

Whiskey ice cream: Cafe owners allege false case by excise officials

SWETHAVIMALA M @ Hyderabad

OVER a week after prohibition and excise officials registered a case against Ariko Cafe, an ice cream parlour in Jubilee Hills here, for allegedly selling whiskey-infused gelato, the cafe's management has accused officials of filing a false case against them for refusing to pay a bribe.

Claiming that the gelato in question is not part of Ariko's menu, the company alleged that they were "trapped" by the excise police and filed a complaint against five officers with the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and law & order police.

Meanwhile, the excise director has denied the allegation and highlighted the department's unwavering stance against false accusations from "unethical businesses".

On September 5, excise officials raided the manufacturing

unit of the cafe and seized 11.5 kg of the ice cream allegedly laced with whiskey. Two employees were apprehended, and officials said the parlour had been selling whiskey-infused ice cream for some time, including to minors.

Speaking to TNIE, the founder of Ariko Cafe, Sharath Chandra Reddy Gattu, who is also accused of being involved in the production, insisted that the product was not on their menu. "Back in 2018, we called in a chef from Italy and tried to experiment using non-alcoholic flavour in gelato as part of our brand KIARO. However, it was only for a week and we discontinued the product after that," Gattu said.

The founder alleged that the excise police found an old social media post and called in at Ariko Cafe, trying to order about 12 litres of whiskey-infused gelato. "We got at least 16 calls from the client and when

they came to the manufacturing unit, they influenced the chefs to custom-make the gelato for a party. A personal transaction of ₹10,000 took place between the chef and the customer after which the chef bought a liquor bottle," Gattu claimed.

Meanwhile, a few officers of the excise department entered the unit and found the liquor bottle. The cafe's management then alleged that an excise official had demanded a bribe of ₹25,000. When they refused to comply, the officials registered a case against them. "Moreover, the officers claimed that we sell the gelato to children. But there is no evidence that it is sold to minors," the founder alleged, adding, "When they raided the store, where we sell, they did not conduct a fair investigation, yet they registered cases against the company."

With regards to the complaint filed with the NHRC, Gattu said the officers had abused the people working at the eatery.



WHISKEY ICE CREAM

Cafe lodges plaints against excise officials

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CONTINUED ON P5

Excise officials demanded ₹25K bribe: Cafe management

FROM PAGE 1

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they registered cases against the company."

With regards to the complaint filed with the NHRC, Gattu said the officers had abused the people working at the eatery. "We have also lodged a complaint with the ACB asking them to conduct an investigation in a fair manner against the corrupt officers," he added.

Received credible tip-off: Excise director

Denying these accusations, VB Kamalasan Reddy, director of the Excise department, said the raid was based on credible information regarding the sale of whiskey-laced ice cream. "The state Task Force team conduct-

ed a recce on Ariko Cafe, and after confirming excise violations, a decoy operation was carried out on September 5. The team found that 100 Pipers whiskey was being used in the preparation of ice cream, and a case was registered under provisions of the Excise Act," he added.

Noting that operations of bakeries and cafes do not fall under the purview of the Excise department, Kamalasan said since there were liquor violations, the excise officials raided the cafe.

He reiterated that the department "would not back down in the face of false allegations from businesses engaging in unethical practices".

Expedite action on Garland Drain project to save jheel: NGT to SER

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/expedite-action-on-garland-drain-project-to-save-jheel-ngt-to-ser/articleshow/113376011.cms>

Sep 16, 2024, 04.22 AM IST

Kolkata: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the South Eastern Railway to submit an action-taken report on the construction of the long-pending Garland Drain, meant to intercept and divert both municipal and railway sewage from flowing into Santragachhi Jheel, a biodiversity hotspot and a crucial habitat for migratory birds, in response to a case filed by green activist Subhas Datta.

