

LPG decanting racket: Legal Metrology team joins inquiry into gas delivery malpractice

Consumers urged to check seals and weights as Civil Supplies Department busts decanting racket at Sancoale

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Legal Metrology team from Vasco conducted a physical weighing of all 1,021 LPG cylinders seized during a raid at Sancoale, as part of a joint crackdown by the Department of Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs.

Legal Metrology Inspector Liladhar Kumbharjuvekar and his team unloaded and examined 964 cylinders belonging to Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and 57 cylinders from Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd



(HPCL) at the Verna Police Station on Thursday. The seized cylinders were recovered from seven vehicles — six registered under M/s Kadesh Gas Agency and one unregistered. The driver of the unregistered vehicle reportedly fled the spot during the raid on Wednesday.

Kumbharjuvekar said a detailed report of the weight findings will be submitted to the police for further action under the Essential Commodities Act.

Following this operation, the Civil Supplies Department has issued a public advisory urging consumers

to verify the weight and safety seal of LPG cylinders upon delivery. Consumers are advised not to accept cylinders with broken, tampered, or loose seals. Director of Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Jayant Tari reminded the public that consumers should not be charged any amount beyond what is printed on the delivery receipt issued by the oil marketing companies. He also emphasised that distributors are required to provide home delivery.

Tari appealed to the public to report cases of suspected pilferage, under

weight cylinders, or safety issues via phone at 0832-2226084 / 1800-233-0606 or by email at esi-hq.goa@gov.in/ dir-esca.goa@nic.in, or by contacting the relevant LPG distributor directly.

The advisory follows the department's bust of a large-scale gas decanting racket at an open site in Sancoale during a surprise inspection on Wednesday.

Minister for Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Ravi Naik, has assured that strict action will be taken against those found involved in malpractices related to LPG delivery in the State.

Revised toll rates for Ribandar-Chodan ferry route

New fares to be effective from July 7; rental vehicles and tourist entries to be charged separately

Team Herald

TOLL CHARGES

Two-wheelers (no charge)
Private vehicles
Cars / 3-wheelers / 4-wheelers
Rs 30 per trip Rs 1,500 monthly pass
Medium commercial/ passenger vehicles
Rs 100 per trip Rs 1,500 monthly pass
Heavy motor vehicles (below 10 tonnes)
Rs 400 per trip Rs 6,000 monthly pass

PANJIM: The Department of River Navigation (RND) has issued a notification announcing the revised toll and monthly pass rates for the Ribandar-Chodan ferry route, which will come into effect from July 7.

The revision comes ahead of the expected deployment of two Ro-Ro ferries on the route. As per the new tariff structure, two-wheelers will continue to be exempt from toll fees. Cars, three-wheelers, and four-wheelers will be charged Rs 30 per trip, with a monthly pass available at Rs 900.

Medium commercial and passenger vehicles will be charged Rs 100 per trip, with a monthly pass costing Rs 1,500. Heavy motor vehicles below 10 tonnes will pay Rs 400 per trip, and Rs 6,000 for a monthly pass.

In a separate category, rental two-wheelers with riders will be charged Rs 100 per trip, while rental cars with passengers will incur a fee of Rs 300 per trip. Tourists travelling via the ferry will be charged Rs 50 per trip.

The RND clarified that the revised rates are applicable only to the Ribandar-Chodan route, and that

toll charges for other ferry routes across Goa remain unchanged.

River Navigation Director Vikramsinh Rajebhosale had recently indicated that the State government had decided to charge Rs 300 per trip for tourist cars using the Ro-Ro ferries on the Ribandar-Chorao route, which are expected to commence service soon.

He also mentioned that payments for both monthly passes and individual trips can be made via the department's mobile app or through point-of-sale (POS) machines that will be available onboard the Ro-Ro ferries.

Will not demolish 'El Dourado' without notice: CCP tells HC

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP) has informed the High Court of Bombay at Goa that it will not demolish the barricaded 'El Dourado' building, located in the old Panjim municipal market, without intimating the Court.

