

# Security tightened in North Goa following Pahalgam attack

Surprise nakabandis and heightened police presence at key locations, 28 placed under arrest, 666 suspects rounded up

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** In the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack in Kashmir, which claimed 26 lives, police stations across North Goa district launched combing operations and nakabandis, resulting in the arrest of 28 persons under preventive action and the rounding up of 666 suspected individuals.

## TAKING NO CHANCES

The operations, conducted on the intervening night of April 25 and 26, were aimed at enhancing public safety and preventing any potential threats. Special combing operations were carried out at locations including Kamrabhat Miramar, Indiranagar Chimbhel, Mercedes, Santa Cruz, Ekta Nagar and Khorlim in Mapusa, Arpora and Nagoa, Auchtivado, Colvale, Vadev, Bicholim Hatwada, Valpoi, near Aldeia de Goa Bambolim, Arambol, Donwado, Salvador do Mundo, Baga, Sinquerim, and Malpem Railway Station. SP North Akshat Kaushal, IPS, informed that searches were conducted for any hideouts of anti-social elements during the combing operations. Nakabandis were organised at 29 strategic points, during which suspicious vehicles were checked and individuals interrogated. Some suspects were arrested under preventive action, while stranger rolls were also filled. Police also carried out verification of tenants and domestic servants, and



Police conduct verification of tenants and domestic servants in Arpora



Police intensify security along Calangute-Candolim beach belt amid presence of Kashmiri-run tourism businesses



Calangute, Saligao, and neighbouring villagers hold candlelight vigil to honour victims of Pahalgam massacre

filled 'C' forms for foreigners staying at hotels, guest houses, and homestays. Additional police staff were deployed at railway stations at Karmali, Tivim, and Pernem (Malpem) as well as at the bus stands in Panjim and Mapusa to monitor suspected passengers arriving by train or inter-State bus-

businesses. Over 80 Kashmiri residents within the jurisdiction of the Calangute Police Station have been verified as part of a heightened vigilance drive to strengthen security and gather intelligence.

"The Calangute Police Station reassures the public that all necessary measures are being taken to maintain law and order," police officials stated on Saturday. Authorities have urged residents to cooperate and report any suspicious activities to help maintain community safety.

In a show of solidarity and mourning, residents of Calangute, Saligao, and neighbouring villages held a candlelight vigil on Friday evening to honour the victims of the Pahalgam massacre. The vigil and protest march, organised at the Shantadurga Temple in Calangute, drew participation from panchayat members, former members, taxi union leaders, and other locals. Participants raised slogans such as 'Vande Mataram' and 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai', calling for an end to religious terrorism.

# Man arrested in Rs 2.44 cr fraud

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** The Cyber Crime Police Station has arrested a man in connection with a large-scale cyber fraud amounting to Rs 2,44,59,408.

According to police, between November 25, 2024 and January 7, 2025, unidentified persons contacted the complainant via Facebook and WhatsApp, posing as stock market trading experts. The fraudsters induced the complainant to invest in fake online stock market schemes, promising high returns, thereby cheating him of Rs 2.44 crore through multiple bank

transactions. Based on investigation and financial analysis, the Cyber Crime police identified the suspect. A police team led by PSI Mandar Gaonkar, along with constables Ashish Naik and Shantaram Narse, under the direct supervision of PI Deepak Pednekar and SP (Cyber Crime) Rahul Gupta, IPS, proceeded to Narsinghpur, Madhya Pradesh, and arrested Neeraj Rai, 50, a resident of Narsinghpur, MP.

During interrogation, it was revealed that the accused played a key role in managing mule bank accounts and was responsible for routing Rs 3 lakh of the

defrauded amount to various accounts. Rai's bank account was also found to be involved in 40 other cases across the country, and he is believed to be part of a larger network actively engaged in the circulation

of fraudulent funds. The accused has been remanded to five days of police custody. Further investigation is underway under the supervision of PI Deepak Pednekar of the Cyber Crime Police Station.

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**MARGAO:** On April 28, from 9 am to 6 pm. Affected areas are the Adarsh Multipurpose Co-operative Society, the Factory Outlet Hira Optics, opposite New Era School, opposite Sapana Arcade Co-operative Society, opposite Peppers Restaurant, Style fit cloth tailor, Mothuresh and surrounding areas.  
**MACAZANA:** On April 28, from 9 am to 4 pm. Borta will be affected area.  
**SANCOALE:** On April 28, from 9 am to 4 pm. Affected areas are Zuarinagar, Housing board colony, Nauta, Sancoale, Shindolim, Sailant, Baandar, Church Street, Sancoale village panchayat and surrounding areas.  
**VELIM:** On April 28, from 8 am to 2 pm. Affected areas are Barriwado, Pullamoll, Sagar Laundry and Nispha Bhat.  
**CARAMBOLIM:** On 28 April, from 9.30 am to 2 pm. Areas affected are Vikasnagar, Maganlal, Km Sea, Sapna Sarovar and Vicinity of Carambolim Village.  
**PONDA:** On April 28, from 9 am to 2 pm. Affected areas are Sahakari farm and surrounding areas.  
**MARGAO:** On April 29, from 9 am to 6 pm. Affected areas are opposite Navtara hotel, opposite Muthoot Finance, near Ambar apartment, Sunny Stationary and surrounding areas.  
**PARODA:** On April 29, from 8 am to 2 pm. Affected areas are Gudi, Petrol pump, Sarzora road, Dr Neville hall, Talyawado.  
**PONDA:** On April 29, from 9 am to 2 pm. Affected areas are Sainagar and surrounding areas.  
**MACAZANA:** On April 29, from 9 am to 4 pm. Zoddim will be affected area.  
**SANCOALE:** On April 29, from 9 am to 11 am and from 3 pm to 5 pm. Affected areas are Zuarinagar, Queeny junction, Zuarinagar fish market, Goa Carbonic and surrounding areas.

## AAP questions SIT's inaction as ED uncovers Rs 1,000 crore land scam

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** With the Enforcement Directorate (ED) Panjim zonal office conducting raids and uncovering a massive land scam worth over Rs 1,000 crore involving Rohan Harmalkar, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has demanded to know why the Special Investigating Team (SIT) of Goa Police, probing the same cases, failed to investigate the alleged mastermind.

"If the ED could investigate and unearth the land scam, how come the SIT, which is probing land grabbing cases, has not found Harmalkar fit to be arrested till date? The SIT could not seize the documents which were seized by the ED sleuths. Whom is the SIT trying to protect? Is it an MLA from the ruling dispensation who is close to the mastermind?" asked AAP Goa president

Adv Amit Palekar. According to Adv Palekar, everyone is aware of the deep connections Harmalkar has, particularly with properties in Arpora and Anjuna. "But when the person is connected to the ruling dispensation, the SIT will not dare to investigate or accuse him. The SIT knows who sold Assagao lands and is still selling more of them," he alleged. Palekar said the investigations conducted by the ED have raised doubts over the SIT and its team probing cases for the last three years.

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