The Garland Drain project is designed to intercept sewage from surrounding areas and divert it to Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) before the treated water is discharged back into the Jheel. This is critical to maintaining the ecological balance of the Jheel, which has been suffering from severe pollution over the years. The bench, consisting of Judicial Member Justice B Amit Sthalekar and Expert Member Arun Verma, expressed concern over the delays in the project due to bureaucratic hurdles, specifically the issue of payment and coordination between two government agencies.

“The environmental exigency should not be delayed due to procedural issues. Please ensure the timely adjustment between the concerned government agencies,” observed Justice Sthalekar.

The next hearing is scheduled for Sept 26, 2024. The tribunal expects a progress report on the pending approvals and construction work.

We also published the following articles recently 9 yrs down the drain: NGT slams DJB for not making 15 STPsNine years after being directed by the National Green Tribunal to set up 32 sewage treatment plants, the Delhi Jal Board has only completed 17.

The tribunal expressed skepticism over DJB's claim to establish 40 decentralized STPs by December 2025, citing inaccurate sewage generation estimates and insufficient progress on current projects.113203616 HC chief justice appointments delayed due to 'sensitive material' with government, AG tells SCAttorney General R Venkatramani told the Supreme Court that 'sensitive material' with the Centre is delaying the implementation of SC collegium's recommendations for appointing chief justices of high courts. The SC has urged the AG to resolve these issues quickly, as many high courts are dealing with a significant backlog due to vacant judges' positions.

113336004 NHRC seeks action taken report from Odisha government on lightning deathsThe National Human Rights Commission has issued a notice to Odisha's chief secretary to provide an action taken report on frequent lightning-related deaths. Activist Radhakanta Tripathy's petition pointed out gaps in state action plans, citing 1,625 deaths over five years. The NHRC calls for better preventive measures and compensation for victims' families.113266192

Just Wanted Scapegoats : Muslims Beaten by Police, Homes Razed for Ganpati Pandal Stone Pelting in Surat

<https://thewire.in/communalism/just-wanted-scapegoats-muslims-beaten-by-police-homes-razed-for-ganpati-pandal-stone-pelting-in-surat>

Tarushi Aswani 13 hours ago 5 min read

A video posted on X by the Surat City Police shows the accused struggling to walk after being in custody, visibly suggesting severe physical abuse.

New Delhi: On September 8 (Sunday), the Surat Police detained 33 Muslim males — six of them minors — who were allegedly involved in disrupting peace by pelting stones at a Ganapati pandal in the city's Variavi Bazar.

Following the arrests, communal tensions erupted in the neighbouring Saiyedpura area last Sunday after a mob of around 200-300 locals gathered near Lal Gate police station and started pelting stones. The protest was sparked by the detention of the six minors.

The situation quickly escalated, with the mob allegedly attacking the police and causing widespread damage to vehicles nearby. In response, the police launched a swift crackdown, detaining those allegedly involved in the incident.

But then, local residents told The Wire, the police did something unexpected.

“They posted a before and after video. It begins with a photo of an idol of Ganesha, then shows the Muslim men being bundled into police vehicles. Then later, it shows them walking out of the police vehicles, limping, hurt and barefoot,” a local Muslim said.

This video posted on X by the Surat City Police shows the accused struggling to walk after being in custody, visibly suggesting severe physical abuse. The alleged mistreatment appears to be in response to the outrage caused by the mob that attacked the police station.

‘Made scapegoats’

Abdul Mansuri, a local who witnessed the incident recalled how upon complaints made by Hindus in the area, the police swiftly began breaking locks and banging doors around 10 pm to whisk away Muslim men away from their home. Mansuri, who runs a cloth shop in the area said that the police appeared to be on a mission to somehow catch anyone due to public outrage. “They came late in the night, woke up my relative Sheikh Junaid Wahab and took him away. He had been at his shop the whole day. But the police were determined to take someone or the other with them,” Mansuri told The Wire.

Another local Muslim, Shafi-Ud-Din said that his relative Saqib Dadhiwala was randomly taken away by the police, even when Saqib was out of Surat the entire day and had only returned around 8.30 pm.

