

DAYLIGHT ACID ATTACK ON 17-YR-OLD BOY IN PERNEM

Victim suffers 34% burns; man arrested for attack claims the teen had an affair with his daughter, was responsible for her death



Police at the crime site after the acid attack. (Inset) the partially burnt bag and bottle which were carried by the boy

Team Herald

PERNEM/PANJIM: In a horrific incident virtually unheard of in Goa, a 17-year-old boy from Dhargalim, Pernem, was seriously injured after being splashed with acid by a man from Dodamarg, Maharashtra, on Monday morning.

The attack took place around 7.50 am while the boy, a college student in Mapusa, was waiting at the local bus stop. His father had dropped him there and returned home. The accused, identified as 46-year-old Nilesh Dessai from Kalne, Dodamarg, arrived on a two-wheeler carrying a bucket of acid — reportedly a chemical used to clean lenses — and flung it at the boy be-

fore fleeing the scene.

The boy immediately phoned his father for help. He was rushed to the North Goa District Hospital in Mapusa, and later shifted to Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMC), Bambolim. Police confirmed the boy sustained about 34 per cent burns. Police officers noted that the extent of injuries would have been worse if not for the shoulder bag he was carrying.

Dessai was arrested later that evening from a factory in Karaswada, Mapusa, where he worked. Pernem DySP Salim Shaikh said the accused confessed to the crime, claiming he acted out of suspicion that the boy — who was in a relationship

with his daughter — was involved in her unnatural death. That case is currently under investigation by the Sindhudurg Police.

The remaining acid, along with other evidence and the two-wheeler used in the crime, was recovered under panchanama.

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Shock and trauma stalk Dhargalim

AUGUSTO RODRIGUES

TALEWADA, DHARGALIM: The brutal acid attack on the 17-year-old early Monday morning has left the village of Dhargalim in a state of disbelief and fear. The college student, who is currently battling for his life in Ward 117 of Goa Medical College (GMC), was attacked while waiting at a bus stop on his way to DMC College.

The incident, which took place just outside his residence, has shaken the quiet village. "Using acid to attack a young boy is shocking. Crime in Goa has never reached this level," said Madhuva Gadgil, a local resident who visited the site of the attack. "The influx of outsiders is becoming a serious concern, and the government cannot afford to look away."

According to neighbours, the boy was a quiet, well-liked youth who kept to himself. "He was a handsome, soft-spoken boy. After college, he would usually go to the gym and spend time near his home in the evenings," said Savlo Harlankar, a neighbour. "When I heard screams that morning, I never imagined it would be him."

The attack occurred around the time the 17-year-old was going to college. His home now remains locked, but villagers

When I was told he had met with an accident, I didn't think much of it. But when I saw him... it was unbearable... Who would do something so cruel to a boy like him? — Umesh, victim's father

They say it was over a love affair, but did anyone ever see him with a girl? He may have been admired by girls, but he was never seen pursuing anyone... Even if there was a misunderstanding, throwing acid can never be justified

— Sidhesh Dhargalkar, local resident

continue to gather near the site of the incident, trying to make sense of what happened. "They say it was over a love affair, but did anyone ever see him with a girl? He may have been admired by girls, but he was never seen pursuing anyone," said another local, Sidhesh Dhargalkar, who said he had watched the boy grow up. "Even if there was a misunderstanding, throwing acid can never be justified."

The attack has raised deeper concerns about safety and the changing nature of the village, especially following the operationalisation of the nearby Mopa Airport.

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Yoga guru-turned-drug dealer had eye on politics

Patnem locals say he spoke about fighting polls; he claimed to Chhatisgarh cops he will fight Assembly elections there

BASURI DESAI

PANJIM: Chhattisgarh Police may have arrested **Tarun Kranti Agarwal** — self-styled yogi and alleged drug dealer — but the source of his vast wealth accumulated in Goa over nearly two decades remains a mystery. In fact, local law enforcement seems to have ignored him and his activities for over a decade.

It now emerges that he had an eye on politics — locals in Goa claim he had talked about fighting elections in the State, an ambition he echoed to police after his arrest a few days back with nearly 2 kg of cannabis at his ashram in Dongargarh, Chhattisgarh. He had shifted to the area three months ago from Goa, as per police records.

