

# Delhi HC: Pressing, touching minor's lips without sexual intent not POCSO offence

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** The Delhi High Court has said in the absence of sexually motivated advances, touching and pressing minor girl's lips and sleeping next to her cannot attract prosecution for "aggravated sexual assault" under POCSO Act.

Justice Swarna Kanta Sharma observed the acts might violate her dignity and outrage her modesty but without "overt or inferred sexual intent" would fall short of meeting the legal threshold required to sustain a charge under section 10 of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO Act).

The judge, however, ruled that there was a clear prima facie case under Section 354 of IPC for 'assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty'.

**The verdict observed in a scenario when the child was seeking familial warmth and security, any inappropriate physical contact by a family member in a position of trust was far more than just discomforting a clear violation of her dignity, bodily autonomy, and modesty**



The court passed the judgement on February 24 while deciding the plea of the uncle of a 12-year-old minor girl against framing of charges under Section 354 IPC and Section 10 of POCSO Act against him.

The court sustained the charge under Section 354 but discharged him under section 10 of POCSO Act.

"Essential ingredients of an offence under Section 354 of the IPC are squarely

met. This provision criminalises the use of criminal force or assault against a woman with the intent to outrage her modesty or with the knowledge that such an act is likely to do so," the court said.

Referring to Supreme Court's rulings, the court said the apex court has repeatedly said modesty, in the context of Section 354 of IPC, must be interpreted in light of the dignity and

bodily autonomy of a woman, or a minor girl.

"(However) the victim has not alleged any act of an overtly sexual nature, nor has she suggested in any of her recorded statements whether before the magistrate, the police or CWC that she was subjected to sexual assault or that there was even an attempt to commit such an offence...the absence of even the slightest indication of a sexually motivated advance in the statements of the victim negates the foundational requirement of 'sexual intent', which is an essential element of an offence under Section 10 of POCSO Act," it added.

The minor girl, the verdict said, was abandoned by her mother at a young age and lived at a child care institution. She was visiting

her family at the time of the incident, it noted.

The verdict observed in a scenario when the child was seeking familial warmth and security, any inappropriate physical contact by a family member in a position of trust was far more than just discomforting a clear violation of her dignity, bodily autonomy, and modesty.

Even a minimal physical contact, when done with an intent or with the knowledge that it was likely to outrage modesty, was sufficient to invoke Section 354 of IPC, it said.

The court also deprecated the practice of passing "cryptic, non-speaking, pro-forma orders" by trial courts underlining no reasoning -- even in the present case -- whatsoever to justify the framing of charges.

# SC grants interim bail to UP MLA Abbas Ansari in Gangsters Act case

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Friday granted six weeks' interim bail to Uttar Pradesh MLA Abbas Ansari in a case under the state's Gangsters Act.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kottiswar Singh directed Ansari, son of late gangster Mukhtar Ansari, to stay in his official accommodation in Lucknow and seek prior permission from authorities before visiting his constituency in Mau.

The bail reprieve from the top court paves way for Ansari's release from Kasganj Jail for he is on bail in all other criminal cases against him.

The bench asked Ansari not to leave UP without court's prior permission and inform police authorities a day before appearing in different courts in the cases against him.

While restraining him

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from speaking in public on the pending cases, the top court sought a status report from the police on compliance of the bail conditions by Ansari in six weeks.

Ansari, the court said, should be released from jail subject to furnishing bail bonds in a Chitrakoot sessions court, hearing the case's trial.

Ansari was taken into custody in other criminal

cases on November 4, 2022 and arrested under the gangsters Act on September 6, 2024.

The bench noted he was granted bail in all other criminal cases except the gangsters Act case.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Ansari, said the high court had quashed the FIR registered against him under the gangster Act case, last year, but granted liberty to the police to file another FIR if there was evidence against him.

He said the police filed the FIR and retained similar averments present in the previous one.

"Time and again, the courts have either quashed the FIR against him or granted bail in cases registered against him. This shows the level of prosecution the state was pursuing against Ansari," Sibal said.

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**Wanted office girl in Anjuna** Bardez Goa. Contact: 9370042265 2025007072

**Wanted in Porvorim, chogum** road experienced waiters, Room boys ,Night Receptionist salary 12000/- to 14000/- . With food and accommodation plus service charge. Konkani, marathi, Hindi speaking boys preferred, age group below 30 years with 12 th passed. Contact urgently, kishore 9823137349/ 92842 92450 2025007082

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**Urgent Hiring for billing Clerk/** Cashier for restaurant in Colva Contact or Whatsapp 9822121221/8669888898 2025007092

**MNC Firm looking for Office** Executive, Tele-Caller, Back office Staff For Margao Corporate Office. Earn up to 20,000pm Interviews on 7th/ 8th March. Contact - 9022973685 2025007094

