



---

13:43 24/01/2012 **ALL NEWS**

## Russian tourist arrested in Goa over gun cartridge to stand trial on January 27

NEW DELHI, January 24 (Itar-Tass) — A Russian national who was arrested at the Goa airport on January 13 after a gun cartridge had been found in his luggage will go on trial on January 27.

According to earlier reports, a 12-calibre hunting gun cartridge was found in the luggage of the Russian tourist, Anatoly Valenko, 31, who was to take a plane for his hometown of Krasnoyarsk. Currently, Valenko is kept in a prison cell along with 18 more men, none of whom speak Russian. Meals to Valenko are provided by staffers of the travel company, which organized his vacations in India. The man told this when he spoke with his relatives in Krasnoyarsk over the phone. The relatives have raised a sum of 2,000 U.S. dollars to pay a lawyer.

Previously, according to sources in the Russian consulate general in Mumbai, Valenko's relatives faxed his hunting weapons license.

According to Russian diplomats in India, the final judgement will depend on an Indian judge. It is not ruled out that Valenko may be released right in court but it is likewise not ruled out that his trial may be postponed for several months.

Possession of munitions is a serious crime in India carrying a sentence of at least three years in prison.

India's island of Goa is one of the most popular vacation destinations among Russians. Thus, according to various sources, from 5,000 to 10,000 Russian tourists spent their vacations here in late December alone.