

FDA cracks down on unhygienic food units in Bardez and Pernem

Officials seal two snack manufacturing units, bakery, restaurant for failing to maintain hygiene

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) conducted inspections in Bardez and Pernem talukas on Friday, ordering the closure of two snack manufacturing units and a bakery over alleged unhygienic practices.

In a post on social media, Health Minister Vishwajit Rane stated, "Continuing the strong momentum of food safety enforcement, the FDA team conducted rigorous inspections in Bar-

dez and Pernem talukas. Two snack manufacturing units and a bakery were ordered to shut down for unhygienic practices, while a restaurant in Parra was also directed to suspend operations."

He further revealed, "A significant case of fake Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) licensing was uncovered in Karaswada, involving a vendor operating with licenses procured from a Mumbai-based consultant. The vendor was issued a stop

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— Vishwajit Rane, Health Minister

notice and instructed to file an FIR. Penalties amounting to Rs 30,000 were imposed on three vendors."

Rane noted that, on Thursday, the FDA had also conducted a special evening inspection

in Colva, covering street food vendors, restaurants and ice cream carts. One restaurant and a chips manufacturing unit were ordered to shut down for operating without a valid FSSAI licence and under

unhygienic conditions, and 18 unlicensed notices were issued.

The team also revisited establishments in Navelim to verify compliance with previous directives.

"We commend the FDA team for their vigilant efforts, which reflect not only their dedication but also our collective commitment to safeguarding public health and ensuring that only safe, quality food reaches every household in Goa," the Health Minister added.

Serial offender held for molesting minor in Mapusa

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Mapusa Police have arrested Stanley Coutinho, aged 36, a resident of Tivaivado, Calangute, for allegedly molesting a 8-year-old minor girl within the premises of a residential building in Mapusa.

According to police, on April 24, a complaint was received at the Mapusa Police Station from the father of the victim, who stated that his daughter had been molested by an unknown individual inside the compound of a residential building in the town.

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child started crying, alerting the locals who tried to question the accused, prompting him to flee.

Acting promptly on the complaint, the police registered an FIR under the relevant sections of law and the child was provided counselling and sup-

port by the Victim Assistance Unit.

As part of the investigation, CCTV footage from the area was thoroughly examined, during which the accused was clearly captured on camera. Police subsequently formed special teams to trace and apprehend the suspect.

Meanwhile the forensic team arrived at Canca Mapusa at the crime scene to gather evidence into the matter.

Police sources have confirmed that the accused is a serial offender with five prior cases already registered against him. Mapusa PI Nikil Palekar is investigating the case. The Calangute and Verna police had booked him in an assault and bike theft case in 2019, stated police.

No human rights violation in ST leader's custody: GHRC

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Goa Human Rights Commission (GHRC) has disposed of a complaint filed by Scheduled Tribes (ST) leader Ravindra Velip, ruling that there was no human rights violation during his remand in judicial custody at the Sada Sub-Jail.

Arguing on behalf of the complainant, Advocate A Almeida submitted that evidence on record indicated that the complainant had sustained a fracture while in judicial custody on 23 March 2016. She contended that the FIR was not registered promptly by the police, which, she argued, pointed to complicity between the police and jail authorities in the alleged human rights violation. Almeida also questioned the reliability of the magisterial

inquiry report.

Representing the Inspector General of Prisons and the Assistant Superintendent of Jail, Advocate Harsha Naik submitted that the complaint was delayed, vague and that the complainant had failed to identify the person who allegedly assaulted him. She argued that the complainant was not entitled to any relief.

Advocate KL Bhagat, appearing for the Mormugao Police Inspector and the South Goa Superintendent of Police, claimed that the complaint was an afterthought, filed only after Velip's release, and thus lacked credibility. He further noted that the CCTV cameras at Sada Sub-Jail had not been functioning since February 2016.

The magisterial inquiry into the alleged assault was conducted by then North Goa District Magistrate Swapnil

Naik, IAS. Based on recorded statements and available evidence, the report concluded that it could not be established that any assault had taken place as claimed by Velip.

The GHRC expressed full agreement with the findings of the magisterial inquiry report. It acknowledged the delay by Mormugao Police in registering the FIR but concluded that the complainant had not substantiated any human rights violation by the respondents.

