

# Third charge sheet against Siddiqui in land grabbing case

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** The Special Investigation Team (SIT) on land grabbing has filed its third charge sheet against Suleman Khan alias Siddiqui in connection with a land grabbing case registered in Mapusa in 2022. With this, all three cases against him have now been charge-sheeted.

The 1,364-page charge sheet names 45 witnesses who will now be examined. It has been submitted within 90 days of the arrest of the accused.

The case was originally registered at Mapusa Police Station in 2022 based on a complaint by Arjun S. Shetye, from the Office of the Civil Registrar-cum-Sub-Registrar, Bardez, Mapusa. The accused—Suleman Afsana Khan and Asif Allabaksha Saudagar—allegedly forged documents related to survey numbers 455/7, 466/5, and 466/6 of Thim, Bardez, and impersonated legal heirs to fraudulently transfer ownership. They also allegedly used counterfeit government

stamps to facilitate the fraud. The accused successfully deprived the rightful heirs of their properties before concerned authorities.

The case was later transferred to the SIT (Land Grabbing), which, after investigation, submitted the charge sheet before the JMFC Mapusa Court on Friday.

Previously, on January 30, 2025, the SIT had filed two separate charge sheets against Suleman Khan—one 852 pages long and another 656 pages—for land grabbing cases in Mapusa and Valpoi. He was accused of forgery, cheating, and creating fake documents to illegally seize land.

Khan, who faces over 15 serious cases, had been on the run for five years after changing his appearance to evade arrest. He was finally arrested in 2024 but later escaped from Crime Branch custody, before being rearrested. The SIT's investigation confirmed that he was the mastermind in all three cases, successfully forging property documents and completing the mutation process before authorities.

## AAP chief alleges police harassment over repeated summons

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) President Amit Palekar was on Friday questioned for the third time by the Old Goa Police in connection with a video released by Suleman Khan alias Siddique an accused in multiple land grab cases who escaped from the custody of the Crime Branch last year but was arrested later.

Speaking to media later, the AAP chief lashed out at the Goa Police and the ruling BJP government, calling Suleman Khan alias Siddique an embarrassment to both. Frustrated with repeated summons, Palekar has urged the police to arrest him instead of harassing him with constant notices.

Palekar questioned whether the Old Goa Police had summoned the entire SIT Crime Branch team that was with Suleman before his arrest, as well as the political leaders



**Goa Police have become rogue police and this is nothing but pure harassment – Amit Palekar, AAP President**

named by Suleman.

"Have their tower locations been tracked? Have their statements been recorded, despite Suleman alleging that he was forced to make a video at gunpoint?" he asked.

Raising further concerns, Palekar criticised the notice served to him under Section 35 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which is typically issued to an accused.

# Goa to implement NEP for Grade VI, X for this academic year

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** The State government has initiated steps to implement the National Education Policy (NEP)-2020 at the middle stage (Grade 6), and Grade 10 of secondary stage from the academic year 2025-2026.

The Directorate of Education has issued instructions to the academic institutions for effective implementation of NEP at these levels. As per NEP-2020, the School Education is restructured as Foundational Stage (Balvatika to Grade 2), Preparatory Stage (Grade 3 to Grade 5), Middle Stage (Grade 6 to Grade 8) and Secondary Stage (Grade 9 to Grade 12) covering ages 3 to 18 years.

Goa has implemented NEP-2020 at the Foundational Stage (Balvatika 1)

## INSTRUCTIONS TO SCHOOLS

- New textbooks will be introduced to Grade 6; existing textbooks will be used for the Grade 9 and 10
- Each period will be of 40 minutes; five-and-half instructional hours which shall not include assembly and recess
- School assembly may be included as a part of remedial teaching; school timings may be decided by institutions

in the year 2023-2024 and at Balvatika 2 of Foundational Stage and Secondary

Stage (Grade 9) in the year 2024-2025. The NEP was introduced in the country in July 2020.

