

FAKE GOA LIQUOR SEIZED IN THANE; FOUR ARRESTED

Over 18,000 bottles of spurious Indian Made Foreign Liquor transported from Goa; accused nabbed with counterfeit packaging setup

PTI, THANE: In a major crackdown on illegal liquor smuggling, police in Maharashtra's Thane district have seized over 18,000 bottles of counterfeit Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) valued at more than Rs 45 lakh. The liquor was allegedly transported from Goa and repackaged in Thane for local sale. Four persons have been arrested in connection with the case.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime), Amarsingh Jadhav, said at a press conference that the Thane Crime Branch received a tip-off about a gang involved in transporting low-grade IMFL from Goa to Thane. Acting on the in-

FROM GOA TO MUMBAI

- Liquor smuggled from Goa; repackaged with fake labels of reputed brands at a house in Dombivli Amritsar, Kapurthala, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Adampur, Bhatinda, Chandigarh, Nal, Phalodi, Uttarlai, and Bhuj
- Four accused arrested; equipment used for forging labels, packaging material seized
- Accused booked for cheating and forgery; remanded to police custody till June 9

put, the police laid a trap on June 4.

"Around 8.30 pm, a transport vehicle was intercepted at the Govindwadi area in Dombivli. It was found to be carrying liquor bottles, but the driver failed to produce any documents for the consignment," Jadhav stated.

The investigation led

the police to a house in the nearby Sudamwadi area, where they uncovered a large cache of spurious liquor bottles. Two of the accused were allegedly found repackaging the liquor using counterfeit labels of reputed brands.

"Searches were carried out from the night of June 4 till 10 am on June 5. A to-

“Around 8.30 pm, a transport vehicle was intercepted at the Govindwadi area in Dombivli. It was found to be carrying liquor bottles, but the driver failed to produce any documents for the consignment,”

— Amarsingh Jadhav, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime)

tal of 18,290 bottles of fake IMFL were seized, along with equipment used to forge labels, batch numbers, and packaging material," the DCP added.

The arrested individuals have been identified as Srikant Bhagirath Tokde (27), the driver; Mandal

Vakil Nivas (23), his assistant; Ravi Santosh Tiwari (30); and Sanjit Hazari Yadav (19). Police also seized the vehicle used for transportation.

"All four were found in possession of the contraband," said Jadhav. A case has been registered under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), including Section 318(4) for cheating, and Sections 336(2) and 336(3) for forgery, along with relevant provisions of the Maharashtra Prohibition Act.

The accused were produced before a local court, which remanded them in police custody until June 9.

Three granted anticipatory bail in Corlim cremation dispute

Team Herald

PANJIM: Judge Sharmila A Patil, Additional Sessions Judge of Mapusa and in-charge District Judge-I and Additional Sessions Court, Panjim, has granted anticipatory bail to three persons booked by the police for forming an unlawful assembly over a recent cremation-related dispute at Dhulape, Corlim.

Anticipatory bail was granted to Vinayak Dhulapkar, Vignesh Dhulapkar and Manohar Dhulapkar.

The Old Goa police had registered cases against rival factions under Sections 189(2), 189(4), 191(2), 191(3) and 115(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) for forming an unlawful assembly and allegedly assaulting each other during a dispute over a cremation on property belonging to the Dhulapkar family.

Ordinance soon to cancel licences of illegal rent-a-vehicle operators: CM

Team Herald

PANJIM: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Friday announced that the Transport Department has been directed to initiate an ordinance to cancel the licences of rent-a-car and rent-a-bike operators found using private vehicles for commercial purposes.

The directive was issued during a high-level review meeting chaired by the Chief Minister at Police Headquarters in Panjim, held to assess the status of border check post infrastructure and enforcement readiness.

The review focused on infrastructure progress at Patradevi and Keri in North Goa, and Mollem and Polem in South Goa.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Sawant stated

that the meeting also discussed land availability for developing way-side public amenities and the establishment of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) petrol pumps at strategic points.

Other key issues included the progress of a traffic-related mobile application developed by the InfoTech Corporation of Goa (ITG), and its rollout plans spearheaded by the SP Traffic.

Deliberations were also held on strategies for public notifications, automated border monitoring, and integration of enforcement systems with the VAHAN database.

"We are working to build a seamless, transparent and citizen-friendly mobility and enforcement ecosystem at Goa's borders," the Chief Minister said.

