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Panjim | FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2025 | PRICE ₹10.00 | AIR SURCHARGE ₹10 | REG. NO. G2/RNP/GOA/101/2021-23 | PAGES 14 | GOA'S LARGEST CIRCULATED NEWSPAPER

IF MADKAIKAR PAID BRIBE OF Rs 20 LAKH, HE TOO IS **CULPABLE UNDER THE LAW**

Under the Prevention of Corruption Act, the bribe-giver is also an offender along with bribe-taker. The big question: where did ex-MLA get so much cash?

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PANJIM: Former Transport Minister Pandurang Madkaikar's sensational claim that he had paid Rs 15-20 lakh to a min-

ister to get a job done may have raised the stink corruption within gov-

ernment, but it also points a fin- ger back at him. Under the Prevention of Corruption Act,

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HERALD ASKS

■ Who is the minister Madkaikar gave the money to?

■ Why did he not go to the police or the Lokavukta when the bribe

■ Did he pay the claimed amount by cheque or in hard

If it was cash, where did he get so much of currency?

1988, the person giving a bribe - which is Madkaikar, in this case - is as culpable as the bribe-taker (the unnamed minister, as claimed by the former MLA).

Based on this, it is clear that the Goa Police have the power to take suo motu cognisance of the statement made by Madkaikar and start an inquiry.

Cont on Pg 11 >>

Demanding and accepting a bribe is an

offence, but the person who gives a bribe is also committing an offence, though a lesser offence. Police should find out to whom he had given the bribe, and if the name is not revealed, police can file case of a false complaint against the complainant. Since

Pandurang Madkaikar is a former minister and a BJP member, he will not make such a demand was made? statement unless there is substance in it. Therefore, police should register the offence

> Police should take suo motu cognisance of former Minister Pandurang Madkaikar's statement because he has made serious allegations of bribery. Police should ask him to reveal the name of the person to whom he had given the money. In the eyes of law both the person who accepts the bribe and the bribe-giver are equally responsible for the offence

- Adv Radharao Gracias, former MLA

- Adv Babu Korgaonkar, Pernem

The Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, makes both accepting and giving bribes punishable offences, ensuring accountability among public servants and citizens alike. There is also an obligation that if anyone is compelled to give a bribe, they are required to report the matter to the law enforcement authority. The police need to take a proactive approach and investigate the matter so that people's confidence in the system is restored. Or else the Prime Minister's vision of 'Corruption Free India' will remain a distant dream

 Adv Pritam Morais, Margao

◆ Today, anything on social media becomes electronic evidence and is admissible in court. If a bribery allegation is made by Pandurang Madkaikar, the police can start an inquiry and if Madkaikar retracts his statement then there is no case. But since Madkaikar is a responsible person being a former Minister, inquiry should be conducted by the police, who have ample powers under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) to take suo motu cognisance

- Adv Raju Paulekar, Mapusa

S Korean fighter jets accidentally drop bombs, 8 injured

AP, SEOUL: Two South Korean fighter jets accidentally dropped eight bombs on a civilian area during a joint live-fire exercise with the US military on Thursday, injuring eight people, officials

and expressed hopes for a speedy recovery



fighter jets fell outside a firing range, the air force said in a statement. It apologised

of the injured and said it would offer compensation and take other necessary

The air force said the fighter jets were taking part in the one-day firing drill with the US military

armed border with North Korea.

Cont on Pg 11 >>



5-year-old killed in black magic ritual

Childless couple allegedly kidnap neighbour's daughter, sacrifice her in Usgao

SANTOSH NAIK

PONDA: A tragic and shocking incident unfolded in Kasayale Tisk, Usgao, after a childless couple allegedly murdered a five-year-old girl from their neighbourhood in a bid to conceive a baby driven by their belief in black magic. The body of the child was recovered from the accused neighbour's backyard



A crowd gathers near accused neighbour's house as the Police investigate

at around 11 pm, on Thursday. Further charges are ex-

pected to be filed. The couple, identified as

Babasaheb Alat (52) and young daughters, aged two his wife Pooja, residents of Usgao but originally from Miraj, Maharashtra, are accused of kidnapping the young girl, murdering her, and then burying her body.

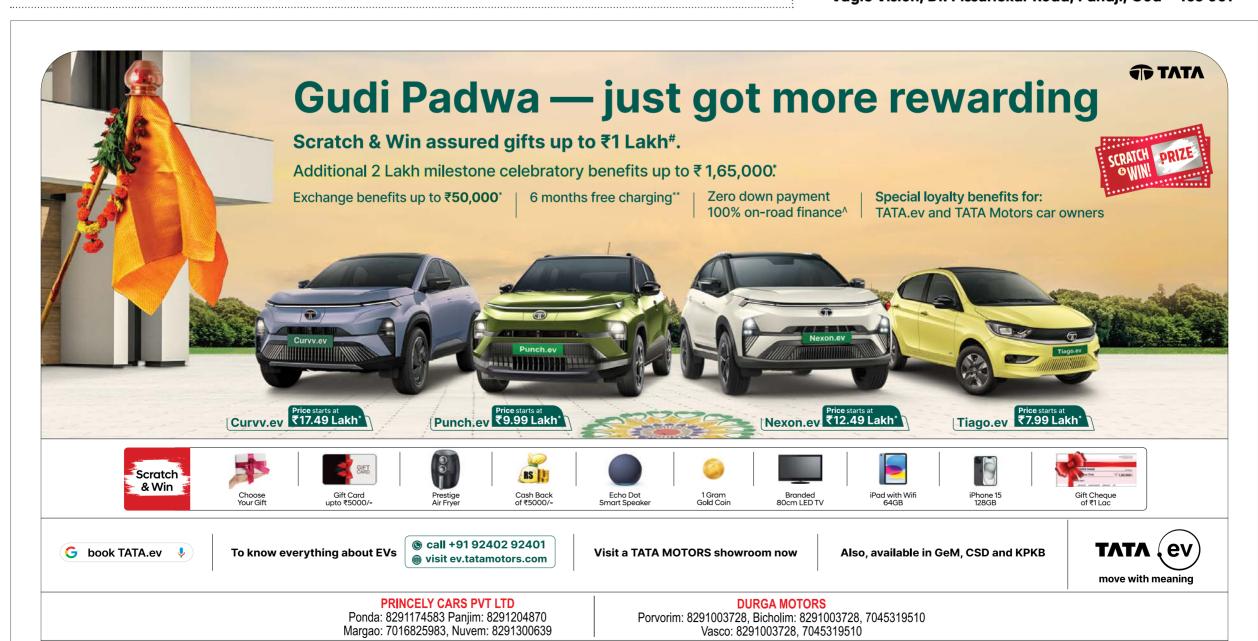
According to Ponda Deputy Superintendent of Police (DYSP) Shivram Va-neighbours to jgankar, the incident was reported on Wednesday when the mother of two

and five, noticed that her elder daughter had gone missing from their home in the evening. The Ponda Police quickly registered a case of kidnapping and began an investigation.

The police spoke with information.

Cont on Pg 11 >>

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