

AAP demands action in Odxel assault case

Delegation seeks status of complaint filed against Taleigao MLA Jennifer Monserrate and others over alleged attack on Cecille

Team Herald

PANJIM: A delegation from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) met Panjim PI Vijaykumar Chodankar on Friday to inquire into the status of the police complaint filed against Taleigao MLA Jennifer Monserrate and others, relating to the alleged assault on activist Cecille Rodrigues at Odxel-Taleigao.

PI Chodankar informed the delegation that the investigation had not yet commenced due to police personnel being preoccupied with security arrangements for the Vice President's recent visit to Goa.

Initially, a group of AAP leaders—including State president Adv Amit Palekar, Velim MLA Cruz Silva, Cecille Rodrigues, and Francis Coelho—were stopped from meeting the police station in-charge. Police officials insisted that only a four-member delegation could meet the PI. However, Palekar and Silva insisted that all eight members be allowed entry.

Rodrigues subsequently contacted Director General of Police (DGP) Alok Kumar, who assured her he would speak to his subor-

SITE INSPECTION CONDUCTED, CONFIRMS MLA

PANJIM: Officials from the North Goa Planning and Development Authority (NGPDA) inspected the Odxel site on Friday where a mudslide reportedly occurred due to excavation work by a builder. NGPDA Chairperson and MLA Jennifer Monserrate confirmed that an inspection had been conducted and that further details would be provided by the North Goa Collector. When contacted, NGPDA chairperson and MLA Jennifer Monserrate said that inspection has already been conducted and that the North Goa Collector would provide more details.

dinates. Following this intervention, the entire eight-member delegation was allowed to meet PI Chodankar.

Following the meeting, Adv Palekar stated, "PI Chodankar has assured us that within the next 24 hours, he will initiate action and act as per law, including informing the Disaster Management Authority, which had refused to visit the site. The Panjim Deputy Collector, SDM, and the Tiswadi Mamlatdar had visited the site on the day of the mudslide but have not returned to verify ongoing danger to residents."

Palekar added that the delegation informed the PI of large-scale hill cutting allegedly taking place beyond permitted limits.

He claimed that villagers are being prevented from accessing the site, and alleged that the person responsible for the hill cutting has political connections and is protecting the builder involved.

He further stated, "Residents had warned the builder that the activity at the site was dangerous, but their concerns were ignored. Our complaint is detailed and cites all relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). We informed the PI that witnesses are ready to give their statements, which have not yet been recorded. PI Chodankar has promised to call them and proceed with the investigation. We will monitor the status of the complaint over the next 48 hours."

Calling out the state of law enforcement, Palekar remarked, "It is ironic that those who once stoned a police station are now in power. Today, police are not allowing even elected representatives into the police station and appear to be taking orders from those accused in stone-pelting cases. Law and order seem to apply only to the opposition. When there is disclosure of a cognisable offence, police must file an FIR."

He questioned whether the government or the builder would take responsibility

should a tragedy befall the residents of the affected area.

Rodrigues expressed her disappointment: "Despite video evidence going viral on social media, no action has been taken by the police."

The alleged assault took place on the night of May 21. Rodrigues subsequently filed a complaint against MLA Jennifer Monserrate, Taleigao panchayat member Sidney Barreto, builders Sadique Shaikh and Mudhit Gupta, and others, accusing them of criminal intimidation, outraging modesty, and endangering human life.

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DADA: SAMIRO D'MELLO



One dead, another rescued in St Inez drowning incident

Team Herald

PANJIM: A 27-year-old youth, Sai Vaingankar, drowned and another was rescued near the Aaptaswar Temple in St Inez, Panjim, on Friday, after the pond behind the temple swelled due to heavy rainfall.

According to sources, both individuals had entered the pond, which had become hazardous due to the rising water level. Eyewitnesses stated that the two men entered the pond in the afternoon and trouble followed quickly. The rescue services arrived on time but could only save one while the other met with a watery grave.

Local residents expressed

concern over the incident, stating that people continue to bathe in the pond despite repeated warnings about its dangers. They have now demanded that authorities deploy security personnel at the site to prevent further tragedies.

Sources say that groups of young men consume alcohol, party and then swim into the pond throwing caution to the winds.

Authorities have cautioned the public to avoid swimming in such unsafe water bodies especially during the monsoon.

St Inez residents have called for better safety measures around the pond to prevent similar tragedies in future.

15-yr-old girl kidnapped from Zuarinagar

Team Herald

MARGAO: A 15-year-old girl has reportedly been kidnapped from within the jurisdiction of Verna Police, who have registered an offence under Section 137(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Section 8 of the Goa Children's Act.

According to the complaint lodged at Verna Police Station on May 19, at approximately 10.30 hrs, the minor girl left

her residence in Zuarinagar, Sancoale, without informing anyone and has not been located since.

The complainant and his family members strongly suspect that Mallappa Odi, a resident of Bijapur-Karnataka, who was known to be friendly with the girl, may have kidnapped her from their lawful guardianship.

PSI Mahesh Bhomkar is currently investigating the case.

Prabhu Chambers decree holders seek timely justice

Team Herald

PANJIM: A delegation of 41 decree holders of "Prabhu Chambers" at Angod, Mapusa, met the North Goa Collector on Friday, urging immediate action in the long-pending recovery of approximately Rs 7.5 cr under the Goa Land Revenue Code.

The recovery proceedings pertain to Venkatesh Prabhu Moni, who had earlier been ordered to undergo civil imprisonment by the then North Goa Collector, Sneha Gitte, through an order dated December 30, 2024. Following this, Prabhu Moni was lodged in Colvale Jail for nearly 100 days.

However, the District Court at Mercas, in an order dated April 11, 2025, instructed the Tiswadi Mamlatdar to provide the defaulter with an opportunity to be heard and directed the Collector to independently ascertain whether the defaulter was wilful. The Court specifically noted that the Collector's decision should be impartial and not influenced by the Court's own observations. Should the Collector conclude that the

default was deliberate, coercive measures, including arrest under the Goa Land Revenue Code, were to be undertaken.

The defaulter had challenged the accuracy of the recovery amount and maintained that the default was not intentional. In response, the authorities initiated a fresh examination of the case as per the Court's directives.

On April 21, 2025, the Tiswadi Mamlatdar issued notices for a hearing. After evaluating all submissions and conducting proceedings, Mamlatdar Kaushik B Desai issued a detailed order on May 20, rejecting the respondent's claims and upholding the validity and accuracy of the recovery amount as stated by the decree holders.

In light of these developments and the Court-mandated timeline, the decree holders met with North Goa Collector Yashaswini B to seek swift execution of recovery proceedings. The Collector assured the delegation that necessary action under the law would be taken without delay to bring the matter to its lawful conclusion.

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