

IAS officer Sanjit directed to join Ladakh post immediately

Team Herald

PANJIM: Following mounting criticism over the mis-handled Smart City works in Goa, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), New Delhi, has directed IAS officer Sanjit Rodrigues to be immediately relieved from his post in Goa and report for duty in Ladakh without

further delay.

Rodrigues, who was promoted to the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) under the AGMUT cadre, was transferred to Ladakh by an official order dated September 12, 2024. However, he had not yet assumed his new role, with the Goa government yet to relieve him. The MHA has now taken

serious note of the delay and issued a stern directive, warning that non-compliance with the transfer order would invite disciplinary action.

According to the order, officers are required to join their new postings within 15 days from the effective date of transfer. Any further delay will result in the officer being deemed to have

been 'Stand Relieved', and will lead to additional consequences under the service rules, such as stoppage of salary, issuance of displeasure, debarment from promotion, and restriction from Central deputation.

The order explicitly states that Rodrigues shall be considered 'Stand Relieved' from the Government of Goa from

the date of the directive's issuance, and must immediately join his new posting in the Union Territory of Ladakh, with intimation to the MHA.

It further clarifies that all

requests for cancellation or deferment of the transfer have been rejected, and no further representation will be entertained. The order was issued by Rakesh Ku-

mar Singh, Under Secretary to the Government of India.

It is learnt that Rodri-

gues is currently attending a brief training programme in Mussoorie.

Court grants bail to man accused of raping foreign national at Arambol

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Fast Track Special Court (POCSO), Panjim, has granted bail to Vijay Thakur, a native of Punjab, who was arrested on charges of raping a foreign national at Arambol in March this year.

Presiding Officer Durga V Madkaikar released Thakur on a personal bond of Rs 50,000 with one local surety in the like amount. The accused has been directed not to induce, threaten, or interfere with the victim, her family, or any witnesses, either directly or indirectly, in any manner.

The court has further directed the applicant to deposit his passport, if any, within 15 days of release and not to leave the country until the conclusion of the trial. Thakur has also been ordered to report to the investigating officer daily for one month - from 10 am to 1 pm and from 3 pm to 5 pm - and thereafter as and when directed by the investigating officer. He must also appear before the Court as and when summoned.

Advocate Vasquit Vasco Fernandes, appearing for the accused, argued that Thakur had been falsely implicated. He was arrested on March 30 for allegedly raping a woman from Kazakhstan.

Fernandes informed the Court that the accused and the complainant had known each other for over four months and were good friends, meeting frequently at Thakur's workplace, where he worked as a waiter at a shack in Arambol.

He further submitted that the victim had neither undergone a medical examination nor recorded her statement before the Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC), and had sub-

sequently returned to her home country.

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