Rule of Life for her new community of women. Each day they went around town requesting food, clothing and money for those in their care. Jeanne's carried on with her new life's work for the next four decades of her life. More young women started to hear about Jeanne's mission and joined her. Through begging on the streets, Jeanne was able to open four more homes for her needy within those 10 years. By 1850, over 100 women had joined the congregation. Then came opposition and betrayal....

The Great Hoax

Jeanne rightfully the Founder and the first Little sister of the Poor was soon forced out of the leadership role to which she had been elected thrice.. This happened when the local bishop appointed a priest Fr Auguste Le Pailleur to be the spiritual director of the women's group but alas his motives were not good. Seeking to claim all credit for himself for the good work, Fr Auguste cancelled the election of Jeanne as the superior on the ground she had no education. He installed a young girl Jamet who had

joined the group to be the new superior and Jeanne was instead assigned to strictly begging on the streets only. She simply submitted to this without protest and was given great success by God in her begging work. But Fr Auguste was not done. He now decided history was to know him as the founder, and many believed him. The hoax went so far as to become part of the training of the community's novices. Only after Jeanne's death was the truth about the founding restored.

Fr Auguste's final blow was to recall Jeanne from her labour of begging in the field to the motherhouse for what turned out to be her forced permanent retirement. He ordered her not to move out of the novitiate in a life of obscurity for her final 27 years of life. There she would inspire, guide and interact with the young novices who never knew that this kind woman was in fact the first and original Little sister of the Poor and the actual Founder of the congregation. She suffered in silence...but with no bitterness and with good cheer...her life thus became a *Song of Silence*.

And the fruits of it began blossoming..... After The Little Sisters of the Poor communities began expanding throughout France, their work spread to England in 1851 and the United States founded five of their own communities from 1866 to 1871. By 1879, Jeanne's community had over 2,400 Little Sisters. On March 1, 1879 before she died, Pope Leo XIII had approved the Constitution for the congregation for seven years.

At the time of Jeanne's death, in 1879 at the age of 86, most of the Little Sisters had no idea Jeanne was the real founder of the congregation. It was thought that the young girl Jamet whom Fr Auguste had installed in her place was the Founder. After Jeanne died, the priest Fr Auguste was investigated by the Vatican and found guilty of suppressing the truth to promote his hoax claim. He was dismissed in 1890 and Jeanne, though dead by then, was recognised as the true Founder of the Little Sisters of the Poor rightfully.



Mother General Maria del Monte Auxiliadora psdp

On this great occasion of Jeanne Jugan's successor Mother General Maria to Goa, an open house event has been organised on the morning of Sunday, 23rd February at 10.30 am, under the title - **Knowing the heart of St Jeanne Jugan**. It will be held at the AC auditorium **Gomant Vidya Niketan** in down town Margao and also graced by the presence of the Mother General. It is open to all people of good will and those who desire to know about this jewel - Jeanne Jugan, who has remained largely unknown in this part of the world.

From being a Zero to being made a Hero by God

Jeanne had in the meantime paid the price by her silent suffering, her submission and obedience despite the injustice of being robbed of her work. This never affected her determination to serve the Lord Jesus - whom she lovingly called Her Bridegroom - till the end, and like Him, she learnt to embrace in life far less than what was rightfully due to her. The steadfast love she had for her Divine Bridegroom Jesus made all suffering worthwhile and enabled her to sail past every storm.

I had finally discovered the secret of what the Bishop had challenged me to find by knowing Jeanne Jugan. What I learnt has greatly edified me and held me in good stead in my spiritual life & endeavours.

During her canonization in 2009 Pope Benedict XVI expressed, "In the Beatitudes, Jeanne Jugan found the source of the spirit of hospitality and fraternal love, founded on unlimited trust in Providence, which illuminated her whole life." She is the patron saint of the destitute elderly and her feast day is celebrated on August 30.

This week the highest official of the congregation of the Little Sisters of the Poor (LSP), its Mother General Maria del Monte Auxiliadora psdp will be in Goa for the first time. As head of the universal LSP, she is the direct successor to St Jeanne Jugan. Today Friday the 21st Feb she along with Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrao will lay the foundation stone for the new Home for the Aged complex at Carmona. The new complex had become a pressing need with the current Home started a few years back filled to its capacity and with a long waiting list of persons for admission.

