

# Money laundering trail leads to washing machine in Goa

## Telangana Anti-Narcotics Bureau busts drug-linked money laundering racket in State

Team Herald

PANJIM: In a major breakthrough against drug-linked money laundering, the Telangana Anti-Narcotics Bureau (TGANB), in coordination with Goa Police, seized Rs 50 lakh in cash from an apartment in Goa believed to be part of a hawala network operated by an international drug cartel.

The cash — neatly packed and hidden inside a washing machine — was recovered from an apartment in the Highland Park complex during a late-night raid. Investigators say the amount was collected over just two days and was moments away from being transferred to Nigeria through informal financial channels.

The raid followed a month-long surveillance operation triggered by the arrest of a Nigerian national, Emmanuel Bediako alias Maxwell, in Hydera-

**SPIN CYCLE BUSTED**

- Rs 50 lakh in cash seized from a washing machine in an apartment in Goa
- Operation followed the Hyderabad arrest of Nigerian national Emmanuel Bediako alias Maxwell last week
- Goan suspect Uttam Singh, who ran Sangeetha Mobile Shop in Mapusa arrested for allegedly
- laundering Rs 2.1 cr in one week
- Money was being channelled via Mumbai to Nigeria, part of a wider international drug syndicate
- TGANB has dispatched a team to Delhi to trace further money laundering links

bad last week. Bediako, a repeat visitor to Goa since 2013, was apprehended with cocaine and ecstasy pills worth Rs 1.25 crore. Bediako was dealing with celebrity cocaine (pure cocaine), cocaine and MDMA. His total commission would be around Rs 1.17 crore for three trips. His interrogation revealed the existence of an extensive money laundering channel used to funnel drug profits abroad.

Based on these leads, TGANB officials traced

the cash flow to Goa and launched coordinated operations in Mapusa. Raids were carried out at an apartment in Highland Park and at Sangeetha Mobile Shop, owned by the main accused, Uttam Singh. Singh was taken into custody and is believed to have laundered over Rs 2.1 crore within a week, according to the agency.

Singh's modus operandi involved collecting cash from foreign nationals, routing it via hawala oper-

ators through Mumbai, and ultimately facilitating its transfer to Nigeria. Officials confirmed that any delay in the operation could have resulted in the Rs 50 lakh being smuggled out of the country.

According to the TGANB, the drugs that are being sold by the Nigerian drug cartels are coming from abroad and the drug money and profits are sent to Nigeria through an extensive money laundering channel involving Indian hawala operators and Nigerian drug cartel.

A few days before Bediako's arrest, his boss Romey, who mostly stays in Nigeria and operates from there, instructed him and money laundering channels to expand the business beyond Goa and suggested Hyderabad, which has a high customer base, the TGANB said.

Cont on Pg 9 >>

## HERITAGE MEETS HIGH-TECH



Jaipur traffic police personnel patrol on electric self-balancing scooters near Hawa Mahal in Jaipur, on Sunday

## Man booked for opening aircraft exit flap at Dabolim

Team Herald

VASCO: The Dabolim Airport police have registered a case against a passenger for allegedly opening the emergency exit flap cover of the aircraft.

The incident occurred on Saturday when the passenger was boarding the Goa-Surat flight. The opening of the emergency exit flap caused a technical glitch and posed a risk to passengers' safety.

Prajakta Gawas, assistant manager (security), Interglobe Aviation Ltd (Indigo) has filed a complaint in this regard. The police gave the name of the passenger as Sidapara Divyesh (34), a native of Gujarat.

Though no injuries were reported due to the incident, it is being considered a serious safety violation as it endangered the lives of other passengers and disrupted normal procedures.

Cont on Pg 9 >>

## Seven days after brutal Bastora assault, key suspects still at large

### Three arrested but family says several others who took part are yet to be apprehended

Team Herald

PANJIM: A week after the brutal mob assault on a young couple in Bastora, some of the main suspects continue to roam free, raising serious questions about the pace and intent of the police investigation.

The incident, which occurred on the afternoon of Monday, June 2, sent shockwaves across Goa. A pregnant woman and her husband were mercilessly beaten by a mob outside their shawarma shop, as bystanders watched in silence. Despite the severity of the crime, police have made no further arrests beyond the initial three, and the key suspects remain at large.

Speaking to **O Herald**, a senior police officer gave a routine response: "The

It's been seven days. Out of eight people involved, only three have been arrested. One of them is even an advocate. The police need to act faster

— Amar Mandrekar, Vivek Shirodkar's brother-in-law

Goa is no longer the Goa we knew. Is this governance or Gundaraj? The chief minister, who also holds the Home portfolio, must take responsibility. We are giving the government 15 days to arrest all those involved. No woman should have to suffer this way

— Dr Pratiksha Khalap, Goa Pradesh Mahila Congress president

case is being investigated. Multiple teams have been formed and raids are underway." However, behind these statements, there has been little progress since June 3.

The victims, Vivek Shirodkar and his wife Shruti, residents of Nachinola,

Aldona, recounted the traumatic incident to **O Herald**. The couple had set out for a prenatal scan — eager to hear their baby's heartbeat for the first time — when they were unexpectedly attacked.

Cont on Pg 9 >>

## Manipur protests continue despite curfew

PTI, IMPHAL: Protests over the arrests of Meitei outfit leaders continued in Manipur on Sunday even as the administration imposed prohibitory orders and suspended internet services in five Imphal valley districts, officials said.

Protesters burnt tyres on roads at Uripok and Koirengel in Imphal West district and Khurai in Imphal East, defying the prohibitory orders,

they said.

At Koirengel, demonstrators dug up the road and made heaps of soil

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on the thoroughfares to prevent the movement of security forces.

Similar agitations were also staged in Jiribam district, neighbouring Assam.

Cont on Pg 9 >>



Charred remains of a bus used for transporting central forces, which was set on fire by a mob, in Imphal East, on Sunday

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