“They were hellbent on putting blame on someone, they just wanted scapegoats in their custody to pin the crime of stone pelting on them. They are still in police custody,” Shafi-Ud-Din told The Wire.

Advocate Zeba Pathan, who is representing Junaid’s case, said that the incident was a minor one and was blown out of proportion for political mileage by persons with vested interests.

Mujahid Nafees, convener, minority coordination committee, Gujarat has written to the **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** about the excessive use of force on the accused. Nafees told The Wire that it was vital that the officers responsible for the alleged abuse be identified and held accountable.

“They are bound by the Code of Criminal Procedure and possess no authority to inflict harm or intimidate individuals. The video evidence clearly indicates no resistance was shown during the arrests, and the use of force appears solely intended to demean individuals from a minority community,” he said.

Demolitions and democracy

Recently, in a strong observation against “bulldozer justice”, the Supreme Court had said that in a country where actions of the state are governed by the rule of law, the transgression by a family member cannot lead to demolition of their legally constructed house or it would be equivalent to running bulldozer over the laws.

This observation was made in response to a plea by Javedali Maheebmiya Saiyed, who expressed his apprehension over threats issued for demolition of his house as an FIR was registered against one of his family members on September 1. Saiyed, who is co-owner of the house, moved the court to protect his rights over his land. The court directed status quo in respect of the petitioner’s property by all concerned.

While the court issued notice to the Gujarat government against the petitioner’s apprehension, “bulldozer justice” seems to be the first response in the state by authorities.

On September 9, local authorities carried out a demolition drive, razing illegal buildings and temporary structures, in the same area of Saiyedpura, that saw mob violence following alleged stone pelting in a Ganesh pandal. Though Surat’s deputy mayor Narendra Patil said that the drive was pre-planned to raze illegal concrete and temporary structures and remove handcarts of street vendors and temporary roadside

shops in the area, locals believe that it was very much linked to the incident that unfolded the day before.

One of the shacks that was razed belonged to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) minority cell leader, Mohsin Mirza's relative Shauqat Mirza, who had rented out the shack to an eatery business. The Wire made several attempts to reach out to them both, however, they were unavailable.

Post the incident, police commissioner Anupam Singh Gehlot and Gujarat's junior home minister Harsh Sanghavi visited the area late at night. After taking stock of the situation and the suspects, the minister said those who try to disturb peace in the city will face serious action.

Aslam Cyclewala, former councillor, Surat Municipal Corporation told The Wire that he believed that this was not a pre-planned demolition drive that happened and was a result of the stone pelting.

"This area, Saiyedpura has had shacks for 25 years now. The SMC suddenly realised it had to raze settlements and encroachments in the area, right after the day when a Hindu-Muslim flare up happened. The BJP has been in majority in the state for two decades but they chose a very particular day to tear down the livelihoods of the poor, majority of whom are Muslims," Cyclewala explained.

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Odisha से आई आईडी शराब ने आंध्र प्रदेश के गांवों में ली जान

<https://jantaserishta.com/local/andhra-pradesh/id-liquor-from-odisha-took-lives-in-villages-of-andhra-pradesh-3527637>

Tulsi Rao 15 Sept 2024 2:53 PM

Srikakulam श्रीकाकुलम: पड़ोसी ओडिशा राज्य से अवैध रूप से आसुत शराब (आईडीएल) ने श्रीकाकुलम जिले के आंध्र प्रदेश के सीमावर्ती गांवों में लोगों की जान ले ली है। ओडिशा के गंजम जिले के बाथुपुरम, टिकरापाडु, कुल्लाडा, तुम्बा गांवों में आईडीएल बनाई जा रही है। इसे श्रीकाकुलम जिले के सोमपेटा मंडल के सारदापुरम, पोटांगी, पेदासनम जैसे आंध्र प्रदेश के नजदीकी गांवों में तस्करी करके लाया जा रहा है। आईडीएल को लोग डिब्बों में भरकर ले जा रहे हैं और वे पैदल ही सीमावर्ती गांवों तक पहुंच रहे हैं। पिछली वार्डएसआरसीपी सरकार के दौरान शराब की कीमतों में अत्यधिक वृद्धि की गई थी, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप शराब के आदी लोग ओडिशा से सस्ती आईडीएल पर निर्भर हो गए थे। ओडिशा में आईडीएल की कीमत आंध्र प्रदेश में शराब की कीमतों की तुलना में सस्ती है। आईडी शराब के 200 मिलीलीटर के प्रत्येक पाउच की कीमत लगभग 100 रुपये है।

