

5 held for 'consuming drugs' at N Goa event

Saliva tests confirm presence of banned substances; ganja supply kingpin nabbed in Jharkhand with inter-State coordination

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Anti-Narcotics Cell (ANC) detained five individuals on suspicion of drug consumption during an event in North Goa. Saliva tests confirmed the presence of banned substances in all five, with four testing positive for ganja and one for cocaine. The detainees hail from Texas (USA), Hyderabad, Chennai, Madhya Pradesh, and Cuncolim.

Superintendent of Police, Anti-Narcotics Cell, Tikam Singh Verma, stated that while the individuals were apprehended inside the venue, the drugs were reportedly consumed outside. Cases were registered after the ANC used a spot testing analyser to confirm the presence of narcotics. Medical examinations followed, with saliva and urine samples collected for further investigation.

In a separate operation, the ANC arrested a local youth, Sachin Haldankar, near ITI Tuem for possessing and supplying ecstasy and charas worth Rs 7.7 lakh.

The arrest was part of a sting operation where officers posed as customers to nab Haldankar during a drug delivery. PSI Sunil Falkar led the operation with his team.

In another raid at Parra, the ANC apprehended Nigerian national Joseph Uzor (44) for possessing cocaine worth Rs 1.5 lakh. PSI Dindyal Redkar and his team executed the operation and are currently investigating Uzor's background, including the legality of his stay in Goa and India.

Meanwhile, the ANC successfully arrested the kingpin of a ganja supply network, Guddu Mochi Ram, from Palamu, Jharkhand. Months earlier, two youth from Jharkhand and one from Goa were arrested at Assonora with 13 kg of ganja.

Following extensive investigations and technical surveillance, the ANC identified Ram as the primary supplier. He was reportedly exploiting economically disadvantaged individuals as couriers.

The operation, conducted in coordination with Palamu Police, underscores the effectiveness of inter-State collaboration in tackling the narcotics trade.

Ram is currently in 5 days police custody.

Goa's ANC confiscated narcotics worth Rs 6.75 cr

NARCOTICS SEIZURES BY GOA POLICE IN 2024

■ Anti Narcotics Cell seized **85 kg** narcotics worth **Rs 6.75 cr** - the highest seizure in a calendar year

■ The first case of DMT seizure in India, Goa Police confiscated commercial quantity of DMT worth **Rs 14 lakh**

■ Gamma-hydroxybutyrate (GHB) a date rape drug worth **Rs 12 lakh** was seized

■ Two laboratories at Borim and Paliem were busted for growing hydroponic cannabis

■ Biggest LSD seizure in Goa and a PAN India LSD network was busted

■ Guddu Mochi Ram, one of the main ganja suppliers to Goa was arrested from Jharkhand

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Anti Narcotics Cell of the Goa Police recorded the largest seizure in a calendar year in 2024 by seizing 85 kg of narcotics worth Rs 6.75 crore.

In a first DMT seizure in India, the ANC confiscated a commercial quantity of DMT worth Rs 14 lakh this year. It is also to be noted that the first case of GHB (Gamma-hydroxybutyrate) a date rape drug worth Rs 12 lakh was seized by ANC.

The ANC has busted two laboratories in Borim and Paliem for growing hydroponic cannabis.

ANC has made the biggest LSD seizures in Goa and also busted a PAN India LSD network. Recently, ANC has arrested one of the main ganja suppliers to Goa from Jharkhand. Guddu Mochi Ram was arrested by the team of ANC

with ganja worth Rs 13 lakh.

Large scale Awareness programs were conducted by Goa Police in schools and colleges on drug trafficking and its legal and social consequences. A 10 kms run with theme 'Anti Narcotic Run' was organised in view of International day against drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

Meanwhile, in an advisory sent out by the ANC in view of the New Year's Eve celebrations the Anti-Narcotics Cell has appealed to the public, particularly partygoers, to avoid consuming any substances, especially from unknown persons.

The ANC also urged citizens to report any suspicious activity related to drugs promptly and contact authorities via the Goa Police ERSS number 112 or the MANAS helpline 1933 of the Narcotics Control Bureau.

UP native arrested for 'raping' minor

The accused was also arrested for allegedly raping a 17-year-old in Aug 2023

Team Herald

PONDA: The Mardol police arrested Sadiq Khan, 20, a native of Uttar Pradesh and currently residing at Bhoma on the charge of raping a minor girl.

This is the second time the accused has been arrested by the police, the earlier being for allegedly raping a 17-year-old girl in August 2023.

According to the police, the accused committed this act after getting friendly with the victim. Taking advantage of this friendship, Sadiq lured the girl and took her to the room of one of his friends where he sexually assaulted her.

Both, the accused and the victim are non-Goans

The accused committed this act after getting friendly with the victim. Taking advantage of this friendship, Sadiq lured the girl and took her to the room of one of his friends where he sexually assaulted her -Police

The incident came to light when the girl did not return home at night, and the victim's family searched for her. The girl returned home the next morning and narrated the incident to her parents, who then filed a complaint at the Mardol Police Station.

Sadiq, who was later produced before the JMFC, Ponda, was remanded in three days police custody.

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If at all, Goa will bag award for 'best' scams, says AAP

Team Herald

MARGAO: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Goa on Tuesday came down heavily on the State BJP government, criticising its performance on all fronts in the year 2024 and claiming that if Goa would have to win any award as the best State in the country, it would be for running the 'best scams' in the State.

Addressing media persons in Margao on Tuesday, Benaalim MLA Venzy Viegas along with other AAP leaders touched upon the various sectors, where they alleged the BJP government had failed.

They cited the example of the healthcare infrastructure in the State, be it the sub-par South Goa District Hospital or health centres without the requisite infrastructure or specialists, which pose a risk to patients in the State seeking urgent medical treatment.

The leaders gave the example about the bad roads, water supply and sewerage system, which falls under the PWD.

Viegas pointed out that PWD has utilised only 40% of the budget allocation and added that this was a common theme with all other departments where the budgets have been majorly underutilised.

The AAP leaders also felt that no other State had seen the amount of environment destruction when it came to Goa, another thing Goa's BJP is responsible for, akin to allegedly being the top-most State for scams revolving recruitment, land, etc.

Viegas also questioned what happened to the government's promises to prevent Mhadei diversion given that another year has passed.

The AAP leaders also

said that issues like double tracking still persist and hit out at the poor performance of the Home Department in view of the

number of crimes in the State that are occurring on a daily basis.

Viegas also touched upon how water bodies in

Goa, like the Colva or Panjim creek or River Sal are still polluted with no visible change in plugging the pollution sources.

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