

Beef crisis leaves Goa reeling before Easter

Short supply pushes prices up by Rs 50 per kg, vendors and consumers want govt to address this immediately

Team Herald

MARGAO: As Goans prepare for the upcoming Easter festivities, an acute beef shortage has hit the State, causing concern among vendors, restaurant owners, and consumers, leading to a spike in prices. The acute shortage has also raised questions about the government's handling of the situation.

Supply issues have compelled beef vendors in Margao to hike the prices by Rs 50 per kg. They worry about compromised beef quality if the supply chain is not restored soon.

This crisis has led to widespread frustration, with many criticising the government for not resolving the issue before Easter, a peak consumption period. The shortage has caused significant market disruptions and financial losses for vendors, restaurants, and eateries.

In the Margao SGPDA market, anxious customers and vendors were seen waiting for fresh stock, mostly in vain.

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SUPPLY ISSUE PROMPTS RATE HIKE

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■ Demand swift action from authorities, deem the situation in Goa unjust

unresolved. We've had no choice but to raise prices, as we too are facing increased rates from suppliers. These are legitimate businesses, and it's the government's responsibility to ensure we can operate safely. Allowing a few individuals to disrupt the trade is not only unfair, but illegal."

He urged swift action from authorities, highlighting beef's importance as a staple food and deeming the situation in Goa unjust, along with the government's silence.

Another vendor, Shabhir Shaikh, said, "The rising

costs, with boneless beef now selling for Rs 500-550/kg (previously Rs 450), loan has gone up from Rs 500 to Rs 550/kg, and undercut has increased from Rs 600 to Rs 650/kg."

Customers voiced their anger at the lack of availability during the festive season.

A shopper at the SGPDA market said, "We have the right to eat what we want. Denying us access to beef, especially during Easter, is unfair. The government must step in immediately."

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– Riyaz Shaikh, a beef vendor in Margao

"We are yet to restart our business since we were displaced in August last year. The meat lovers have to either go to Santa Cruz or Mapusa to buy beef and meat. Many meat lovers faced hardships during Eid and now again it will be repeated during Easter. Our livelihood has been affected and we have been requesting the CCP to provide us temporary sheds in the south-east portion of the shed built for the fish vendors as per the Supreme Court order

– Mannasab Bepari, Qureshi Meat Traders' Association president

A NEW COMMANDMENT



Parish priest Fr Walter de Sa washes the feet of a faithful on the occasion of Maundy Thursday at the Immaculate Conception Church, Panjim

Won't denotify Waqf properties: Centre

Supreme Court grants govt one week's time to reply to the pleas

PTI, NEW DELHI: The Centre on Thursday assured the Supreme Court that it will neither denotify Waqf properties, including "Waqf by user", nor make any appointments to the central Waqf council and boards till May 5.

The assurance of solicitor general Tushar Mehta came when he informed a bench of Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justices Sanjay Kumar and K V Viswanathan that the Waqf law was passed by Parliament with "due deliberations"



"During the course of hearing, the solicitor general states that the respondent (Union of India) would like to put in a short response within seven days. He further states and assures that till the next date of hearing, no appointments will be made to the council and boards under sections 9 and 14 (of the Act)

– Supreme Court

and it should not be stayed without hearing from the government.

The Centre also strongly opposed the apex court's proposal to pass an inter-

im order against the de-notification of Waqf properties, including "Waqf by user", aside from staying a provision allowing the inclusion of non-Muslims in

the central Waqf councils and boards.

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Show cause 'red card' for DySP over football fiasco

Officer under lens for signing up his own constables for police soccer team to replace regular footballers

Team Herald

PANJIM: It was all in sport – quite literally. But after the referee blew the whistle, a Deputy Superintendent of Police seems to have snagged a red card in the form of a show cause notice.

DySP (Sports) Amit Borkar did a bit of team (mis)management by signing contracts with eight constables as non-amateur footballers for the Goa police football team. These eight were replacements for eight regular footballers, who sought inter-club transfer during the transfer window for professional clubs.

But Borkar took this call without taking the approval of his superiors, and more importantly, signed the con-

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tract on his official letterhead. This has led to the senior officer being showcased by the department. Ironically, Borkar, is also the secretary of the Goa Police Sports Club.

These constables signed as non-amateur players for a period of four months – from January 30 to May 31, for a monthly emolument of Rs 5,000. While signing the agreement, the DySP hid their identity by not mentioning their buckle number.

Neither did Borkar obtain prior approval from a superior officer nor did

he bring the content of the agreement to the notice of the SP (Sports). However, the list of the players signed by the Goa Police Sports Club was submitted to the Goa Football Association (GFA).

After the incident came to light, SP (Sports) Sunita Sawant is learnt to have questioned the credibility of the DySP over decision-making and for signing the contract without consulting the superior officer.

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Indian-origin scientist discovers signs of life on distant planet

AP, PARIS: A team of astronomers, led by Indian-origin scientist Nikku Madhusudhan, announced Thursday that they had detected the most promising "hints" of potential life on a planet beyond our solar system, though other scientists expressed scepticism.

There has been vigorous debate in scientific circles about whether the planet K2-18b, which is 124 light years away in the Leo constellation, could be an ocean world capable of hosting microbial life, at least.

Using the James Webb Space Telescope, a British-US team of researchers detected signs of two chemicals in the planet's atmosphere long considered to be "biosignatures" indicating extraterrestrial life.

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Missionaries of Charity to shut down in Panjim

The St Inez premises where Saint Teresa started the organisation's journey in Goa in 1976 will be vacated on April 28

Team Herald

PANJIM: Back in January 1976, when Mother Teresa – now Saint Teresa – had visited Goa, she had decided to set up a refuge that would be dedicated to the service of the poor. And now, 49 years after it was set up in St Inez, the Missionaries of Charity are closing their doors in the state Capital.

Over the past five decades, the organisation has provided essential care to destitute women, unwed mothers, orphans, and senior citizens. Speaking to O Herald, Superior of Missionaries of Charity, Sr Rosaria, said, "We have received an order



Assistência de Goa premises housing the Missionaries of Charity at St Inez, Panjim

from our Kolkata headquarters to leave and go to another place. This institute was started by Mother Teresa.

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"We have received an order from our Kolkata headquarters to leave and go to another place. This institute was started by Mother Teresa. We will hand over the premises to the Assistência de Goa and go wherever we are sent to do the service. Panjim is now rich and it appears that we are not required. We are going where there are poor people

– Sr Rosaria, Superior of Missionaries of Charity

"They (The Sisters of Mother Teresa) met the Archbishop and informed him that they want to discontinue because Panjim does not require a home like this. People are well off in Panjim and they want to serve the poorest of the poor. We are also surprised by their decision

– A trustee of Assistência de Goa

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