

'VIP Treatment' to murder accused: Probe points at lapses by Mandrem PI

Team Herald

MAPUSA: The Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Pernem has submitted an inquiry report that has exposed lapses committed by Mandrem Police Inspector (PI) Sherif Jaques into the alleged VIP treatment given to a murder accused.

The SDPO report has blamed the PI for failing to deploy sufficient police personnel despite having intelligence that locals might gather in protest at the police station over the murder incident. This negligence, according to the report, compromised the safety and security of the accused in custody.

The report further states that PI Jaques, who was the Investigating Officer (IO) in the case, should have



The alleged murder accused, 23-year-old Deepan Rajeev Batra (right) from Delhi, surrounded by locals in front of Mandrem Police Station while he was being taken in a private car

personally overseen the transfer and transportation of the accused. However, instead of handling the process himself, he delegated the task to lower-ranking officers, violating standard procedures.

Due to these lapses, PI Jaques is now facing disci-

plinary action. Sources indicate that he may soon receive a show-cause notice, asking him to explain why action should not be taken against him for procedural failures.

The controversy stems from a tragic incident in Mandrem on the night of



February 21, when Marieleliz Fernandes, a resident of Junaswada, lost her life after allegedly being mowed down by a speeding car. The vehicle was reportedly driven by 23-year-old Deepan Rajeev Batra from Delhi, who has since been booked under sections of murder.

The locals then raised a hue and cry as to why the accused was being given preferential treatment by the cops who were taking him to the Pernem police station lock-up in a private air conditioned car with tinted glasses which apparently belonged to a staffer.

Chain snatchers target Parra woman in broad daylight

Team Herald

PANJIM: Two unidentified chain snatchers targeted a woman as she was walking on the Parra road on Thursday morning. The incident was captured on CCTV and has left locals shell shocked.

Two men on a motorcycle stealthily approach the woman, snatch her gold chain as she was talking on her phone and fled. The victim fell on the road with the impact.

The incident occurred at around 8.30 am, while the woman was walking from her residence to the nearest bus stop on her way to work.

According to the Mapusa Police, the two suspects arrived on a two-wheeler and swiftly snatched the chain, knocked her down on the road and fled. The woman,



left in shock, immediately reported the incident to the authorities, following which a case was registered against the unknown cul-

prits. The chain has been valued at Rs 2 lakh.

Senior officers from the Mapusa Police Station have assured that efforts are underway to trace the perpetrators. CCTV footage from nearby areas is being analysed, and intelligence is being gathered to help identify and apprehend the culprits.

Meanwhile, residents of Parra have expressed growing concern over the rising number of snatching incidents in the area. Locals have urged police to increase patrolling and strengthen security measures to curb such crimes.

The Mapusa Police have also issued an appeal to the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities that could assist in tracking down the offenders.

New Mercedes District and Sessions Court complex likely to open on March 10

Team Herald

PANJIM: The new District and Sessions Court Complex at Mercedes is likely to commence operations from March 10.

A direction to shift the District and Civil and Criminal Courts currently located at the Lyceum Complex, Altinho of this effect has been issued by the Court of Principal District and Sessions Judge, North Goa.

The North Goa District Legal Services Authority, Panjim, which is presently functioning from the old District and Sessions Court Building, near Panaji Residency, will also be shifted and will com-

mence functioning from the New District and Sessions Court Complex at Mercedes.

Further, the Fast Track Special Court (POCSO), for the State will continue functioning from the old District and Sessions Court Building, near Panaji Residency, until further orders.

However, some of the courts like Fast Track Special Court will continue to function from Altinho for now.

The state-of-the-art building with a built-up area of around 34,000 square metres was inaugurated by the then Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud on October 19, 2024.

With no govt aid, Ponda enthusiasts plan own Carnival on March 4

PONDA: With no help coming from the government, the Ponda People's Carnival Committee has resolved to organise its own float on March 4 and sought financial help from locals and enthusiasts.

Addressing the media, Committee Chairman Agotinho Fernandes, Secretary Riva Pires, Treasurer Dora Roy Fernandes, and other members urged Carnival enthusiasts to support the event through monetary contributions. They emphasised that the festival aims to celebrate Goa's tradition, culture, and spirit while providing entertainment for all.

The highlight of the celebrations, the King Momo Float Parade, will commence at 4.30 pm from Tiska-Ponda, and proceed to the Old Bus stand. The organising committee has assured that cash prizes and numerous gifts will be awarded to participating troupes.