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**Wanted Immediately Accountant** Bcom with 1 year experience. Contact: Dhanashree Builders Pvt Ltd near Carmel College, Nuvem, Salcete-Goa. 9823147974 / 9370428783 2025007097

**Wanted Data Entry / Cashier for** Supermarket in Colva. Salary: 15,000/- . Call/ Whatsapp: 7757947309. Fresher can apply. 2025007102

**Wanted Salesman with four** wheeler driving license for a Packaged Drinking Water Company in Margao. Good salary plus commission. Long term permanent employment. Age not more than 50 years. Contact 9823068859 2025007189

**Wanted Full Time Pharmacist** B.Pharm / D.Pharm for Wholesale Distributor in Margao. Contact - 9822162634 2025007199

**Wanted urgently full/ part time** experienced Electrician for a housing society at Nuvem, Majorda, Salcete -Goa. Accommodation provided. Contact: 9422059026/ 9767241247 2025007180

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**Wanted a househelp, preferably** Goan, for a couple with a 4 year old child in Margao to cook and clean. Timings from 8am- 6pm. Sunday will be a holiday. Please call or send a WhatsApp message on 9920060683/7350433344 2025007113

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**Job Offer for Perfumes Co. in Goa.** Sales Assistant required. Min. 10th pass. English and computer knowledge preferred. Hard working attitude and a 2 wheeler is a Must. Chance to earn very good incentives with the salary. 7709409796 2025007114

**Wanted Salesboys for Wine Shop** (Full time/ Part time) at Margao. Contact: 9822156785. 2025007120

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**B.Com Graduate with 2-4 years** accounting experience in Tally, GST, TDS in Margao with own transport. Mail CV to hr.tkgoa@gmail.com 2025007172

**Auto parts distributor in Navelim,** (Margao) is looking for Accounts Assistant. Candidates should be Commerce graduate or undergraduate with basic knowledge of Tally. Freshers are welcome to apply. WhatsApp your resume to: 8806660788 2025007174

**Caro Central, Gogol, a leading** Garment Store needs experienced Counter Sales Executives (M/F) residing in and around Margao. Attractive salary plus commission. Contact: 9422444874/ Send your CV on Whatsapp. 2025007179

**Hiring Bakery Assistant. Area:** Navelim, Skills: Basic Baking and fluency in English. Contact: 8788857767 2025007185

**Vacancies exist in Chartered** Accountancy Firm in Margao Goa for BCom Graduates (Freshers- Account Trainees) whatsapp biodata to: 9370547595 2025007186

**Wanted Accounts Assistant and** Accounts Executive for CA Firm in Margao. Min Qualification: Bcom with Financial Accounting. Freshers may apply. Candidates residing in around Margao preferred Contact. 9921072357 2025007189

**Wanted Full Time Pharmacist** B.Pharm / D.Pharm for Wholesale Distributor in Margao. Contact - 9822162634 2025007199

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**Urgent requirement for** accountant for bar n restaurant Anjuna 9545212336 2025007208

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**Wanted female receptionist with** computers knowledge to work Mapusa. And experience Roomboy. Salary 15000/-. Call 9923194038 2025007221

**Wanted Indian/ Chinese cooks &** kitchen helpers for a reputed Restaurant in Vasco. Contact: 9890412725. 2025007222

**Admin Staff/ PA. needed.** Location: Natasha Ice Plant, Sancoale. Timing: 9am-5pm. Office Admin, Billing & Tally, handle calls, emails & reports. Driving license must, Hindi & Konkani speaking essential. Immediate start. Email: tubeicegoa@gmail.com. Call: 7447587777. 2025007223

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**Wanted Medical Officers for Aster** Hospital Margao. Please contact 9665016797 or meet at Office Aster Hospital. Good salary. 2025007251

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**Wanted Reception cum Manager** (Day) for a Hotel in Colva. Send C.V/ Application to 9130156587 (Whatsapp) 2025007256

**Required Account assistant for** Office in Margao, knowledge of Tally fresher/ experience. Send your resume: expertservices1310@gmail.com. 2025007258

**Wanted Female Office assistant** below 40 years to work for Civil Engineer having Office at Margao city. Candidate should be 12+ and residing around Margao with Computer knowledge may Contact:- 9822182328. 2025007259

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**Wanted Barista Boy/ Beverage** specialist at Fida Bistro Cafe, Chinchinim. Working hours from 0730 hrs to 1300hrs/ 1600 to 2100hrs. Contact: 9307694879 2025007260

**Wanted Architectural assistant/** Draftsman/ Civil Engineer to prepare plans for Margao Office. Contact: 9623770612 2025007261

**Wanted Part time female staff** (1-9 pm) for a Stationery store in Margao. Computer knowledge is must & Candidates from Margao only. Send CV @ 9823298040 2025007265

**Require hardworking working** Male candidate for Paint shop at Margao. Handling of Godown & local deliveries in two wheeler. Salary Rs. 15,000/-. Contact/ Whatsapp on 9763854919 2025007266

**Wanted Executive Secretary,** Receptionist, Clerk, Tele-callers, Marketing executive, and office boy. Attend interview within 3days at 11am or 4pm at 104, first floor, above Navtara Hotel, Opp Ktc Bus Stand, Margao. Send cv on 9881788888 2025007271

**Wanted driver from in and around** Margao for a private automatic car. Salary 13 thousand. Contact 9850790578. 2025007273

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# Jairam Ramesh mocks PM Modi: 'Interested in tareef, not tariffs' amid US threat

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** Narendra Modi is only interested in "tareef" and not concerned with tariffs, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said on Friday and wondered where is the prime minister's "56-inch chest" in dealing with US threats on the reciprocal-tariff issue.