The instructions have been issued for effective implementation of NEP-2020 under the State Curriculum Framework for Grade 6 and Grade 10 with effect from the next academic year.

New textbooks will be introduced to Grade 6 in all the curricular areas, while

existing textbooks will be used for the Grade 9 and 10.

Each period will be of 40 minutes duration. All institutions have been asked to maintain minimum five-and-half instructional hours which shall not include assembly and recess.

"School assembly may be included as a part of remedial teaching. The school timings may be decided by the schools concerned in consultation with all stakeholders," states the circular issued by Director of Education Shailesh R Sinai Zingde.

## Cricket betting racket busted in Pilerne, three arrested

**PANJIM:** Porvorim Police busted a cricket betting racket operating from a bungalow in Pilerne, arresting three individuals while they were caught red-handed accepting illegal bets. The accused were attempting to profit from the India-Bangladesh Champions Trophy match held on Thursday.

The arrested individuals have been identified as Maksood Modan (28), Asifbhai Ganja (25), and Rizwan Bhash (20), all from Gujarat. Police seized four

mobile phones, one laptop, and a router, collectively valued at approximately Rs 1.10 lakh.

Superintendent of Police, North Goa, Akshat Kaushal stated that the trio was caught placing illegal bets on the ongoing cricket match in a closed premises. Porvorim Police have registered an offence under Sections 3 and 4 of The Goa, Daman and Diu Public Gambling Act, 1976, and all three accused have been placed under arrest.

## Activists Rama Kankonkar, Sanjay Barde arrested

**PANJIM:** Two social activists Rama Kankonkar and Sanjay Barde were arrested by the police.

Kankonkar was arrested by Panjim Police for allegedly making 'derogatory' statements against Chief Minister Pramod Sawant at Azad Maidan, Panjim.

Kankonkar was first summoned on Thursday and detained for some time. On Friday, he was summoned again at around 11 am and arrested later in the evening. According to the FIR registered against him, police stated that his remarks could incite public

enmity against the Chief Minister.

Barde was arrested by the Mapusa police on Thursday night and taken to Kolhapur in the alleged fraud case of 2008.

The Kolhapur Court had issued a non-bailable warrant against Barde in the case registered against him at Rajwada Police Station, Kolhapur in 2008.

Barde told the media persons that the case was related to a road roller which he had rented from persons from Kolhapur in 2008. He alleged that he was arrested out of political vendetta.

## LONG ROAD AHEAD



The pillars for the elevated corridor touted to decongest NH 66 in Porvorim have been installed, giving citizens hope that the project may be completed by its December 2025 deadline

## Land allotted for crematorium 'illegally' given to automobile firm, HC orders probe

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** The High Court of Bombay at Goa has directed the Administrator of Comunidades, North to probe complaint regarding conversion of land allotted for a crematorium and "illegally" allotted to an automobile company at Mapusa.

The residents of Mapusa had filed a public

interest litigation (PIL) writ petition stating that the land belonging to the Comunidade of Mapusa, which was originally allotted to the crematorium at Dattawadi, was converted illegally. By virtue of illegal conversion, the land was sought to be allotted to the automobile company.

The petitioners counsel Pavithran A V prayed that

the representation made to the Administrator of Comunidades be considered on its own merits and decided expeditiously. He also brought to the notice of the Court about the Ordinance issued by the State government in October 2024 which stated that the land granted by the Comunidade for certain purpose/use is put to any use other than for

which it was granted then such land be reverted back to the concerned Comunidade.

The Court asked the Administrator of Comunidades to ascertain the position by taking appropriate action in terms of amended Article 31-A of Code of Comunidades and to take action expeditiously and preferably within a period of four months.

## Cop boasts of clout, gets 'VIP' ticket to suspension after viral audio leak

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** Constable Rajesh Salgaonkar from the Indian Reserve Battalion (IRB) has been suspended after an audio clip of him allegedly threatening to transfer senior officers and a colleague got leaked, teaching him the hard lesson that loose lips can sink careers.