The Commission also observed that Velip failed to explain why he had not reported the incident to the Jailor or requested medical examination by officers on duty at the Sub-Jail. His explanation—that he refrained from reporting the assault out of fear of further torture—was deemed not credible.

CASH CROP



A farmhand rakes through a carpet of cashewnuts, still in their shells, put out to dry at Balli-Quepem. This year, farmers are selling raw cashews for Rs 160 per kg

Goa Green Brigade to hold candlelight protest today

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Goa Green Brigade will stage a candlelight protest on Saturday, at 6 pm, in opposition to an allegedly environmentally destructive hotel project being developed by a Delhi-based company.

In a statement, Avartino Miranda, Convenor of the Goa Green Brigade, alleged that the project has already caused irreversible environmental damage, including the excavation of a massive earth cavity, destruction of aquifers, large-scale tree felling, and extensive hill cutting.

Miranda further claimed that such mega projects are eroding the livelihoods of traditional fishing communities by encroaching upon their coastal lands.

"The protesters will march to Bambolim beach to see and discuss the destruction caused by the violator hotelier," Miranda said.

power shutdown

MARGAO: On April 26, from 9 am to 6 pm. Affected areas are Mahalaxmi Electricals, Vijaylaxmi Electricals, AIM Salcete High School, Shree Laxmi light house, Bharat Sales, Lazineh Apartment, Ana Maria Apartment and Krishna Metal, opposite DCB bank, opposite C P Blue-chip Co-op society.

VELIM: On April 26, from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm. Affected areas are Cumbeabhat, Poxel, Nagdolem, Pimplafol, Mascarenuswado, Gurcamorod, Hody Zaino and Godeband in Velim Village Panchayat.

CUNCOLIM: On April 26, from 9.30 am to 1 pm. Affected area is Panzorconi.

CHANDOR: On April 26, from 8 am to 2 pm. Affected areas are Township, Guirdolim, Eklat, MSL factory, Jitlem, Mahalaxmi temple and Poklemoll.

CURTORIM: On April 26, from 9 am to 4 pm. Affected area is Povosa.

PONDA: On April 26, from 9 am to 2 pm. Affected area is Bhavaninagar.

PONDA: On April 26, from 9.30 am to 1 pm. Affected areas are Lift control, Bagwada, Mandovi Hatcheries, Murdi and Vithoba Temple.

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CARAMBOLIM: On 28 April, from 9.30 am to 2 pm. Areas affected are Vikasnagar, Maganlal, Km Sea, Sapna Sarovar and Vicinity of Carambolim Village.

Dongarwaddo villagers face severe water crisis

Team Herald

PONDA: Hundreds of villagers in Dongarwaddo Sacordem, located in the Tamdi Surla area, are grappling with a severe water crisis at the height of the summer season. The situation has prompted local residents, including women and Panchayat members Mahadev Shetkar and Sonu Gaonkar, to appeal to the Public Works Department (PWD) authorities for urgent intervention to improve the water supply in the region.

Local women have expressed their frustration, revealing that water is only supplied to taps for about fifteen minutes daily. Many households are forced to rely on water tankers, which are often unreliable and unpredictable. "There is no set timing for tanker deliveries," said Mahadev Shetkar. "Villagers have no idea when the tanker will arrive, so they end up waiting all day, losing valuable time."

Shetkar, who has witnessed the is-

sue for many years, emphasised that the water shortage is primarily an issue during the summer months, as the supply is sufficient during the rest of the year. He stressed the need for an improved water supply system to ad-



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dress the issue permanently.

In an effort to resolve the crisis, local women recently met with PWD officials. The officials assured them that the problem would be addressed by the next year, with plans to make the village "tanker-free." However, the residents continue to wait for meaningful action.

Officials review water stagnation at Shantinagar

Team Herald

VASCO: Vasco MLA Krishna Salkar, accompanied by Railway officials and engineers, conducted a joint inspection of the retaining wall built near the double tracking site at Shantinagar on Tuesday, following concerns raised by local residents about water stagnation.

Speaking to reporters, Salkar addressed the fears of the community, stating, "We had a joint inspection with Railway officials at Shantinagar after locals expressed concerns about water stagnation near the newly built retaining wall. The wall currently obstructs the natural flow of water, and residents are worried that water could seep into existing cracks, further weakening

the structure and potentially endangering their homes."