What's so special about the Homes of the Little Sisters of the Poor?

Elderly Care or old age Homes in Goa are nothing new. There are several all over our state. But the unique feature of the Little Sisters of the Poor is their charism - that they enable the stay, hospitality and loving care to the elderly in their Homes *without charging them anything*. **How do they manage it?** By their charism of going out and everywhere to beg and to collect provisions for the elderly inmates. In that they are so dependent on divine providence, and Heaven simply does not fail to provide them - in food, medicines, provisions and all that is required for their inmates till they meet with a happy death in the Homes. Such has been the generosity of divine providence that people and benefactors have thrown open their houses to the Little Sisters of the Poor to start Homes for the aged all around the world. Today the LSP operate their Homes in 32 countries including in India where they run 15 Homes, one of which is in our own Goa.

And God, when He gives, is greatly generous to those who trust in His provision. The facilities provided at these Homes to the elderly is at par with the best in the world for elderly care and is holistic - consisting also of recreational facilities, comfort, community life, health care and keeping fit gyms, dining and entertainment, bringing out the creative talents of the inmates, who are treated like valuable family members in the final advancing years of their lives and accompanied on their final journey till life has extinguished. All this on the strength of what the Little Sisters like Jeanne Jugan call "Collection for their Old people", for which they trudge out miles faithfully day after day. They will go to the market places, to the shops, to public places and to private residences and even offices with empty bags and return with filled bags, in evidence of God's unfailing ability to move hearts to pour into their bags generously.

Little wonder then that this selfless giving of oneself has attracted thousands of young women all over the world to be drawn to be a Little Sister of the Poor and after suitable formation these women become the hands that run the numerous Homes all over in which elderly people are finding they can live and die happily, in cheerful and caring hospitality while preparing their souls for their final heavenly destination.



The author and wife seen with Mother General in La Tour, France, the world HQ of the LSP

Having travelled through India and the world myself, as a resource person conducting all manner of Retreats & Conferences to Priests, nuns, the religious and the laity, I have myself experienced firsthand the love, the warmth and the caring hospitality of the Little Sisters of the Poor in various countries and in India. Their Homes are many, but as St Jeanne Jugan would say: *"If God is with us, it will be accomplished ... God will help us; the work is His."*

After my personal experience with the Saint and with her daughters - the Little Sisters of the Poor - nothing would give me more satisfaction than: *All the daughters of Goa and the Konkani being drawn to become the daughters of St Jeanne Jugan and find in it their life fulfillment and the joy of living!*

The author Edmund Antao is a well decorated lawyer of yesteryears, and is the Founder and 1st Coordinator General of the movement called the Association of Crusaders for Jesus with Mary - which is officially recognised by the Catholic Church.

ADVT

Margao Cong dares govt to probe crores spent on PM's visit

Team Herald

PANJIM: Margao Congress Block on Thursday dared the government to order a thorough probe into the work on improvement of infrastructure around the KTC bus stand at Margao during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit in connection with the Viksit Bharat programme on February 6 last year.

Congress leaders led by Savio Coutinho highlighted that 16 JCBs or excavators, 16 tipper trucks and 115 workers were falsely claimed to be utilised for ten days from January 30, till February 8, last year and alleged that over Rs 120 crores were claimed to have spent on various works executed by the PWD in Margao and surrounding areas even though some of the works had no connection with the PM's visit

In a representation submitted to Principle Chief Engineer of Public Works Department (PWD) Savio Coutinho claimed that there is a mismatch between the bills submitted for works undertaken in view of Viksit Bharat/Viksit Goa and visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's programme and the actual works at respective sites and alleged that Rs

He further claimed that

fraud has been observed in works like improvement of infrastructure around Kadamba bus stand on arrival of Prime Minister at Fatorda at an estimated cost of Rs 71.16 lakh, hotmixing of road from Collector office to Arlem circle in Fatorda constituency at an estimated cost of Rs 4.31 crore, improvement of SG-PDA ground opposite Inox in Fatorda constituency at an estimated cost of Rs 7.23 crore, improvement and hotmixing of Kadamba Bus Stand including Depot Area in Fatorda at an estimated cost of Rs 4.94 crore and making arrangement for temporary bus stand.