There is a growing sentiment among Ponda's Carnival lovers that the government has shown step-motherly treatment towards the town. The absence of a float parade for the past three years has left residents disheartened, ultimately compelling them to unite and revive the festival on their own.

While Carnival celebrations continue in Panjim and a few other cities, the government has failed to provide financial assistance for Ponda's parade for the third consecutive year. Local residents and organisers argue that this disparity is unjust, questioning why Ponda has been overlooked while other towns continue to receive support for their Carnival events.

Baina residents demand removal of gates installed by MPA at loop flyover

Team Herald

VASCO: The resident of Baina on Friday staged a protest against the Mormugao Port Authority (MPA) over the installation of a compound and gates at the entry and exit ramps of the loop flyover.

Locals including Mormugao councillor Deepak Naik protested near the gate and gave the MPA an ultimatum of eight days to dismantle the gates. They also submitted a memorandum to the Mormugao Deputy Collector, demanding immediate action against the gates.

Naik warned that the residents of Baina will take matters into their own hands and demolish the gates themselves if the gates are not removed within next eight days.

Recalling the transformation of Baina from its



Locals protested near the Mormugao Port Authority gate on Friday

past as a red-light area under the BJP government in 2004, he said that the people of Baina always supported the government which also saw major development in the area. He said that the Baina beach and the port connectivity flyover had become

a tourist attraction. But after the inauguration of a new link arm providing access to the flyover by the Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, the MPA immediately began constructing gates and compound walls in the area, thereby restricting our the movement of

the people.

"This is unacceptable and we will not allow MPA to erect gates. If the authorities continue to ignore our concerns, we will be left with no option but to act and demolish it," Naik said.

He said that Vasco MLA Krishna 'Daji' Salkar and

Cyber crime cops nab duo in extortion case

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Cyber Crime Police have arrested two more individuals in connection with a fake police complaint and extortion case, bringing the total number of arrests in the case to seven.

The accused have been identified as Rakesh Laxman Patil (39), a resident of Panvel-Raigad, Maharashtra, and Sachin Rajaram Patil (38), from Kalmurbarsare-Raigad, Maharashtra.

According to investigators, a WhatsApp user impersonating a Delhi Crime Branch police inspector falsely informed the victim that a police complaint had been registered against her. The scammer then sent forged letters bearing the name of the Supreme Court of India, coercing the victim into transferring a total of Rs 1 crore through multiple transactions to three different bank accounts.

Upon realising the fraud, the victim filed a complaint with the Cyber Crime Police, leading to an in-depth investigation. Through technical and financial analyses, along with interrogations of previously arrested suspects, investigators traced and identified the two latest accused. These individuals were found to be operating mule bank accounts used for transferring the extorted money and were linked to a larger hawala network.

Further interrogation revealed that both suspects were associates of co-accused Rahul Mishra and played a crucial role in providing mule accounts to swiftly launder the stolen funds.

The accused have been remanded to police custody for further investigation.

So far, the Cyber Crime Police have arrested five other individuals in connection with the case. Authorities have also seized: Eight mobile phones, one laptop, two hard disks, frozen Rs 40 lakh linked to the crime.

shorttakes

MAN CAUGHT RED-HANDED WITH CHARAS WORTH RS 2 LAKH IN MAPUSA

MAPUSA: The Mapusa police arrested a man in possession of 200 grams of charas worth Rs 2 lakh near the football ground at Duler. The accused, identified as Mahesh Suresh Tupkar (44), a resident of Guirim, was caught red-handed between 4.45 pm and 6.30 pm on Tuesday. Police acted on a tip-off and apprehended the suspect at the location. Further investigation is underway to determine the source of the drugs and whether the accused was involved in a larger narcotics network.

TWO MINORS ATTACKED WITH KNIFE AND CRICKET BAT IN SATTARI

SATTARI: Two minor boys were brutally attacked while playing near their house in Shirol Ker, Sattari. According to a complaint lodged by the father of one of the victims, the accused, a resident of Shirol Ker, allegedly attacked a 15-year-old boy with a knife and assaulted a 17-year-old neighbour with a cricket bat. The motive behind the attack remains unclear and police have launched an investigation into the incident. The victims sustained injuries, and locals have expressed shock and concern over the violent act.