The MLA noted that while the Railways had constructed a retaining wall along the entire stretch of the track, additional reinforcement was needed near the houses to ensure the safety of the structures.

With the monsoon season fast approaching, Salkar highlighted the urgency of the situation, saying, "The rocks on the hillside have softened due to continuous water absorption, and several houses lack proper outlets or drains for water discharge. This situation poses a high risk of structural failure."

In conclusion, the MLA urged Railway authorities to construct a stormwater drain and connect it to the existing gutter network to alleviate the concerns and protect the homes in the area.

One held for selling tobacco products

PANJIM: The Anjuna Police have arrested Deepak Kumar, 34, from Uttar Pradesh for illegally storing and selling the tobacco products worth Rs 60,000. According to police, the alleged accused was caught red-handed during a raid conducted opposite Shirodkar Bar and Restaurant at Fuldem Waddo, Nagao. An FIR has been registered and further investigation is in progress, police said.

FISH FOR SALE

FRESH WATER FISH FOR SALE, FISH LIKE CATFISH, ROHU, CATLA, PITOL, KILAPI, CHONOK, INSUD, ETC. ON SUNDAY 27TH APRIL 2025 AT 6:30 AM ONWARDS, AT CURTORIM NEAR CHURCH LAKE 9764378131, 9922736674

NEEDED RENTAL ACCOMMODATION

We are on the lookout for a Beautiful 3 BHK, Fully Furnished Sea Facing Apartment on monthly rental basis. (Preferably at Miramar) We are a 20 years old reputed Builder company, working on Real Estate Projects at Goa Since 5 years. The said apartment will be our working and regular stay apartment for our Director's immediate family at Goa. Commercial terms will be discussed as per market norms and subject to confirmation by both sides a proper registered document will be entered into. Please mail details to luminarizen@gmail.com

DONATION COUPON DRAW

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH, Taleigao, Goa Draw held on 25/04/2025

1st Prize - 124039
2nd Prize - 41323
3rd Prize - 103719
4th Prize - 99188
5th Prize - 124849

30 Consolation Prizes
123824, 4600, 15899, 95571, 6790, 103130, 8450, 4617, 22431, 88018, 93028, 6692, 121709, 31237, 124686, 6899, 95161, 31257, 48991, 93188, 68470, 122735, 56451, 14755, 34673, 121919, 2961, 23914, 8955, 56812.

The prizes should be collected within one month. Please contact: 9552107008

Statewide cyclone mock drill conducted

Team Herald

PANJIM: The State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA), in coordination with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), conducted a State-level mock exercise on cyclone and related disasters across multiple locations in North and South Goa on Friday.

The exercise, held under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, aimed to test the preparedness of various departments and Crisis Groups, implement Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and raise public awareness on disaster response.

Mock drills were carried out at key locations including Aivao Beach (Caranzalem), Panjim Ferry Wharf, Mahadev Temple (Salem), Bagwada (Pilgao), Mapusa Industrial Estate, Porvorim Electricity Sub Station, Malim Jetty, Coco Beach (Nerul), Morjim Beach, Manohar International Airport, Naquerim Betul Panchayat, Chowgule Shipyard (Loutulim), Murdi Bagh (Khandepar, Ponda), Baina beach, and major terminals and ports in Vasco.

Simulated scenarios included evacuation of vulnerable populations, search and rescue, and relief operations. The National



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Disaster Response Force (NDRF) led a specialised rescue drill. All line departments—Police, Fire and Emergency Services, Drishiti Lifesaving, Electricity, Health, Civil Defence, Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, Indian Oil,

community volunteers (Aapda Mitras and Sakhis), and the Department of Information and Publicity—actively participated. The mock exercise provided an opportunity to assess district disaster preparedness, evaluate

SOPs and the Incident Response System, and improve coordination among emergency support agencies. It also served to review and strengthen District Disaster Management Plans. Commissioner-cum-Secretary

(Revenue) and SDMA Chairperson Sandip Jacques, IAS, along with District Collectors Dr Sneha Gite (North Goa) and Egna Cleetus, IAS (South Goa), monitored the operations from Emergency Operation Centres in Porvorim and South Goa.