In an ironic turn of events, he has now been sent to the very location he had threatened to transfer others to—Canacona IRBn camp.

The suspension order was issued by IRBn Commandant Sucheta Dessai following the controversy.

In the viral audio, Salgaonkar, who was posted in the sports section of Goa Police, was heard threatening a colleague, claiming that his sister had influential political connections, including with the Chief Minister and other Goa leaders. He boasted that if anyone troubled him at work, he could have them transferred to Canacona, which he claimed was assured by his sister.

Furthermore, Salgaonkar alleged that he and another staff member had transferred a Superintendent of Police (SP) and a Deputy

## TALL CLAIMS

- Claims sister has political 'influence' with Chief Minister, other leaders
- Threatens to transfer senior officers, colleague to Canacona using clout

## PAID IN SAME COIN

- Audio clip goes viral
- Issued suspension orders, directed to report at Canacona IRBn camp

Superintendent of Police (DySP). He also claimed to have been present when the Chief Minister discussed personnel matters, saying, "I was asked by the CM to stay calm, not to argue with any staff, and to work together."

The constable further stated, "I am from Assonora, and my sister has strong connections with political leaders in Sakhali." He also alleged that he had received orders regarding the DySP's transfer to the sports section even before the official posting was made.

Following the suspension, Salgaonkar has been directed to report to the Canacona IRBn camp during his suspension period.

# South Goa sees rise in theft cases in 2024, but detection rates decline

**MARGAO:** Police stations in South Goa recorded a significant rise in theft cases in 2024 compared to the previous two years. However, data suggests that the detection rate declined during the same period, raising concerns over the effectiveness of law enforcement in recovering stolen property.

While theft cases continue to be registered, the recovery of stolen property remains a challenge. Complainants often have to wait extended periods to reclaim their belongings, even when police successfully track down stolen items. Additionally, victims must undergo legal procedures in court to establish ownership, further delaying the return of their property.

Comparative analysis of theft cases (2022-2024)

As per police records, between January 1 and December 18, 2024, South Goa witnessed 43 cases of housebreaking at night, of which 22 were detected. During the day, 16 housebreaking incidents were reported, with 12 detected. Additionally, 16 cases of house theft were registered, with 11 solved.

## BY COMPARISON:

In 2023 (till December 17), 9 daytime housebreaks were reported (5 detected), 38 nighttime housebreaks were registered (15 detected), and 24 house thefts occurred (17 solved).

In 2022, 11 daytime housebreaks were reported (9 detected), 31 nighttime housebreaks were registered (19 detected), and 24 house thefts were recorded (18 solved). Despite arrests in several cases, the recovery of stolen property has remained unsatisfactory over the past three years.

**Value of stolen and recovered property**

In the first seven months of 2024, property

worth over Rs 2 crore was stolen across South Goa. Police managed to recover Rs 57,82,557 worth of property, solving 69.30% of theft cases. A total of 101 accused were arrested in connection with these crimes.

**A few police stations recorded a 100% detection rate, such as:**

**Mardol Police Station:** Registered 2 thefts, solved both, arrested 4 persons, and recovered Rs 90,000 worth of property out of the Rs 1.9 lakh stolen.

**Collem Police Station:** Registered 3 cases, solved all, arrested 4 accused, and recovered Rs 2.61 lakh worth of stolen property.

