

High Court quashes FIR in MLA extortion case

Imposes cost of Rs 1 lakh on petitioner, directed to deposit amount in Goa Police Welfare Fund

Team Herald

PANJIM: The High Court of Bombay at Goa on Tuesday quashed the FIR registered against Kuresh Rauta of Odissha who was arrested for allegedly extorting Rs 5 lakh from Aldona MLA Adv Carlos Alvares Ferreira after creating his morphed obscene video. The Court also imposed a cost of Rs 1 lakh on the petitioner and asked him to deposit the money in the Goa Police Welfare Fund, within a fortnight.

The Crime Branch police had arrested Rauta in December last year for allegedly extorting Rs 5 lakh from the Aldona MLA after morphing his face in an obscene video and further demanding Rs 5 crore from him.

Kuresh Rauta in his criminal writ petition (WPCR) had prayed to quash the FIR stating

“The ground which we had asked to quash the FIR was that at the end of the day, the matter has been settled between my client and one of the respondents. So there was no question of going ahead with the matter because it will never result in a conviction”

— Nitin Sardesai, Senior Advocate

that he had amicably settled the matter with the complainant Adv Alvares.

Later, the petitioner's counsel senior advocate Nitin Sardesai said that the High Court quashed and set aside the FIR and ordered that no further investigation by the police in terms of the payer.

“The ground which we had asked to quash the FIR was that at the end of the day the matter has been settled between my client and one of the respondents. So there was no question of going ahead with the matter because it will never result in a conviction,” senior advocate Sardesai said.

However, the Crime Branch vehemently opposed the petitioner's plea on the ground that it will shake up the social fabric and that the case should serve as a strong deterrent.

According to Senior Adv Sardesai, the court considered the police arguments and opined that at the end of the day it will not land up in a conviction. The only deterrent was the court imposed a cost of Rs 1 lakh on the petitioner and asked him to deposit the amount in the Goa Police Welfare Fund within next 15 days.

Crane collides with KTCL EV bus near old secretariat



Team Herald

PANJIM: A Kadamba Transport Corporation Limited (KTCL) electric bus was involved in an accident near the Old Secretariat on Tuesday after a crane allegedly approached from the wrong direction and collided with the vehicle.

According to the bus driver, the crane's boom struck the right side of the bus, shattering its windshields and causing significant damage. Fortunately, the bus was empty at the time of the incident, and no injuries were reported.

Speaking about the accident, the bus driver, Sadiq, said, “The crane came from the wrong direction and hit the bus. Its boom was out. Luckily, there were no passengers in the bus. I was on my way to the depot from Margao to Panjim. The loss caused is around Rs 1.80 lakh.”

Authorities are expected to investigate the circumstances surrounding the accident.

Power dept employee dies after barricade falls on him

Incident sparks outrage, locals demand action against those maintaining barricades

Team Herald

VASCO: In a tragic incident, a 30-year-old electricity department staff lost his life after a roadside metal barricade collapsed on him near a mega mart at Dabolim on Tuesday afternoon.

Department office rushed to the site, and expressed their grief and anger over the tragic death. They demanded immediate action and justice for their fellow staff by initiating action those responsible in maintaining the roadside barricades, which pose a serious threat to public safety.

The incident sparked outrage among his colleagues and locals who demanded that responsibility be fixed for the negligence to maintaining and ensuring public safety.

CRIMINAL NEGLIGENCE

The victim has been identified as Swapnil Chindarkar (30), a resident of Headland-Sada, Mormugao.

The tragedy occurred when Chindarkar was returning home after completing his morning shift. According to the eyewitnesses, the metal barricade suddenly collapsed, fatally injuring him.

On receiving the information, Chindarkar's colleagues from the Electricity

SDM directs probe into woman's suicide case

Team Herald

PERNEM: The Pernem Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) on Tuesday directed the Mandrem police to lodge FIR within 24 hours in the death of Anita Rathod at Arambol, allegedly died under suspicious conditions on February 24.

Anita (23), who hails from Karnataka was married in a family residing at Arambol three years ago

and has a one-year-old daughter. As per the in-laws, she died by suicide. However, Anita's father and brother had alleged that she was harassed for dowry and had been demanding registration of FIR against her in-laws and thorough investigation in the matter.

Anita's father had also refused to accept the body till the FIR was registered in the case.

FUN AND FROLIC



A float wending its way on the streets on the last day of Carnival, at Mapusa, on Tuesday

Wife of main accused in investment scam held

PANJIM: The Crime Branch has arrested Deepali Parab (42), a resident of Kalyan, Mumbai, and wife of the prime accused, Myron Rodrigues, in connection with a multi-crore investment scam that allegedly defrauded numerous investors.

According to police, investigations revealed that Deepali Parab was actively involved in the fraudulent activities and had played a crucial role in the scam.

The main accused, along with his wife, allegedly lured investors with promises of high returns on their investments. They reportedly collected crores of rupees from unsuspecting investors, which they then misappropriated for personal gain, police said. Deepali Parab has been arrested under Sections 406 and 420 read with

34 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Sections 3 and 5 of the Goa Protection of Interests of Depositors (GPID) Act. She is scheduled to be produced before the Magistrate on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, for remand.

Earlier, the former wife of the main accused, Sunita Rodrigues, was arrested in connection with

the case but was later granted bail by the District Sessions Court, Margao. However, she was subsequently taken into custody by MHB Colony Police Station, Mumbai, in connection with a separate case. Meanwhile, the main accused, Myron Rodrigues, remains absconding, police added.

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Court seeks report if Siddiqui's needed to be police custody

Team Herald

PANJIM: The North Goa Principal District and Sessions Court, Panjim has sought clarification/report from the investigating officer of Mapusa Police Station whether a chargesheet has been filed against the notorious Siddiqui alias Suleman Khan and whether the police need his custody.