Speaking to reporters, Coutinho claimed that the works were given without issuing a tender notice.

He said,"It has been claimed that 16 JCBs, 16 trucks and 115 workers were deployed for ten days for improvement of infrastructure around Kadamba bus stand but the fact is that most of the arrangements were ready on February 1, 2024, itself and after that security was not allowing anyone. The area was totally cordoned off. It has been observed that the order was given ex post facto. The total work order given was of an estimated cost of Rs 120 crore. So we demand an inquiry into this."

Goa to showcase regenerative tourism at ITB Berlin 2025

Team Herald

PANJIM: Goa Tourism will make a remarkable presence at ITB Berlin 2025, the world's leading travel trade show to be held at the Messe Berlin ExpoCentre City, Germany from March 4 to 6.

With a focus on regenerative tourism, cultural heritage, adventure, and wellness tourism, Goa aims to highlight its diverse offerings beyond its famous beaches. The Goa Tourism Pavilion at ITB Berlin 2025 will offer visitors an immersive experience inspired by Goan heritage and architecture. Designed to highlight sustainable and regenerative tourism, the pavilion will showcase Goa's commitment to responsible travel experiences.

"As we showcase Goa at ITB Berlin 2025, our focus remains on regenerative

tourism, sustainability and preserving Goa's cultural identity. Goa is more than just a beach destination; it is a land of rich heritage, spiritual sanctuaries, immersive experiences that offer a deeper connection with nature and local communities. Through our participation at ITB Berlin, we aim to forge meaningful partnerships and position Goa as a leading global tourism destination that prioritizes responsible and conscious travel," said Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte.

"Our participation at ITB Berlin aligns with Goa's vision to promote a tourism that is sustainable, community-driven, and economically beneficial. By engaging with global stakeholders, we seek to bring in innovative tourism solutions, enhance our visitor experience," Tourism Director Kedar Naik said.

Pratiksha is new Goa Mahila Congress chief

Team Herald

PANJIM: Dr Pratiksha Khalap has been appointed President of the Goa Mahila Congress unit with immediate effect.

All India Congress Committee (AICC) President Mallikarjun Kharge approved the appointment of the presidents for Mahila Congress units of six States and union territories on Thursday.

Illegally extracted sand worth Rs 1.48 lakh seized

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Old Goa Police have seized illegally extracted 74 cubic meters of sand worth Rs 1.48 lakh from Gaundalim, Tiswadi and booked unidentified persons for illegally extracting sand from Mandovi river and stacking it at an open space on banks of the river.

The police have also attached a canoe and other articles under the panchanama.

An FIR has been registered and further investigations are in progress with PSI Anish Naik.

APPOINTMENTS

THE AKSHAYA PATRA FOUNDATION,

Seeking dedicated professionals to join Akshaya Patra at the Multipurpose Cyclone Shelter (MPCS), Pilerne Village, Goa.

We are currently hiring for multiple positions:

Maintenance Executive (1 Position): Skilled individual with knowledge in electrical, plumbing, and general maintenance. Experience with RO, ETP, HVAC systems preferred.

Quality Executive (1 Position): A skilled individual with knowledge in food safety, experience in the food industry preferred, (Graduates/ Postgraduates - Microbiology/ Food science & Nutrition/ Food technologist Only)

Cooks (2 Positions): Experienced cooks who can prepare a variety of dishes, including local cuisine, with a focus on food safety and hygiene.

Drivers (3 Positions): Seeking male candidates with a valid driver's license, at least 2 years of experience, and excellent communication skills.

Helpers (13 Positions): Energetic candidates needed for kitchen assistance and driving support. Prior experience is a plus.

Visit our office at:

The Akshaya Patra Foundation,
Multipurpose Cyclone Shelter (MPCS), Pilerne Village, Panchayat, Saligao, Bardwz Tauka, Goa-403511 Contact Us: Phone: +91-9071210222 or Send your resume to: shashik@akshayapatra.org