Three days after Dona Paula robbery, culprits still at large

Law and order situation has not only collapsed but it

has become a joke. However, authorities are trying to

Residents, activists claim law and order in the State has collapsed

Team Herald

PANJIM: Three days after the daring robbery in the early hours of Sunday at the residence of an elderly couple from a prominent business family in Nagali, Dona Paula, the police are still clueless about the identity or the whereabouts of the culprits.

Speaking to mediapersons, DIG (Range) Varsha Sharma claimed, "We are working hard for it. We have found a clue."

Robberies are taking place. There are incidents of molestation, rapes. A young child was sexually assaulted and today drugs worth crores of rupees have been seized at Siolim

- Cecille Rodgriues, social activist

Meanwhile, the Dona Paula residents and activists slammed the government saying that the law and order has broken down in the State.

"There is no law and order in the state. It is such a shame that the State which has only 15 lakh population is unable to maintain law and order. It is also a shame for the elected representatives and the Home Ministry. What is the police doing? Robberies are taking place. There are

incidents of molestation,

show that nothing has happened. People, especially the senior citizens, are in fear. Drugs are being seen as a source of revenue Mariano Ferrao, activist rapes. A young child was sexually assaulted and to-

day drugs worth crores of

rupees have been seized at

Siolim," Cecille Rodgriues,

social activist. Activist Mariano Ferrao said, "Law and order situation has not only collapsed but it has also become a joke. However, authorities are trying to show that nothing has happened. People, especially the senior citizens, are in fear. The system has totally collapsed. Drugs are being seen as a source of revenue."

Political analyst Trajano D'Mello said, "The basic duty of the government is to prevent crime from happening. The robbery in the house of the most influential family at Dona Paula is shocking. It has sent shivers among the people in Goa. It is beyond imagination that you are not safe even after having a watchman."

"Why have the thieves, drug peddlers, the murderers become emboldened? What is the answer

for this question? The that unless the drug ped- will not happen," he said.

common man believes the people in power, this

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Human Rights body awards Rs 50,000 compensation to girl hit by stray bullet

Police review application dismissed in practice firing mishap case at Lakherem Range in Maulinguem

PANJIM: The Goa Human Rights Commission (GHRC) on Tuesday dismissed a review application filed by the Goa Police Department and upheld compensation of Rs 50,000 to a girl hit by a stray bullet during practice firing at Lakherem Firing Range of the Goa Police at Maulinguem, Bicholim.

The Goa Police Department had filed a review application under Section 20, of the Goa Human Rights Commission (Procedure) Regulations 2011, seeking to review the inquiry report dated February 22, 2024, by the Commission.

The Commission had recommended that the Goa Police Department pay compensation of Rs 50,000 to complainant Urmila Gaonkar, within 30 days from with simple interest there-

from the date of the complaint i.e. June 7, 2022 till final payment.

Urmila Gaonkar of Maulinguem had sustained a bullet injury on the heel of her right leg on January 27, 2021 while she was washing clothes near her home and she was eventually hospitalised at the Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMC), Bambolim, where she underwent a surgery and the bullet was removed on February 3, 2021.

Adv K L Bhagat representing the respondents submitted that the Commission had not taken into consideration the crucial points while passing the inquiry report, namely that there was a hillock just behind the target and also a special mud dump and there was a rare chance of any bullet February 22, 2024, along travelling out of the firing

He also submitted that the complainant's house was situated at the distance of three kilometres from the firing range and the bullet could not have travelled to the same spot.

On the other hand, Adv Pooja Kamat, who appeared for the complainant contended that no grounds were made out for review of the inquiry report. The Commission found

that though the police prosecutor contended that there was no negligence on the part of the respondents and the complainant may have come close to the firing range despite the warnings, the fact that the bullet was fired from the Firing Range was not denied by the respondents. The complaint and the subsequent developments indicate that the complainant had sustained an injury near her residence at Maulinguem, when she

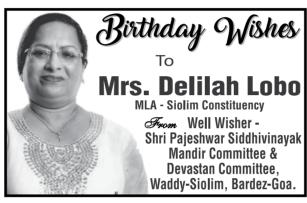
was washing clothes in her courtyard, it said.

Again, though the police prosecutor submitted that the maximum range of the projectile fired from the gun was 1,350 metres and the residence of the complainant was beyond that distance, the Commission stated that the DGP's reply admitted that the inquiry conducted by the Police Department revealed that stray bullets had been flying over the hillock and landing in the village which was about two kilometre from the firing spot.