According to locals in Patnem village in South Goa, Tarun first arrived on



We are going to investigate if he has accumulated wealth through wrong means anywhere in the country — Jitendra Verma, PI of Dongargarh Police Station

We have seen him roaming in some parts of Canacona wearing all-white outfit like politicians, saying he was planning to contest elections

— A police officer in Canacona

quietly consolidating his real estate interests while maintaining a deliberately low profile.

His biggest move was acquiring the land where he established his yoga ashram-cum-resort on Patnem beach.

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Kerala live-in couple arrested for 'killing their 2 newborn'

AGENCY, KOCHI: Police in Kerala have arrested a young live-in couple for allegedly killing their two newborn babies between 2021 and 2024. The accused, Bavish (25) and Aneesha (23), were taken into custody on Sunday after Bavish walked into the Pudukad police station in Thrissur district, allegedly carrying a bag with the skeletal remains of the infants.

According to Thrissur Rural Superintendent of Police B Krishna Kumar, Bavish, who was reportedly drunk, told police that the bones belonged to their children and that he had preserved them for rituals to grant the infants' souls 'moksha.'

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MAX. TEMP 32 °C
MIN. TEMP 25.3 °C

idharudhar



Still waiting — hydrant and hose need budget approval



Emergency services personnel at the site after an explosion at a pharma plant, at Pashamylaram, in Sangareddy district, Telangana, on Monday

13 killed, 34 injured in Telangana pharma plant blast

Explosion triggered by suspected chemical reaction, rescue ops on; State govt forms 5-member probe panel

PTI, SANGAREDDY (TELANGANA): At least 13 people died and 34 persons were injured on Monday in an explosion at the Sigachi Industries' pharma plant in Telangana's Sangareddy district.

About 90 people were working in the plant when the blast took place, reportedly due to a suspected chemical reaction, which also triggered a fire, Health Minister Damodara Raja Narasimha said.

Later in the evening, a police official told PTI that another body was extricated from the debris, bringing the total number of

deaths to 13.

"Eleven bodies were recovered from the blast site and two people died while undergoing treatment at a hospital," the official said.

The explosion was so powerful that some of the workers were thrown nearly 100 metres away, eyewitnesses said.

The cause of the mishap would be known after examination by the technical experts, Narasimha, who visited the accident site along with state Labour Minister G Vivek Venkatswamy, told reporters.

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FACTORY HORROR

12 of the injured are critical, on ventilator support due to severe burns and respiratory distress

Factory manager among the dead; six bodies charred beyond recognition require DNA tests
Production halted for 90 days; company assures support to victims' families.

PM announces ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh for families of deceased, Rs 50,000 for injured

Delhi HC lets minor rape survivor abort pregnancy

PTI, NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Monday allowed a minor sexual assault survivor to terminate her 26-week pregnancy.

Justice Manoj Jain, therefore, directed the medical superintendent of AIIMS to terminate the over 26 weeks' pregnancy of the girl, observing she was subjected to two sexual assaults.

The survivor, 16, and her mother moved court with their plea for abortion citing serious mental trauma.

The court directed AIIMS and its team of doctors to perform the procedure on the survivor on July 1 under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act.

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Post stampede, thousands return

Devotees throng for glimpse of sibling deities in Puri

PTI, PURI (ODISHA): A day after three people were killed and 50 others injured in a stampede near Shree Gundicha temple in Puri, thousands of devotees on Monday made a beeline to have a darshan of the sibling deities — Lord Balabhadra, Devi Subhadra and Lord Jagannath.

In view of Sunday's incident, barricades have been erected in front of the Shree Gundicha temple and different queues made for having a smooth darshan of the deities at 'Adapa Mandap' (the podium on which the deities are seated) inside the temple, a senior police officer said.

The temple office stated that there was no 'Pahuda' (closing of the temple's door for the deities to take rest) on Monday night due

to several scheduled rituals following the deities' entry into the Shree Gundicha temple.

"Mangal Aarti was performed at 7.40 am on Tuesday and thousands of devotees witnessed the ritual without any hassle," a temple official said, adding that the Lords will be offered the cooked 'prasad' after almost 20 days.

The cooked food offered to the deities in Shree Gundicha temple is called 'Adapa Mandap Prasad'.

"We are alert... by the grace of the Lord, everything is running smoothly. Devotees are entering the Shree Gundicha Temple without any hassle," IPS officer Soumendra Priyadarshi told PTI.

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