

# Rent-a-car owners protest against licence ban

## Cab operators allege harassment, threaten to protest against transport department's restrictions

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** Rent-a-car operators in North Goa have urged the State government to reconsider its decision to halt the renewal, replacement, and issuance of new Rent-a-Cab licences.

Cab operators who visited the Transport Department on Wednesday to renew or replace their permits were informed that the State Transport Authority (STA) had decided to suspend all such approvals until further notice. The affected operators expressed frustration, stating that no public notice had been issued regarding

**CAUSE OF ACTION**

- Cackdown follows series of accidents involving rented vehicles, particularly cases of drunk driving
- On Feb 20, Directorate of Transport issues notice banning rent-a-cars from operating at airports and railway stations, warned to cancel permits of violators
- Many vehicles continue to be found at unauthorised public places in violation of the Rent-a-Cab Scheme, 1989
- Operators were instructed to operate strictly from registered main offices or designated branch offices as permitted under their licences

the decision. "We have installed VLTD and speed governors in our vehicles. This is not the first time we are applying for a replacement. We

also have EMIs to pay," said cab operator Nitin Kunkalekar. Another operator, Nitin Narvekar, alleged that despite complying with all

**“ We have installed VLTD and speed governors in our vehicles. This is not the first time we are applying for a replacement. We also have EMIs to pay,”**  
— Nitin Kunkalekar, Cab owner

**“ We were told to stop operations from the airport and we complied. Yet, our permissions are still not being renewed”**  
— Nitin Narvekar, Cab operator

government-mandated requirements, they are being harassed. "We were told to stop operations from the airport and we complied. Yet, our permissions are still not being renewed," he added. The government crackdown

follows a series of accidents involving rented vehicles, particularly cases of drunk driving. On February 20, the Directorate of Transport issued a notice banning rent-a-cars from operating at airports and railway stations, warning that permits could be can-

celled if operators violated these rules. Despite this, many vehicles continue to be found at unauthorised public places in violation of the Rent-a-Cab Scheme, 1989.

Operators were instructed to operate strictly from registered main offices or designated branch offices as permitted under their licences.

In response, the North Goa Rent-A-Cab Association has threatened to take the law into their own hands if the Transport Department does not withdraw its notice within eight days. Association representatives have submitted a charter of demands to the Deputy Director of Transport.

## Tourists assault taxi driver after collision in Calangute



Team Herald

**CALANGUTE:** A taxi driver was assaulted and his vehicle was vandalised allegedly by a group of tourists following a collision in Calangute.

The incident resulted in both the front and rear windows of the taxi being smashed. According to sources, the taxi driver was en route to drop a guest at a hotel when his vehicle collided with a bike ridden by a tourist.

Following the crash, the tourist fell off the bike, prompting his friends to rush over and attack the taxi driver, using their helmets as weapons. In the ensuing altercation, the group smashed the car's windows, causing significant damage.

Police have confirmed that some of the tourists involved in the incident have been detained, and further investigation is underway.

## HEAVY LIFTING UNDERWAY



Gigantic cranes and other machinery are used to carefully position concrete box girders at the construction site of the elevated expressway near Guirim on Wednesday

## Former CCP councillor files plea in HC regarding delimitation of wards

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** The former councillor of Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP) has filed a writ petition praying to quash and set aside the amendment to Section 9 (2) of the City of Panaji Corporation Act, 2002 thereby giving power to the Director of Municipal Administration to prepare the electoral rolls and delimitation and reservation of wards.

Former CCP councillor Menio Da Cruz has prayed that the State government and the State Election Commission be directed to comply with the constitutional mandate under Article 243K and 243ZA of the Constitution and also Section 11 of the City of Panaji Corporation Act, 2002 which vests the State Election Commission with the superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls and the conduct of elections to the village panchayats and urban local bodies including delimitation which forms an integral part of the electoral process so as to ensure free and fair elections.

The petitioner has stated that the government has amended Section 9 (2) of the City of Panaji Corporation Act, 2002 substituting the words "State Election Commissioner" with the words "the Director of Municipal Administration" vide the City of Panaji Corporation (Amendment) Act 2005 published in the Official Gazette dated 16/02/2005 which came into effect from 24/09/2004.

Arguing on behalf of the petitioner, Adv Rohit Bras De Sa stated that the assignment of delimitation of wards to a government-controlled body, like the Directorate of Municipal Administration, has undermined the independence of the election process.

He stated that the DMA with the approval of the State government shall, from time to time by notification in the Official Gazette, specify for the city number and boundaries of the wards into which the city shall be divided for the purposes of the ward elections of councillors and the number of councillors to be elected for each ward.

## Smart City contractor damages pipeline again, Panjim residents left without water

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** Residents of Naguesh Apartments, near Panjim Municipal Market, and surrounding business establishments, including restaurants, have been left without water since Saturday evening after a Smart City contractor allegedly ruptured the pipeline twice. The contractor, who was digging the road near Naguesh Apartments on Rua Rodrigues Freitas Road, reportedly fled the scene along with the JCB operator and supervisor after causing the damage.

"It has been four days since the pipeline was ruptured, and it has not been repaired, leaving us without water. What is surprising is that water is flowing out of the pipeline, yet nobody cares," said a frustrated resident.

Another resident, Parshuram, expressed disappointment over the authorities' inaction. "We have been trying to call the workers, but they only assure us that they will come. We pay water bills every month, so what is the point of paying if we have to be without water for five days?" he questioned.

