

Israeli arrested in drug case flees

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MUMBAI: Despite police commissioner A N Roy's instructions to his men to take extra care while escorting foreign nationals under trial, an Israeli undertrial arrested in a drug case fled from police custody on Tuesday afternoon.

This is the third such incident in one month. Two policemen armed with SLR guns had brought Ronak Dvesh (32), an Israeli national arrested by the air intelligence unit of customs, for blood and urine tests at JJ Hospital.

It was around noon and many other patients were waiting outside the pathology lab on the ground floor of the hospital. Around 12.30 pm, Ronak told the policemen he needed to use the toilet. The duo escorted him and waited outside the toilet and asked him not to bolt the door.

Investigating inspector Laxman Vakhare said Ronak, however, managed to bolt the door from inside. The policemen waited outside for a few minutes and then began knocking on the door. When they realised that Ronak was trying to break out through a window, they raised an alarm.

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However, the well-built Israeli had by then broken the rusted iron rods on the window and fled. The policemen immediately reported the matter to the JJ police station.

According to the police, Ronak had been arrested by the AIU customs in March 2005 for possessing drugs worth a few lakh of rupees and later remanded to judicial custody.

While in custody, Ronak had of late complained of stomach and chest pain, following which the court had directed the police to provide him medical treatment, for which he was taken to JJ hospital on Tuesday.

Israeli drug peddler flees JJ Hospital

Dayanand Kamath

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In yet another dramatic escape, an Israeli national arrested by the Air Intelligence Unit (AIU) of the Customs department in May 2005 for possessing heroin, fled from the JJ Hospital premises on Tuesday.

DNA

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Rounak Dwesh, 32, was in Arthur Road Jail since June 30, 2005. He was brought to the hospital along with other detainees under police escort for regular medical check-up. After the check-up, he requested two Local Armoury (LA) police personnel to allow him to use the washroom.

In the intervening period, one of the constables went to the Pathology department, while another escorted him to the toilet. When he did not come out of the toilet after a few minutes, the constable suspected foul play.

Even after the banging the door, the accused did not relent. The constable climbed the door to peep inside and was shocked to find the accused bending the iron grills of the toilet window and sneaking out.