BURGLARS TARGET HOUSE IN SERAULIM, GOLD AND VALUABLES STOLEN

MARGAO: Unidentified individuals broke into a house at Bolcho Waddo, Seraulim, Salcete and stole gold ornaments and other valuables worth approximately Rs 1.9 lakh. The Colva police have registered the case under Sections 331(3), 331(4), and 305 of the BNS against unknown persons. According to the police, Tony Rodrigues, a resident of Seraulim, Salcete, lodged a complaint stating that between February 1 and 8, unidentified culprits forced entry into the house of his sister, Sanetra Colaco, by breaking open the back door latch. The burglars stole two gold necklaces, a gold chain, bracelet, four bangles, earrings, cash, and a CCTV system with a DVR, all valued at approximately Rs 1.9 lakh. Colva Police have launched an investigation into the case, and further inquiries are in progress.

EX-SERVICEMEN CONTACT PROGRAMME AT VASCO ON MARCH 2

VASCO: Ex-Servicemen contact programme will be conducted by the Department of Sainik Welfare, on March 2, at Ravindra Bhavan, Near Baina Beach, Vasco, from 10.30 am. The officials from Department of Sainik Welfare will brief Ex-Servicemen and their widows on various schemes, welfare benefits and other concessions introduced and provided by the Department of Sainik Welfare as well as State/Central Govt. He will meet the widows of the Ex-servicemen in the area and listen to their grievances if any. He will also gather relevant input through this programme to formulate future proposal for the benefit of all Ex-Servicemen. All the Ex-Servicemen and widows of Mormugao taluka and surrounding areas are requested to attend the programme in large numbers.

FIREMEN EXTINGUISH BLAZES IN BORDA, RAI; ESTIMATED LOSS RS 50,000

MARGAO: A fire broke out in a residential flat opposite Jackson Bar in Borda, Margao, causing significant damage. According to Margao Station Fire Officer Gil Souza, the estimated loss is around Rs 50,000, while fire personnel managed to save property worth approximately Rs 25 lakh, including valuables and electronic goods. Souza stated that one fire tender was deployed, and the blaze was brought under control within an hour. He confirmed that there were no casualties. Meanwhile, another fire broke out in three coconut plantations near St. Tereza School at Santemol-Raia, causing damage. SFO Souza mentioned that the estimated loss is yet to be determined. One fire tender was used to contain the fire, which was brought under control within an hour.

power shutdown

CURTORIM: On March 3, from 9 am to 7 pm. Panchbhat area will be affected.

CURTORIM: On March 4, from 9 am to 7 pm, at Vagulem DTC. Affected area are Vagulem PWD tank Gogalli

MARGAO: On March 3, from 9 am to 6 pm. Affected areas are Shalimar Co-op Hsg. Society, opp. St Anthony School, Indian Overseas bank, Meenakshi Apartment and surrounding areas.

MARGAO: On March 4, from 9 am to 6 pm, at BPS Club, Old Power house transformer. Affected areas are ASROA building, Junta Quarters and surrounding areas at Margao.

Mormugao MLA Sankalp Amonkar had met the MPA Chairman and Chief Minister Pramod Sawant to resolve the issue. But for the last one month no action has been taken and the locals are facing difficulties. The Mormugao Municipal Council and Mormugao Deputy Collector too, had not taken any steps, he rued.

Implement measures to curb proliferation of illegal constructions, HC tells govt

Team Herald

PANJIM: The High Court of Bombay at Goa has asked the Advocate General and the Amicus Curiae appointed in the public interest litigation (PIL) suo motu petition regarding illegal constructions in the State, to submit their recommendations/suggestions on Monday, March 3.

According to AG Devidas Pangam, the High Court has taken serious note of illegal constructions mushrooming across the State. The matter was substantially argued and has now reached to a conclusion. The Court has asked them to submit their written notes on Monday, March 3, he said.

AG Pangam said that during the hearing, he brought to the notice of the Court about the past decisions wherein water and electricity con-

While admitting the PIL suo motu the High Court had described the situation as 'alarming' and called on the State government to implement measures to curb the proliferation of illegal constructions and encroachments. It also wanted to know what steps need to be taken to implement the statutory provisions of the Goa Panchayati Raj Act.

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Amicus Curiae Adv Vithal Naik

said that various suggestions have been discussed. The formation of a task force or a flying squad, satellite mapping and geo-fencing to stop illegal constructions in the government properties and along the roadside could be some of his recommendations.

"AG and myself will prepare recommendations and submit it to the Court on Monday and the Court may pass order," Adv Naik said.

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