He further alleged that this is not the first time pipelines have been damaged in the area. "The workers have ruptured pipelines before, and we had to get them repaired out of our own pockets. It has become a habit. They break the pipeline and repair it later, but only when they feel like it," he said.

When residents tried to contact the Public Works Department (PWD), they were informed that Smart City contractors were responsible for repairing the damage. However, no action has been taken so far, leaving residents and businesses struggling for water.

## Panjim shopkeepers demand action against illegal hawkers



Team Herald

**PANJIM:** Business proprietors along M G Road and near the Old Secretariat have lodged a formal complaint with the Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP), demanding immediate action against unauthorised hawkers operating on footpaths without permission.

The complaint, which has also been addressed to the Superintendent of Police (Traffic Cell) and the Panjim Police Inspector, alleges that public footpaths are being misused by unauthorised vendors selling shoes, sandals, and other goods. "The business carried out on the footpaths or footways obstructs the

free movement of the public. That apart, the business is being conducted without obtaining permission from the Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP) or any other authorities," the shopkeepers stated in their complaint.

They further pointed out that hawkers operating on M G Road, near Pizza Hut,

Mandovi Road, and Panaji Residency—both during the day and night—are causing a nuisance and posing risks to public safety and transport.

Shopkeepers have urged the authorities to take strict action against the encroachment and restore free pedestrian movement in the area.

**HOLY SPIRIT 3 Day Miracle Prayer**

Pray this prayer daily for 3 consecutive days, your prayer will be answered after the third day. In making your request, promise to publish this prayer (share in writing on the internet this prayer or distribute this prayer to others).

Holy Spirit You who make me see everything and showed me the way to reach my ideals. You who gave me the Divine gift to forgive all the wrong that was done to me, and you who are in all instances in my life. I want to Thank You for everything and confirm with you once more I never want to be separated from You no matter how great the material desire may be. I want to be with you and my loved ones in your perpetual Glory.

Amen Make request:

Joyson Pereira, Loliem, Shelliem, Canacona - Goa.

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## Govt appoints new contractor for beach cleaning services

Team Herald

**PANJIM:** The Department of Tourism, has appointed M/s Ecotan Infra Pvt Ltd as the new contractor for "Providing Comprehensive Cleanliness on the Beach Stretches of the State."

The contract, effective from March 1, covers the collection, segregation, transportation, and disposal of waste on 51 nominated beaches across North and South Goa. As per the contract, beach cleaning activities will be conducted daily in two shifts: Morning shift from 6 am to noon and evening shift from 4 pm to 8 pm.

Speaking about the initiative, Director of Tourism Kedar Naik, stated, "The appointment of M/s Ecotan Infra Pvt Ltd marks

**BEACHES COVERED UNDER THE INITIATIVE**

- NORTH GOA  
Keri, Kalacha, Arambol, Mandrem, Ashvem, Morjim, Vagator, Ozran, Anjuna, Baga, Calangute, Candolim, Sinquerim, Nerul, Miramar, Caranzalem, Dona Paula, Odxel Vainguimim beach, Nauxim & Cacra, Siridao, Bambolim and Agassaim
- SOUTH GOA  
Baina, Bogmalo, Hollant, Velsao, Arrossim, Utorda, Majorda, Betalbatim, Colva, Sernabatim, Benaulim, Varca, Zalor & Fatrade, Cavellossim, Mobor, Canaguimim, Cabo de Rama, Cola, Agonda, Butterfly, Palolem, Patnem, Rajbag, Talpona, Galgibag, Xandrem, Polem and Karewada

a significant step in our commitment to keeping Goa's beaches clean and enhancing visitor experiences. With an efficient waste management system in place, we aim to preserve the natural beauty of our coastline while promoting responsible tourism practices."

The contractor is responsible for lifting all types of waste, including plastic bottles, glass bottles, paper, cardboard, empty wrappers, metal objects, food waste, tree leaves, discarded goods, carcasses of fish and marine animals, tar balls, oil spills, flood debris, and waste generated by beach shacks and

**WASTE DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION**

The contractor is responsible for lifting all types of waste, including: Plastic bottles, glass bottles, paper, cardboard, empty wrappers, metal objects; food waste, tree leaves, discarded goods; Carcasses of fish and marine animals, tar balls, oil spills, flood debris; Waste generated by beach shacks and restaurants

Waste disposal locations: North Goa: Solid Waste Management Plant (SWMP) at Saligao, Bardez South Goa: SWMP at Cacora, Curcholem and Salcete

restaurants. Segregated waste from North Goa beaches will be transported to the Solid Waste Management Plant (SWMP) at Saligao, Bardez, while waste from South Goa beaches will be transported to the SWMP at Cacora, Curcholem, Salcete for proper disposal.

The contractor will ensure cleanliness up to 100 metres from the beach entrance and deploy adequate labourers and two road sweeping machines for this purpose. The term of the contract is five years, with a possible extension of up to two years based on satisfactory performance

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External Consultation Centres

<b>Margao</b> South Goa District Hospital (Hospicio) Tue, 2:30pm to 4pm	<b>Ponda</b> Savaikar Hospital Wed, 12pm to 1pm	<b>Canacona</b> Dr. Dhilon Desai's Hospital Fri, 10am to 1pm
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