

Power Dept imposes Rs 12 cr penalty for hanging cables on electricity poles

Internet service providers and cable operators given 15 days to respond to notices

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Electricity Department has issued demand notices to Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and cable operators, requiring them to pay a hefty sum of Rs 12.60 crore in penalties and infrastructure usage charges.

The department issued show cause notices to five ISPs and cable operators, ordering them to pay the penalty over and above their regular rental charges for using electricity poles to string cables. The



notices also state that the operators must pay compensation for the unlawful installation of cables without the necessary permissions or clearances. According to the department,

According to the department, the operators were informed that their applications for permission to string fibre cables on electricity poles had been rejected, as they had already installed the cables without obtaining a proper licence or No Objection Certificate (NOC)

obtaining a proper licence or No Objection Certificate (NOC). The operators have been given 15 days to respond to the demand.

This move follows the department's previous

deadlines for the removal of the cables, with the most recent one being on February 3. The department had given the ISPs and cable operators 10 days to remove the unauthorised cables, but despite these repeated requests, the cables remained in place, prompting the imposition of penalties.

The Nodal Officer for Land Acquisition and Property Management, operating under the provisions of Section 18 of the Telecommunications (Right of Way) Rules, 2024, had also put

service providers on notice, instructing them to remove all illegal cables and infrastructure from electricity poles and other electricity "furniture" within 10 days of the notice.

Despite these clear instructions, the Electricity Department stated that they had not received a single application for permission to install cables, further complicating the situation. The department has now initiated the process of recovering outstanding rents and penalties from the service providers.

shorttakes

GERMAN NATIONAL ARRESTED FOR CARRYING PROHIBITED GPS DEVICE AT MOPA AIRPORT

PANJIM: The Mopa Airport Police have registered a First Information Report (FIR) against Thomas Richter, a German national, under the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933, for allegedly carrying a prohibited GPS device without a valid licence. The incident occurred on Sunday morning during a security screening at Manohar International Airport, Mopa. The Garmin GPS device was discovered in Richter's handbag before he boarded his Air India flight to Delhi. The case is currently under investigation by Police Sub-Inspector (PSI) Sagar Vazarkar.

DUO BOOKED FOR ORGANISING BULLFIGHT IN MANDREM

PANJIM: An FIR has been registered against Rigved Naik, 24, from Pernem and Arif Mulla, 28, from Calangute, under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act for allegedly organising a bullfight in Naikwada, Mandrem. According to police reports, the event involved ten bulls, with bets running into lakhs placed on the outcome. However, both individuals were later released on bail. The investigation is being led by Head Constable Satish Shetye.

RAIA YOUTH DIES IN TWO-WHEELER SELF-ACCIDENT

MARGAO: Alrie Alexio Fernandes, 29, from Sonarwado, Raia, Salcete, succumbed to his injuries at the South Goa District Hospital after a motorbike accident. The Maina Curtorim Police were informed by the hospital that Fernandes had died in the casualty ward while undergoing treatment for his injuries, which he sustained in a self-accident. According to police, Fernandes was riding his scooter from Arlem to Raia when the accident occurred near Livrament Church, Arlem. The body has been preserved at the hospital for medico-legal procedures, and an inquest panchnama was conducted.

COLLEM POLICE REGISTER CASE OF ILLEGAL SAND MINING AT DHARBANDORA

MARGAO: Collem Police have registered an offence against unknown individuals for illegally extracting sand from the Khandepar River in Davkond, Dharbandora. Suraj Kalgutkar, Junior Geologist at the Directorate of Mines and Geology, filed the complaint, stating that around 3 cubic metres of sand, valued at approximately Rs 3,900, was taken without prior permission from the Mines Department. The offence was registered under Section 303(2) BNS and Section 4(1) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act. PSI Viraj Korgaonkar of Collem Police Station is investigating the case.

COLVA POLICE BOOK FIVE FOR MOLESTING WOMAN AND ASSAULTING BOYFRIEND

MARGAO: Colva Police have registered an offence against five individuals, including Akshay Talwar and Sunil Bilavai of Borda, Margao and three other unidentified men, for allegedly outraging the modesty of a woman and assaulting her partner in a public place. Mozart Da Costa of Orlim, Salcete, reported that at around 3:20 am on 10 December 2024, the accused men passed a comment on his girlfriend's appearance outside a hotel in Varca, Salcete. The situation escalated when the accused men verbally abused Da Costa, assaulted him, and threatened him with an iron rod. Following the investigation, Sunil Bilavai was arrested and remanded to five days of police custody. The investigation is ongoing, led by Head Constable Sandesh Gadkar.