कथित रूप से नकली आईडीएल के सेवन के परिणामस्वरूप, सोमपेटा मंडल के सरदापुरम गांव में 14 दिनों के अंतराल में तीन लोगों की मौत हो गई। उनकी पहचान बी पपय्या, बी दलय्या और के कृष्ण राव के रूप में की गई। उनकी पत्नियों रोजा, वरलक्ष्मी और लक्ष्मी ने हाल ही में राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) में शिकायत दर्ज कराई है। मानवाधिकार मंच (एचआरएफ) एपी राज्य उपाध्यक्ष के वी जगन्नाथ राव ने एचआरएफ जिला सचिव बीना ढिल्ली राव और कार्यकारी सदस्य एस वेंकट राव के साथ शनिवार को सरदापुरम गांव का दौरा किया और तथ्य खोज के हिस्से के रूप में मृतकों के अगले परिजनों से बातचीत की। उन्होंने दोनों राज्य सरकारों से एपी गांवों में आईडीएल बनाने और तस्करी को रोकने की मांग की।

Woman academics' meet at OU on Sept 21

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hyderabad/woman-academics-meet-at-ou-on-sept-21/articleshow/113375644.cms>

TNN | Sep 16, 2024, 04.12 AM IST

Hyderabad: To explore innovations and technical breakthroughs that position India as a global leader, an all-India woman academics' conference will be held at Osmania University on Sept 21.

The event, which will be organised by Akhil Bhartiya Rashtriya Shaikshik Mahasangh (ABRSM) in collaboration with the Indian Council of Social Science Research, will see paper presentations on various topics, including the role of woman academics in building 'Viksith Bharat', women in STEM: 'Breaking Barriers and Shaping the Future', women leadership in higher education, policy-making and research, among others, along with talks and lectures.

"About 1,000 delegates are expected to attend this conference," S Raji Reddy, who is part of the organising committee, said.

Along with providing a platform for woman leaders, entrepreneurs, and innovators to share ideas and insights, the conference would explore key events, policies, and initiatives shaping Bharat's leadership role and analyse economic and industrial shifts that have positioned India as a dynamic force on the global stage.

National Human Rights Commission chairperson Vijaya Bharathi Sayani and Jawaharlal Nehru University vice-chancellor Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit are expected to attend.

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We also published the following articles recently

IE University recognized women leaders at 'I Am Woman' awardsIE University partnered with the Karan Gupta Education Foundation to host the fifth "I Am Woman" Awards, recognizing women's accomplishments in business, social impact, and advocacy. Dr Karan Gupta announced full scholarships for eligible women applicants. The event featured notable panellists, and Richa Chadha was honored with the Woman of Substance Award for her advocacy efforts.113332679

Gorakshpeeth to organise events to honour mahantsStarting Saturday, the Gorakshpeeth will hold a week-long 'Shraddha Samarpan' programme to honor Brahmleen Mahant Digvijaynath Ji Maharaj and Brahmleen Mahant Avidyanath Ji Maharaj. The event features Shrimad Bhagwat Katha Gyan Yagya, a conference on societal issues, and tributes from Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath along with other leaders.113331012

Divya Bansal explores themes of human resilience, love and positive transformation in debut poetry bookDivya Bansal introduced her debut poetry collection, I Rode through Oblivion, in Kolkata with a cake-cutting ceremony attended by actress June and writer Diti Sen. Her poems explore themes of human resilience, love, and positive transformation. This launch marks her entry into the contemporary Indian poetry scene.113318053