## OTHER POLICE STATIONS REPORTED VARYING LEVELS OF SUCCESS:

**Quepem:** 8 thefts, 5 solved, 5 arrested, Rs 22,05,199 stolen, Rs 20,65,199 recovered (93.65% detection rate).

**Cuncolim:** 7 cases, 4 solved, 9 arrested, Rs 34,16,000 stolen, Rs 15,54,000 recovered.

**Margao:** 7 cases, 4 solved, 3 arrested, Rs 49,02,242 stolen, but only Rs 75,000 recovered.

**Maina-Curtorim:** 8 cases, 7 solved, 11 arrested, Rs 8,37,000 stolen, Rs 2,76,000 recovered.

**Colva:** 5 cases, 3 solved, 1 arrested, Rs 5 lakh stolen, Rs 1.9 lakh recovered.

**Fatorda:** 12 cases, 7 solved, 9 arrested, Rs 6,75,400 stolen, Rs 2.3 lakh recovered.

**Sanguem:** 3 cases, 2 solved, 2 arrested, Rs 70,000 stolen, Rs 17,000 recovered.

**Canacona:** 7 cases, 5 solved, 8 arrested, Rs 12,58,500 stolen, Rs 2.8 lakh recovered.

**Vasco:** 7 cases, 5 solved, 6 arrested, Rs 5.9 lakh stolen, Rs 65,000 recovered.

**Verna:** 12 cases, 9 solved, 27 arrested, Rs 24,98,133 stolen, Rs 3.77 lakh recovered.

**Ponda:** 13 cases, 8 solved, 5 arrested, Rs 17,72,414 stolen, Rs 4,41,858 recovered.

Thefts in 2023

In 2023 (till December 17), 156 theft cases were registered across South Goa, with stolen property—including gold ornaments—valued at 5,25,47,110. Police recovered property worth 1,38,01,516.

**Margao:** 9 cases, Rs 5,57,000 stolen, Rs 4,05,000 recovered.

**Maina-Curtorim:** 14 cases, Rs 16,47,600 stolen, Rs 15,14,100 recovered.

**Fatorda:** 17 cases, Rs 14,21,000 stolen, Rs 3,20,000 recovered.

**Colva:** 9 cases, Rs 50,35,000 stolen, Rs 27,90,000 recovered.

**Cuncolim:** 7 cases, Rs 7,62,500 stolen, Rs 2,48,000 recovered.

**Quepem:** 5 cases, Rs 1,46,000 stolen, Rs 46,000 recovered.

**Curchorem:** 13 cases, Rs 9,66,899 stolen, Rs 4,60,899 recovered.

**Sanguem:** 4 cases, Rs 4,40,000 stolen, Rs 2,95,000 recovered.

**Canacona:** 7 cases, Rs 13,22,581 stolen, Rs 5,88,645 recovered.

**Vasco:** 9 cases, Rs 24,11,177 stolen, Rs 20,67,742 recovered.

**Verna:** 19 cases, Rs 1,69,47,513 stolen, Rs 5,73,350 recovered (highest number of thefts).

**Mormugao:** 4 cases, Rs 23,89,124 stolen, Rs 8,21,100 recovered.

**Vasco Railway:** 6 cases, Rs 8,72,700 stolen, 0% recovery.

**Ponda:** 24 cases, Rs 41,04,500 stolen, Rs 30,49,000 recovered.

**Mardol:** 4 cases, Rs 10,52,000 stolen, Rs 5,76,680 recovered.

**Collem:** 5 cases, Rs 12,47,152 stolen, Rs 46,000 recovered.

Challenges in recovering stolen property

Despite police efforts, the recovery of stolen goods remains inconsistent across stations. One officer, speaking anonymously, admitted that the process of retrieving stolen items is often prolonged due to legal hurdles.

"Even when we recover stolen property, the complainant has to establish ownership in court, which can be a lengthy procedure. While gold items are sometimes returned in their original state, in many cases, thieves melt them down before selling, making recovery nearly impossible," he said.

**Happy Birthday**

**Surendra S. Govekar**

PANCH MEMBER OF ANJUNA CAISUA VILLAGE PANCHAYAT

**Best wishes from:**

Sarpanch: Laxmidas Chimulkar. Dy. Sarpanch: Smita Khorjuvekar.

Panch members: Dinesh Patil, Sudesh Parsekar, Anup Mandrekar, Pratima Govekar, Romaldin Mendonsa, Nikita Govekar, Shital Naik, Agnes Carvalho.

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