TREE FALL, WILDFIRE KEEP FIREFIGHTERS ON THEIR TOES IN SALCETE AND CANACONA

MARGAO: A house located near Jhaved Garage in Benaulim, Salcete, was damaged after a tree fell onto it. Firefighters from the Margao Fire Station were promptly deployed to the site after receiving the report. Gil Souza, Station Fire Officer (SFO) from Margao, informed that the tree's branches were cut, and the damage was estimated at approximately Rs 2,000. However, firefighters successfully managed to save property worth Rs 50,000. Senior firefighter SR Naik, along with other personnel, carried out the operation. In another incident, dry grass caught fire near the power substation at Char Rasta, Canacona. UG Gaonkar, Sub Officer, and the duty crew attended to the fire, bringing it under control.

Fire breaks out in generator room at Ashvem resort



Team Herald

PERNEM: Panic gripped Ashvem, Mandrem, after a fire broke out in the generator room of a resort situated near Ajoba Devasthan at Ashvem beach. The loss is estimated to be approximately Rs 23 lakh. However, no injuries were reported.

The fire broke out at around 9:30 am. Two generators and a shed were destroyed in the fire, while a solid waste treatment plant was partly damaged. The cause of the fire is suspected to be a short circuit.

Upon receiving the information, personnel from the Pernem fire station rushed to the scene and extinguished the blaze, while resort workers used their fire extinguishers to help contain the fire.

The fire was first noticed by taxi drivers, who

immediately informed the resort staff. There were initial fears that the fire had spread to the beach shacks, as thick smoke was visible, but no such incident was reported.

According to the Pernem fire station, only one fire tender was used to bring the fire under control. The fire was quickly doused using foam, with assistance from the resort staff, who had also used fire extinguishers.

The Mandrem police also rushed to the scene to monitor the operation and coordinated with the Pernem Station Fire Officer (SFO) Namdev H. Parwar to control the fire.

SFO Parwar stated that after the power failure, the resort staff started the generator. However, when the power was restored, they failed to switch over to the main supply, which led to the fire.

HEIGHT OF NEGLIGENCE



A signboard of DOs & DONTs lies hidden in bushes at Bambolim beach, highlighting the neglect of tourism infrastructure in Goa

Mining firm has failed to compensate farmers since 2013, say Mayem villagers

Team Herald

BICHOLIM: The villagers of Mayem on Sunday alleged that M/s Vedanta mining company had neglected to compensate farmers whose fields had been affected by mining activities and coal transportation since 2013.

They demanded that the company compensate the farmers promptly, warning that they would begin an agitation if their demands

were not met.

The farmers have united under the banner of the All India Kisan Sabha. Krishna Gadekar, a villager, told reporters that the compensation amount had been pending since 2013. He added that the fight against mining activities began in 2007, and after an inspection, it was found that fields and other plantations had been affected by the mining operations.

"The Bicholim taluka Mamlatdar had also ordered the mining company to provide compensation to the affected farmers," Gadekar said.

In response to the Mayem villagers' demands, the company clarified that compensation dues for the period from 2010 to 2013, relating to stakeholders, pertained to Sesa Mining Corporation Ltd (SMCL). According to the company,

these dues were fully paid to the Mayem farmers, and there were no pending dues against SMCL, as mining operations had ceased in 2013.

The company further stated that Vedanta Ltd commenced operations at the Bicholim Mining Block-I in April 2024. It confirmed that no mining-related compensation dues were outstanding for Mayem farmers under its current operations.

Dr Jack de Sequeira's statue to be installed at Upasnagar

Team Herald

MARGAO: The Gram Sabha of Velsao village has unanimously approved and passed a resolution to install a statue of Dr Jack de Sequeira, known as the Father of the Opinion Poll, at Upasnagar Junction through crowdfunding.

The proposal, which aims to honour the leader who played a crucial role in preventing Goa's merger with Maharashtra in 1967, received widespread support from the Gram Sabha members.

The statue project is targeted for completion

“Erecting a statue in memory of Dr Jack de Sequeira is of particular importance, as our very own identity is being diluted due to large-scale demographic changes in recent years – Orville Dourado, Velsao resident

by January 16, next year, coinciding with the 59th anniversary of the historic Opinion Poll.

In his proposal to the panchayat, local resident Orville Dourado Rodrigues emphasised the signifi-

cance of commemorating Sequeira's legacy, particularly in light of recent demographic changes affecting Goan identity.

"Erecting a statue in memory of Dr Jack de Sequeira is of particular importance, as our very own identity is being diluted due to large-scale demographic changes in recent years. This statue will not only commemorate a historical event but also honour a visionary leader and inspire patriotism in our youth, most of whom are not connected to Goa's recent history," said Rodrigues.

Baga river is turning into sewage swamp, say fishermen



Team Herald

CALANGUTE: Fishermen at Sauntavaddo, Calangute, who dock their boats at Baga jetty, have raised serious concerns over illegal sewage discharge from more than 15 food stalls at the Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC) food court, claiming it poses health hazards and pollution risks to the nearby Baga river.