In an interview with PTI, Ramesh said the Congress will raise the issue of US President Donald Trump's reciprocal-tariff threats during the upcoming second half of the Budget session and called for a bipar-

tisan collective resolve to deal with the threats.

The Congress leader also alleged that External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has been speaking like an American envoy and a spokesperson for that country.

"Our prime minister wants to hear only 'tareef (praise)', he is not concerned about tariffs. 'Tareef kum aur tariff pe baat kijiye (talk about the tariffs issue and less about your praise),' Ramesh said.

He said Trump is redoing the entire rules of international trade, adding that

the US president's whole idea of reciprocal tariffs is "bizarre".

"We have negotiated a tariff schedule. About 170 countries have negotiated a trade agreement, which became the World Trade Organisation in 1995. It took about 10 years to negotiate. Now, Mr Trump comes up with his own bizarre notion of what constitutes international trade," Ramesh said.

The manner in which Trump is targeting India is a "serious issue" and a matter of "our sovereignty", the Congress leader asserted.

## voice of business

# Apollo.io looks to expand India presence, tap domestic market

Team Herald



Himanshu Gahlot and Dzmityr Markovich

**PANJIM:** California-based go-to-market platform Apollo.io, specialising in end-to-end sales intelligence focusing on small and medium sized businesses, is looking to drive growth in the India market. This was disclosed by senior management currently in Goa for an offsite company gathering.

During an interaction with O Herald, Himanshu Gahlot, VP of Engineering, who leads a team in data and machine learning, spoke about Apollo.io and its India strategy. He was accompanied by Dzmityr Markovich, Senior VP of Engineering.

Gahlot said, "The product we are building is used by sales teams to reach out to customers. They conduct the full sales cycle on this platform."

"We are technically building a go-to-market platform to connect businesses with their audience," explained

Markovich.

When asked if the platform helped the client learn about the opportunities or does he have to know about the opportunities and then get on to the platform, Gahlot said it would go both ways. He said the platform is good at matching the customers based on his profile to the right kind of leads, right kind of businesses and professionals that are ideal for this business.

This product is a global product. You just have to go

to the website and sign on. India is their third largest market as it is in the Apac region and the US market is the biggest market.

Markovich said that with so many small and medium sized businesses such a tool was not available to them which would help them go intelligently and cheaply.

With over 200 employees from India, the 700 strong team plans to increase their strength in the country by hiring more engineers.

# SEBI to reveal board's conflict of interest: Pandey

**AGENCY, NEW DELHI:** The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) will soon make public disclosures around the 'conflict of interest' of its board to ensure transparency and build trust in the market, chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey said on Friday.

He emphasised the need for trust and transparency for all stakeholders. His predecessor, Madhabi Puri Buch, had come under scrutiny for alleged holdings in offshore funds, raising questions over SEBI's objectivity. "I think the trust and transparency extend to SEBI itself. I think we need to be more transparent, including on various other measures, for example, on the conflict of interest of the board and so on. And we will be coming forward with our own plan to further transparently reveal these conflicts of interest, etc to the public," said Pandey.

# Patanjali to open orange processing unit at Nagpur

Team Herald



**PANJIM:** Patanjali Ayurveda Limited plans to open an orange processing plant in the 'Patanjali Mega Food and Herbal Park' at the Multi Modal international Cargo Hub and Airport (MIHAN) at Nagpur. The plant is set to be inaugurated on March 9 by Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari and Maharashtra Chief Minister, Devendra Fadnis.

Making the announcement, the company's Managing Director, Acharya Balkrishna, highlighted that the plant will be the largest single-point food processing unit in Asia.

The plant boasts an 800-ton daily processing capacity, accommodating A, B and C grade oranges, including pre-mature and storm-damaged produce. The facility operates on a zero-waste system, utilising advanced

technology to extract volatile and fragrance oils from orange peels.

Balkrishna said that the plant is equipped with cutting-edge technology, including automated packaging lines, Technopack machinery and advanced research labs to ensure the highest quality standards. Apart from orange processing, the plant will also manufacture juices and pulps from lime, Amla, pomegranate, guava, grapes, bottle gourd and carrot, along with onion and tomato paste.