

Hoax bomb threat triggers evacuation at N Goa Collectorate

Emergency protocols activated; police, bomb disposal comb premises

Team Herald

PANJIM: The North Goa Collectorate office was evacuated on Friday afternoon after receiving a bomb threat via its official email, which was later confirmed to be a hoax.

TAKING NO CHANCES

Emergency protocols were promptly activated, with police and bomb disposal squads conducting a thorough search of the premises.

North Goa Collector Yashaswini B confirmed the sequence of events, stating, "We received the threat at around 11.30 am stating that one of our additional collectors is under threat of bomb. We intimated police and also bomb squad who came to the site immediately and checked the premises



thoroughly and gave us go ahead to operate." She added, "After receiving go ahead to operate, we have resumed our normal functions in the office. There is nothing to panic, nothing to worry about. Everybody can work normally."



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— Yashaswini B, North Goa Collector

This incident marks the third bomb threat received by key institutions in Goa over the past two months. On March 29, a threat email was sent to the official address of the Director General of Police (DGP), Goa,

warning of an IED attack targeting the DGP office. Security forces launched a six-hour search operation but found no explosives or evidence of any threat. Similarly, on April 22, an anonymous email threatening to blow up the High Court

of Bombay at Goa using an improvised explosive device triggered a swift response from security agencies. Authorities continue to treat all such threats seriously and have urged the public to remain calm while investigations are ongoing.

Couple escapes with minor injuries as fire guts general store

Team Herald

CALANGUTE: A massive fire broke out at a general store in Orda-St Sebastian on Friday morning, completely gutting the premises and causing an estimated loss of Rs 5 lakh. Miraculously, the shop's owners, a senior couple, managed to escape with only minor injuries.

Lawrence Pereira, 68, who owns the shop along with his wife Esmeralda, 62, said the fire was triggered by a short-circuit and rapidly spread due to the variety of goods stored on the premises. "We ran out of the shop after the short-circuit sparked the fire. We got burns while trying to stop it, but we had to give up to save our lives and called the Pilerne fire station," he recounted.

Before firefighters could arrive, two LPG cylinders inside the shop exploded, intensifying the blaze and causing it to spread to an adjacent shop belonging to the same family.



According to officials at the Pilerne fire station, the emergency call was received at 11.52 am, and the first unit reached the location by 12.02 pm. Firefighters managed to contain the blaze and prevent it from

reaching the residence located behind the shops.

The fire also destroyed two scooters, a cupboard containing clothes, and cash stored behind the shops. The Pereira couple were later shifted to hospital.

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CM reviews State security in high-level meet

Team Herald

PANJIM: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Friday chaired a high-level meeting with all security agencies operating in Goa and senior government officials to review operational arrangements and reinforce inter-agency coordination amid evolving security concerns.

The meeting, held at Mahalaxmi, Altinho, focused on improving coordination among multiple agencies to enhance the state's efficiency and preparedness to respond to emerging threats. In a post on X (formerly Twitter), the Chief Minister stated, "Chaired a meeting at Mahalaxmi, Altinho with all security agencies in the State and senior officials to review operational arrangements and reinforce inter-agency coordination for enhanced efficiency and preparedness."

A statement issued by the Goa Police noted that, in view of the current security scenario, the police force has proac-

DRONE OPERATIONS BANNED IN S GOA

MARGAO: The South Goa District Collector has imposed a complete ban on the operation and use of drones or any Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) across the entire jurisdiction of South Goa with immediate effect. The order comes in the wake of heightened internal security concerns and potential threats to civilian safety and critical infrastructure, especially due to escalating tensions along the international border. Invoking Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, the District Magistrate Egna Cleetus, IAS has prohibited the flying of drones of any size or category, citing the need to prevent danger to human life and to safeguard the state's security. The order directs all Deputy Collectors and Sub-Divisional Magistrates in the district to monitor and verify any violations. In cases of non-compliance, they have been instructed to file FIRs and lodge complaints before the concerned judicial magistrate and local police stations.

tively implemented various measures to bolster the state's security framework. These include coordination meetings across all levels — from District Superintendents of Police and the Director General of Police to the Chief Minister — involving representatives of the Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Railway Protection Force (RPF), and

Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL).

Preventive actions have been ramped up across Goa, with ongoing tenant and servant verification drives, foreigner verification, and checks on suspicious individuals. These operations are being conducted particularly in and around vulnerable areas and vital installations.

FISHERMEN URGED TO FOLLOW PROTOCOLS AMID SECURITY ALERT

PANJIM: Amid heightened coastal security measures, fishermen in Goa have been advised to fish only within 12 nautical miles of the state's territorial waters. As part of the precautionary protocols, vessel owners are required to submit crew details to their local fisheries officers, obtain fishing passes, and ensure their vessels' transponders remain active while at sea. Authorities have also urged fishermen to report any suspicious activity at jetties and to fully cooperate with officials to maintain maritime safety and security.

The police statement further added that visible police presence has been increased around key sites and the coastal belt. Plans for special naka points and the deployment of Quick Response Teams (QRTs) have been finalised, alongside intensified checks at border posts to deter the entry of anti-national elements.

Additionally, the police are actively monitoring social media to identify and prosecute individuals and accounts spreading misinformation or fake news. The enhanced measures

are part of the government's efforts to maintain peace and security across the State in light of recent developments.

Police urge public to stay vigilant amid heightened security scenario

PANJIM: In response to the evolving security situation, Goa Police have issued a public advisory urging citizens to remain calm, vigilant, and responsible, stressing that collective awareness and restraint are vital to safeguarding national security.

The advisory emphasises the importance of public cooperation and alertness. "Citizens are advised to remain observant of their surroundings and report any suspicious activity or objects immediately to the Goa Police Control Room by dialling 112," it states.

Authorities have also warned against the spread of misinformation, highlighting the tactics of hostile entities.

The police have urged the public to rely solely on official government channels for accurate information and to avoid reacting to forwarded messages or unverified social media content.

Additionally, citizens have been instructed not to post or forward any visuals related to military infrastructure or personnel, as such actions may compromise lives and national security.

"If citizens come across suspicious social media profiles, fake news, or phishing attempts pretending to be from official agencies, report them immediately to www.cybercrime.gov.in or call the Cybercrime Helpline on 1930," the police advised.

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