According to the fishermen, unauthorised sewage tanks from the food court are overflowing and waste is being dumped near their boats, affecting their daily operations and have appealed to the local MLA, the Calangute panchayat, and the tourism department to take immediate action.

The matter was also discussed at the Calangute panchayat gram sabha on Sunday. Calangute

sarpanch Joseph Sequeira highlighted another pressing issue, stating that wastewater from tourism department-managed pay-toilets at Calangute and Baga beaches is flowing onto the roads, worsening the sanitation crisis. Sequeira pointed out that since the pay-toilets and pay-parking facilities are managed by contractors appointed by the tourism department, the village panchayat cannot intervene in the issue.

"The tourism department is not bothered about Calangute," he remarked, criticising the lack of response from the authorities.

Fishermen and local residents are now urging the government to take swift action to curb the pollution and prevent further environmental damage to the Baga river and its surroundings.

Benaulim carnival parade on March 1

Team Herald

MARGAO: The Benaulim carnival parade will take place on Saturday, March 1.

This was announced at a media briefing by the United Club of Benaulim which launched the 'Ben Vindo de Carnival Float Parade' in association with MLA Venzy Viegas.

The MLA added that the committee formed to organise the parade and related programmes consists of a representative of each and every village in Benaulim constituency. The organising committee said that the float parade will pass by the Holy Trinity Church, Maria Hall before proceeding to the main Benaulim beach where there is a parking facility.

A clarion call was given to participants from across the State to take part in their carnival float parade which will have three categories, namely, main, family and fancy dress. The cash prize amounts and consolation prizes for each of these categories were also announced.

They also announced various other programmes and contests that will take place during the carnival which promises to showcase Goa's talent, innovative ideas and Konkani songs.

Assolna to get p'yat ghar, Velim MLA lays foundation stone

Team Herald

MARGAO: Velim MLA Cruz Silva laid the foundation stone for the construction of a new panchayat ghar at Assolna.

"The project is estimated to cost Rs 2.5 crore and is expected to be completed within a year," said Silva.

This was announced by Velim MLA Cruz Silva at the foundation

The MLA further added that the project was a long-pending demand of the locals of Assolna and now it will finally become

a reality.

Elaborating further, he said the work on this multi-storey building will start by Wednesday onwards and that the structure will have the panchayat office on the first floor and also include five shops on the ground floor. It will also be friendly for Persons with Disabilities (PwD), given that it will have a ramp and lift access to the first and second floors.

Silva laid the foundation stone in the presence of Assolna sarpanch Ivano Fernandes, panchayat

members, and sarpanchas from neighbouring villages and assured the villagers to find a solution to the market issue in the village at the earliest.

Responding to queries from media about the absence of Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and Panchayat Minister Mauvin Godinho for the function, Silva replied that the CM had asked him to continue with the function as he was caught up with official work, while insisting that there was no political reason behind the absence.

APPOINTMENTS

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL ASSAM RIFLES, SHILLONG - 793 010

ASSAM RIFLES TECHNICAL AND TRADESMAN RECRUITMENT RALLY 2025

1. Assam Rifles Technical and Tradesman Recruitment Rally 2025 is tentatively scheduled for 3rd/4th week of April 2025 onwards for enrolment into Group B and C posts against 215 vacancies. Applications are invited from eligible candidates male / female for the trades/ posts as mentioned below:-

(a) Religious Teacher (RT)	-	03
(b) Radio Mechanic (RM)	-	17
(c) Lineman (Lmn) Field	-	08
(d) Engineer Equipment Mechanic (EE Mech)	-	04
(e) Electrician Mechanic Vehicle	-	17
(f) Recovery Vehicle Mechanic	-	02
(g) Upholster	-	08
(h) Vehicle Mechanic fitter	-	20
(i) Draughtsman	-	10
(k) Electrical and Mechanical	-	17
(l) Plumber	-	13
(m) Operation Theatre Technician (OTT)	-	01
(n) Pharmacist	-	08
(o) X-Ray Assistant	-	10
(p) Veterinary Field Assistant (VFA)	-	07
(q) Safai	-	70
Total		215

2. The aspirants are hereby advised to regularly visit the Assam Rifles Official website (www.assamrifles.gov.in) for further details and submission of online application.

3. Vacancies are tentative & is subject to variations. The Assam Rifles has the right to make any change in the advertisement or cancel it without assigning any reasons.

4. In case of any query, the following numbers may be contacted on any working day from 0900 hrs to 1700 hrs:-

(a) 0364-2585118 (b) 0364-2585119 (c) 8794101693
Sd/- x-x-x
(Keshav Sharma)
Dy Comdt, SO-2 (Rect)