The matter was adjourned on March 21, as Public Prosecutor N Kalangutkar could not attend due to death in the family. Public Prosecutor S Mandrekar who represented the State, informed the Court that a letter has been issued to the investigating officer and a report is awaited.

Adv Rakesh Naik appeared for Sule-

man Khan.

The Special Investigative Team (SIT) Land Grabbing had already filed the third charge sheet against Suleman Khan in a land grabbing case registered by the Mapusa Police Station in 2022.

Meanwhile, the Panjim Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) on Tuesday called Suleman Khan to record his statement regarding allegations made against SP (Crime) and others for assault and for pressuring him to sign some documents. The court had earlier recorded his statement partly.

However, the accused could not be brought to the court and was produced through video conferencing, according to Adv Naik.

Goa relaxes loud music rules for 15 days

Team Herald

PANJIM: The State government on Tuesday has permitted the use of loud speakers and public address systems beyond 10 pm and upto midnight for 15 days.

Dates	Events/Festivals
March 4	Last day of Carnival
April 20	Easter eve
August 28	Ganesh Chaturthi
August 31	Ganesh Chaturthi
Sept 6	Anant Chaturdashi
October 1	Last day of Navratri
October 19	Diwali eve
Nov 21, 22	IFFI
Dec 24	Christmas Eve
Dec 25	Christmas
Dec 28 to 31	New Year's Eve

ber 1 – Last day of Navratri; October 19 – Diwali Eve; November 21 and 22 – International Film Festival of India (IFFI); December 24 – Christmas Eve; December 25 – Christmas; December 28 to 31 – New Year's Eve celebrations.

As per prevailing norms, loud music is generally permitted only until 10 pm at public places.

The order, issued by Sachin Desai, Director and Ex-Officio Joint Secretary of Environment and Climate Change, emphasises that permissions will be granted on a case-to-case basis.

“The permission shall be granted only in response to a specific application made by the concerned village panchayat, municipal corporation, municipal council, or an individual in Goa,” the order stated.

Furthermore, the order mandates strict adherence to the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000, and states that the relevant authorities must monitor noise levels during permitted festive occasions and other events. “Prompt remedial action shall be taken in case of any violations,” it added.

CCP councillor seeks clarity on Dona Paula jetty kiosks

Team Herald

PANJIM: Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP) Councillor Nelson Cabral has written to the Tourism Department, seeking clarity on the allocation of kiosks and stalls at the newly developed Dona Paula jetty. His request comes amid growing concerns among stall owners over their rights and placement at the site.

In a letter addressed to the Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC) Chairman, Cabral stressed the need for transparency in the agreement process.

“It is incumbent upon the authorities to furnish or tender to each and every prospective kiosk or stall owner the draft of the agreement they shall be entering into with the government authority before starting with the works of erection of the stalls or kiosks,” Cabral wrote.



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GOVERNMENT OF GOA

LAYING OF FOUNDATION STONE

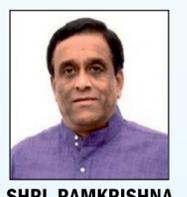
FOR THE WORK OF NEW 33KV UNDERGROUND CABLE FROM 220/33KV GIS STATION AT SALIGAO TO 33/11 KV CALANGUTE STATION, 33/11 KV NAGOA STATION, 33/11 KV BADEM AND 33/11 KV PROPOSED BAGA SUB STATION

PROVIDING AND LAYING CONVEYING MAIN OF 300MM DIA D.I. PIPELINE FROM ST ANTHONY CHAPEL TO NEWLY CONSTRUCTED 1.2 MLD SUMP AT UMTAWADDO CALANGUTE IN CALANGUTE CONSTITUENCY

FOR THE WORK OF "REPAIR OF ROAD DUE TO LAYING OF 33KV UNDERGROUND CABLE FROM 220/33KV GIS STATION AT SALIGAO TO 33/11 KV CALANGUTE STATION, 33/11 KV NAGOA STATION, 33/11 KV BADEM AND 33/11 KV PROPOSED BAGA SUB STATION



DR. PRAMOD SAWANT
(Hon'ble MLA Government Of Goa)



SHRI. RAMKRISHNA ALIAS SUDIN M DHALAVIKAR
(Hon'ble Minister for Power/NRE, Government Of Goa)



Shri. Michael V. Lobo
(Hon'ble MLA Of Calangute Constituency)



Shri Kedar Naik
(Hon'ble MLA Of Saligao Constituency)



Smt. Delilah Lobo
(Hon'ble MLA of Siolim Constituency, Vice Chairman ESG)

Shri. Joseph Sequeira (Sarparch V.P. Calangute) | **Shri. Dattapradad Dabolkar** (ZP Member Calangute Constituency)

Shri. Reshan Redkar (Sarparch V.P. Arpora Nagao) | **Smt. Noharika Mandrekar** (ZP Member Anjuna Constituency)

Shri. Manumant Renu Naik (Sarparch V.P. Assagao) | **Shri. Sandeep Bhandolkar** (ZP Member Reis Magos Constituency)

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Shri. Shubham Rao Dessai (Sarparch V.P. Guirim) | **Smt. Neeta D. Kandolkar** (Sarparch V.P. Sangolda)

Dr. V. Candavelou (IAS) | **Shri Prasad Lodayekar (IAS)** | **Shri. Stephen Fernandes** | **Shri Subhas N. Parsekar**
(Chief Secretary, Government of Goa) | (Secretary for Power, Government of Goa) | (Chief Electrical Engineer) | (Executive Engineer Div IV)

5th MARCH 2025 at 6:00 PM
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