Earlier, the Commissioner-cum-Secretary (Urban Development) and Appellate Authority dismissed an appeal filed by Kamal Renjan and 12 other occupants of the building.

The appellants had challenged the CCP's decision to barricade and seal the El Dourado building without issuing notices, hearing them, or following the procedure established by law.

However, considering the livelihood of the affected traders, the Appellate Authority suggested that the CCP may consider their rehabilitation through a proper policy framework.

Secretary (Urban Development) Sanjay Goel suggested that the CCP formulate a proposal that may include the grant of new shops or premises to the existing eligible tenants.

Arguing on behalf of the occupants, Advocate Raunaq Rao submitted that the building was sealed without issuing any notice, providing a hearing, or following due process.

The traders have already vacated the building, as stated in their earlier petition before the High Court.

The CCP responded that the building was in a precarious condition and, considering the danger posed, directed the occupants to vacate the premises within 24 hours. Due to the imminent threat to public safety, the CCP cordoned off the premises to prevent any loss of life or property.

The High Court has now posted the matter for final hearing on August 6.

RAIN OR SHINE



Even the gloomiest monsoon weather doesn't seem to dull Baga beach's appeal. On Thursday, despite lashing rain and gusty winds, domestic tourists flocked to the shore — many ignoring the ban on entering the water. A lifeguard, clad in a raincoat, kept watch from his chair to ensure compliance and prevent foolhardy behaviour

FIR filed against accused for stealing sulphuric acid

Team Herald

PANJIM: A First Information Report (FIR) has been registered against Nilesch Gajanan Dessai, 46, from Kalne, Dodamarg, for allegedly stealing 20 litres of used sulphuric acid from a glass manufacturing unit located in the Karaswada Industrial Estate, Thivim, between June 28 and 30.

Dessai (46), arrested in Pernem acid attack on minor boy, had allegedly confessed to stealing sulphuric acid from a glass manufacturing unit in Karaswada Industrial Estate, where he had been working as a gardener for the past 8 days.

Police said he stole a 5-litre acid can and hid it in his Activa scooter, covered with a raincoat. The accused had earlier confessed to attacking the 17-year-old victim from Dhargal over a relationship with his minor daughter, who later died by suicide.

The FIR has been filed by Mapusa Police Station, police said, adding the accused will be taken on transfer warrant who has arrested by Pernem police.

Highway drainage flooding threatens historic Safa Masjid in Bandora

Team Herald

PONDA: Locals from Bandora have raised concerns over overflowing gutters along the newly-constructed four-lane highway at Farmagudi, which are reportedly discharging rainwater directly into the premises of the historic Safa Masjid at Shapur, Bandora.

The Safa Masjid, a protected monument under the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), is facing repeated flooding in its tank and garden area due to inadequate drainage infrastructure. Residents say the rainwater from the highway slope accumulates



in front of the Masjid and eventually overflows into its premises.

"Due to the lack of proper drainage and outlet, the gutter water on the Farmagudi highway slope flows down speedily, collects near the Safa Masjid, and then en-

ters the premises," said concerned locals. "The garden in front of the Masjid is getting submerged and rainwater is also entering the historic tank."

Safa Masjid Committee President, Mulla Murtuza, has urged the Nation-

al Highway authorities to take immediate action by providing a proper drainage system to divert the highway's runoff. "The site needs urgent protection, especially the tank and garden, from rain-induced flooding," he stressed.

ECI begins process to delist inactive political parties in Goa

Four Goa-based parties identified in first phase of nationwide clean-up initiative

Team Herald

PANJIM: The Election Commission of India (ECI) has initiated proceedings to delist Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs) in Goa that have failed to contest a single election since 2019 and whose offices could not be physically located.

The move comes as part of a nationwide clean-up of the political system, wherein the ECI observed that out of over 2,800 RUPPs currently registered, many have not met the basic conditions required to maintain their registration status. So far, 345 such parties have been identified across the country.