Round-the-clock vigil at Ganjem river after series of drownings

Authorities ban bathing, picnics following four deaths

Team Herald

PONDA: Heightened vigilance is to be enforced along the Ganjem River following a spate of tragic drownings, with four young men having lost their lives at the same spot since March. In the wake of the most recent incident on June 1 - when two young athletes from Sai Sports Authority, Ponda, drowned while bathing - local authorities, including the Usgao-Ganjam Panchayat, Ponda police, and residents, have resolved to implement stringent safety measures to prevent further loss of life.

Two others were rescued by locals. Earlier, during Holi celebrations in March, two youths from Khadpanband, Ponda—originally from Karnataka—also lost their lives at the same spot.

Taking serious note of the recurring incidents, a meeting was held at the Panchayat office in the presence of Ponda PI Vijaynath Kavlekar, Sarpanch Ramanath Dangui, and the panchayat body. The meeting resolved to adopt strict preventive meas-

ures, including round-the-clock vigil and legal action against those entering the river for bathing or picnicking.

Sarpanch Dangui said, "The Panchayat has decided to install warning signboards along the riverbank and enforce the ban on bathing and picnics. The Ponda police, along with panchayat members and local residents, will maintain vigilance. If anyone is seen entering the river, locals are to immediately inform the police."

He added that the section of the river below the Ganjem barrage is particularly hazardous and has become a site of increasing fatalities, especially among tourists. "We have already received a prohibitory order from the South Goa Collector banning such activities during the monsoon. We will ensure strict action is taken, including arrests if necessary," he said.

The meeting concluded with a unified commitment from the police, panchayat, and public to prioritise safety and prevent further tragedies in the area.



Sarpanch Ramanath Dangui, Ponda PI Vijaykumar Kavlekar & the panchas discuss safety measures at Ganjem river

URBAN EYESORE



A heap of garbage lies along Masjid Road in Malbhat, Margao, causing a nuisance to residents and passersby. The abandoned structure where the waste is dumped has remained neglected for over a decade and is now also being misused as a public urinal

Assagao clash: Cross complaints registered

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Anjuna Police have registered cases against 10 to 15 unidentified individuals for allegedly assaulting a 33-year-old man near the Aqua Sol Resort in Assagao after he questioned them about blowing a vehicle horn.

According to police, the complainant, Inacio Fernandes, a resident of Zor Waddo, Anjuna, stated that on May 6, at around 6.30 pm, he confronted the group for blowing the horn. The unknown persons

then allegedly surrounded, restrained, and assaulted him while he was recording a video of the incident, causing him bodily injuries.

One of the accused also reportedly grabbed Fernandes' phone and threatened to hit him if he did not delete the video, police said. In a twist to the case, another complaint has been filed by a person from Maharashtra, alleging that Dr Inacio filmed his female family members with the intention to outrage their modesty and threatened them.

Tree plantation drive for Smart City walkway held

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Imagine Panjim Smart City Development Ltd (IPSCDL) organised a sapling plantation drive at the site of its upcoming pedestrian walkway project behind the Spaces Building at Pato, Panjim, on Friday, as part of the World Environment Day celebrations.

The event was graced by IPSCDL Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director Sandip Jacques, IAS, along with Officer on Special Duty (OSD) Pankaj Rane, environmental expert Miguel Braganza, and architect Gerard Da Cunha. Members of the IPSCDL



project team also actively participated in the plantation activity.

To make the event more engaging and educational, IPSCDL invited students from People's High School, Panjim, and Mary Immaculate High School, Panjim. The students enthusiastically joined in the planting of saplings, contributing to

the greening of the soon-to-be public walkway.

A variety of native and environmentally valuable tree species were planted during the drive, including Cassia fistula (Golden Shower Tree), Peltophorum (Copperpod), Lagerstroemia speciosa (incorrectly referred to as Ferruginum), Grewia robusta, Ter-

minalia chebula (Haritaki), and Terminalia catappa (Indian Almond).

As part of the initiative, Miguel Braganza interacted with the students, educating them on the ecological and medicinal significance of each species planted. He highlighted how these trees would not only enhance the beauty of the area but also support biodiversity, improve air quality, and help create shaded, pedestrian-friendly zones.

"This plantation drive marks an important milestone in the city's journey towards becoming a smart and green urban space," the IPSCDL said.