The two-member Commission comprising acting chairperson Desmond D'Costa and member Pramod Kamat did not agree the respondents counsel that it had not taken into consideration the crucial points such as existence of the hillock and the distance of the house

Woman succumbs to burns after suspected self-immolation

MARGAO: A 31-year-old woman from Malbhat-Margao, who sustained severe burn injuries, has succumbed to her injuries while undergoing treatment at Goa Medical College (GMC), Bambolim. According to Margao Police, the woman had been brought to the casualty department with 65% burn injuries sustained at her residence. She was subsequently referred to GMC for advanced medical care but passed away during treatment. Police further stated that the woman is believed to have self-immolated at her residence. However, the motive behind the act remains unknown at this stage.







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Defunct for 18 months, Se Cathedral's Golden Bell temporarily repaired

Team Herald

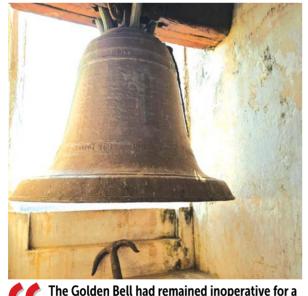
PANJIM: The Golden Bell in Se Cathedral Church at Old Goa, which was not functioning for the last 18 months, was temporarily repaired by the parishioners on Tuesday.

According to one of the parishioners Adv Xavier Rodrigues, the Golden Bell had remained inoperative for a considerable period of approximately 18 months. It was noticed after the demise of Pope Francis, when the traditional bell ringing to mourn the demise of the Head of the Catholic Church did not take place after the circular requiring all the churches and chapels to do so.

Adv Rodrigues said that the Golden Bell at Se Cathedral is a protected monument under the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). Despite its historical significance and cultural importance, the Golden Bell had remained inoperative for the last 18 months. The bell was also not functioning during the Exposition of the relics of St Francis Xavier held last year even after a reminder letter was forwarded to the office by Se Cathedral parish priest Fr Rosario Oliveira.

The bell's silence not only affected the aesthetic experience of visiting the Cathedral but also raised concerns about the preservation and maintenance of the national monuments, Adv Rodrigues said, urging the authorities to take necessary steps to restore the Golden Bell to its former glory.

When contacted, ASI, Goa Circle conservation archaeologist Reddy said that the representation from Adv Xavier Rodrigues was received on Tuesday and estimates will have to be



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- Adv Xavier Rodrigues, parishioner

prepared to repair it. ASI Assistant Superintending Archaeologist Dr Kishore Raghubans said that he was unaware of it and assured to look into the matter.

Meanwhile, on Tuesday late evening a group of parishioners temporarily reinstalled the bell clapper.

The Golden Bell of Se Cathedral, Old Goa, is one of the most iconic and historic landmarks in the State. The Golden Bell was installed in the Se Cathedral in the early 17th century, during the reign of the Portuguese Viceroy D Jerónimo de Azevedo (1612-1617). The bell was cast in 1597 by the Portuguese, and it is believed to have been brought

to Goa from Portugal. The Golden Bell is a masterpiece of Portuguese architecture and design. Weighing over 2,000 kg, the bell is adorned with intricate engravings and ornaments, showcasing the exceptional craftsmanship of the time. The bell's surface is inscribed with the following words:

The Golden Bell has played a significant role in the cultural and religious life of Goa throughout its history. The bell has been rung on numerous occasions to mark important events, including the visit of Pope Paul VI in 1964; the canonization of St Francis Xavier in 1622 and the arrival of the relics of St Fran-

cis Xavier in Goa in 1624. Over the years, the Golden Bell has undergone several restoration and conservation efforts to preserve its integrity and ensure its

continued functioning. In the 19th century, the bell was restored by the Portuguese, who added a new clapper and rehung the bell.

Rs 11.07 crore worth LSD seized

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Anti-Narcotic Cell (ANC) of Goa Police seized LSD worth Rs 11.07 crore, marking the largest-ever LSD bust in the State.

Superintendent of Police (SP) Sunita Sawant revealed that the seizure was made from a rented house in Bamanwado, Siolim, where the accused had allegedly been running a large-scale drug operation for over six months. The arrest occurred following a raid conducted on Monday.

The accused, Mohammad Sameer, a native of Kerala, was found in possession of 110.7 grams of high-micron liquid LSD, a potent psychedelic drug commonly associated with trance parties.

Mohammad Sameer. who has been residing in Goa for the past five years, also operated a guesthouse at Baga. However, Sawant clarified that he had no prior criminal record.

The Superintendent of Police did not rule out the possibility of further arrests, as the investigation continues to trace the source of the LSD supply.

Rajdeep

Area: 111.30. Sqmt

Donapaula Goa

Area: 172.83 sqmt

Caranzalem Goa

Area 145.35 samt

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Row House No. 5

Area: 180.75 sqmt

Socorro Goa

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