In the first phase of the exercise, four Goa-based parties have been flagged for delisting: Goa Nationalist Party, House No. 442, Chinchmala, Wada Parye, Sattari; Goa Praja Party, Classic

Apartments, House No. 69, Ella, Old Goa, Tiswadi; Goemcarancho Otrech Asro, H. No. 780/A, Mugally, Sao Jose de Areal, Salcete; United Goans Party, Shop No. 7, H. No. 18/5/6, Gramilo Apartment, Dondrem, Taleigao, Tiswadi.

The ECI has directed the Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) of States and Union Territories to issue show-cause notices to these RUPPs. Each party will be given an opportunity for a hearing before the respective CEO, after which the final decision on their delisting will be taken by the Election Commission.

The Commission stated that this action is being taken to ensure transparency and accountability in the political system, targeting those RUPPs which have neither contested Lok Sabha or State Assembly elections nor bye-elections since 2019 and cannot be physically traced.

Woman duped of Rs 1.5 lakh in online scam at Mardol

Team Herald

PONDA: A woman from Mardol was allegedly cheated of Rs 1.5 lakh by fraudsters who lured her into a money-doubling scam via the Telegram app. According to Mardol Police, the incident occurred on

November 29, 2024 when the accused contacted the victim online, promising double returns for completing simple tasks such as liking, sharing, and subscribing to videos.

Convinced by the scheme, the woman transferred Rs 50,000 and later Rs 1 lakh

but received neither returns nor a refund. The accused is suspected of impersonation and using communication devices to commit fraud. An offence has been registered, and further investigation is underway under the supervision of PI Yogesh Sawant.

Man held for rape on promise of marriage

PANJIM: Calangute Police have arrested 26-year-old Amandeep Orare from Chhattisgarh for allegedly sexually assaulting a woman over a three-year period at a villa in Calangute, under the false promise of marriage.

The offences are reported to have occurred between January 2022 and March 2025. Initially registered in Mumbai, the case was later transferred to Calangute Police. A team was dispatched to Dongargarh in Rajnandgaon district, Chhattisgarh, to locate the accused.

Following sustained efforts, Orare was traced within the jurisdiction of Dongargarh Police Station. After due legal formalities and informing his family, he was brought to Goa.

Spike in South Goa murders linked to migrant activity, say police

Eleven murders reported till June 2024; Ponda leads with four cases as police step up surveillance and patrolling

Team Herald

MARGAO: With the rapid expansion of villages in South Goa, particularly in Salcete taluka and Margao, rising migrant activity has coincided with an increase in serious crimes, including murder. According to police data, 11 murders were reported across South Goa police jurisdictions between January and June 26 this year, with the highest num-

ber—four cases—registered in Ponda.

The remaining cases include two murders each in the jurisdictions of Maina Curtorim and Mormugao, and one each in Verna, Fatorda, and Margao Town. South Goa police have successfully detected all 11 murder cases, with charge sheets filed in several instances.

According to investigating officers, the murders were driven

by a variety of motives including disputes, personal vendettas, financial gain, and emotional conflict. "Murders due to disputes are very common and often stem from revenge. Other motives include greed and jealousy," said one officer. Notably, most of the victims were migrant labourers.

In total, South Goa has recorded 13 murders so far in 2024, a rise from the nine reported in 2023.

Police data shows all cases in 2023 were solved. The highest spike, however, was seen in 2022, when 25 murders were recorded, of which 23 were detected.

In 2023, the murder cases were distributed as follows: two in Maina Curtorim, and one each in Colva, Fatorda, Quepem, Vasco, Ponda, Mardol, and Collem. Ten attempted murder cases were also reported in the same year and were all detected. Mai-

na Curtorim and Fatorda reported two attempted murder cases each, while Colva, Conculim, Quepem, Verna, and Ponda recorded one each.

In 2022, seven cases of attempted murder were reported, compared to 18 in 2021. Police noted that many of those accused in both murder and attempted murder cases were migrant labourers.

"Prevention and detection

of crime is a key objective of the police," said PI Dittendra Naik of Sanguem Police Station. "We have implemented measures such as day and night patrolling, tenant verification drives, and monitoring the activities of ex-convicts and migrant workers living in rented premises. Each police station has beat staff engaged in these activities and action is taken accordingly," he added.