Fishermen urge halt to watersports during crucial spawning season in Sinqerim river

Union claims fish spawning activities disturbed; economic stability of fishing communities in Sinqerim, Candolim, and Nerul areas at stake

Team Herald

MARGAO: The All Goa Small Scale Responsible Fisheries Union (AGSSRFU) has escalated its demand for the immediate revocation of water sports and tourism canoe permits in the Sinqerim River, citing significant disruption to local fishing communities and critical fish spawning seasons.

The union's latest letter to the Captain of Ports follows a series of unsuccessful attempts to protect traditional fishing livelihoods in the region.

The dispute centers around tourism canoes with PNJ registration that began operations on June 1, 2025, despite assurances given during a personal hearing held on May 30 at

CAUSE OF CONCERN

- Tourism canoes operate during peak fish spawning season (June–August), threatening marine reproduction cycles
- Amritsar, Kapurthala, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Adampur, Bhatinda, Chandigarh, Nal, Phalodi, Uttarlai, and Bhuj
- Activities harming income, sustainability of traditional fishing communities in Sinqerim, Candolim and Nerul
- Operators reportedly using 40 HP motors with false 9 HP stickers; breach prescribed regulations
- Captain of Ports allegedly responds rudely when questioned and outsourced dispute resolution without addressing core issues

the Captain of Ports office. AGSSRFU President Shaila D'Mello and Secretary Laximan Mangueshkar stated that these operations are directly interfering with fish spawning activities and threatening the economic stability of fishing communities in Sinqerim, Can-

dolim, and Nerul areas. According to the union, the controversy began three years ago when water sports canoes first entered the Sinqerim River waters, disrupting what had been a stable and self-sustaining local fishery that historically supported numerous

fishing families. The union claims that despite the Captain of Ports' office mandating 40 HP outboard motors for these canoes, some operators are using deceptive stickers indicating lower 9 HP capacity motors while actually deploying the more powerful engines.

The situation intensified during the May 30 personal hearing when a fisher from Candolim, who is also an AGSSRFU member, raised concerns about motor capacity discrepancies. The union alleges that the Captain of Ports responded rudely, asking "Are you questioning my decision?" The fishermen's organisation has criticized this response as inappropriate and contrary to democratic principles, stating that

questioning administrative decisions is a fundamental right and necessary for accountability.

AGSSRFU has expressed dissatisfaction with the Captain of Ports' decision to outsource dispute resolution to Olencio Simoes, particularly as water sports operations resumed on June 1 despite ongoing concerns. The union argues that this approach has failed to address the core issues affecting fishing communities and their families' livelihoods.

The union's demand is grounded in Section 8 of Gazette Notification No. B 14022/WS/Special Permissions/COP dated July 7, 2023, which states that the "Captain of Ports reserves the right to grant or deny the NOC's in case of congestion,

local fishermen problems, safety of navigation and may be revoked without assigning any reasons thereof." The fishermen's organization is calling for the immediate invocation of this provision to suspend all water sports and tourism canoe permits in the Sinqerim River from June through August.

The timing of this request coincides with the crucial fish spawning season, which traditionally provides significant income for local fishing families during these months. AGSSRFU argues that allowing tourism activities to continue during this period will have long-term negative impacts on fish populations and, consequently, on the sustainable livelihoods of traditional fishing communities.

BJP leadership reviews Goa strategy, cabinet reshuffle still a suspense

Team Herald

PANJIM: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) national general secretary B L Santosh held lengthy discussions with State president Damodar 'Damu' Naik regarding political developments, even as the latter maintained that he would act at the appropriate time.

Santosh, who arrived in Goa, met Naik at a hotel in South Goa, where the duo discussed political developments in the State and strengthening the party organisation.

The recent outburst by Art and Culture Minister Govind Gaude against the Department of Tribal Welfare over alleged corruption was also discussed, even as the matter has been referred to the party high command in Delhi.

Santosh also reviewed

preparations for the upcoming 'Sankalp se Siddhi' (From Commitment to Accomplishment) programme scheduled to be held at Ponda on Sunday, June 8. The event marks the completion of 11 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led NDA government and is part of a nationwide outreach initiative. Santosh departed for Delhi on Friday.

The BJP State president stated that various issues were discussed but declined to comment on the episode involving the Art and Culture Minister. "I don't want to speak anything for now but I will act at the right time," Naik said.

When asked whether the much-anticipated cabinet reshuffle was discussed, Naik said, "I have briefed him about everything — what is good and what is bad. Let him take a decision."