

No parking, 254 units sealed

AMC acts against commercial units for not providing visitors' parking on second day of its drive

DNA Correspondent

The staff at several commercial establishments got a rude shock on Wednesday morning, when estate officials of the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) knocked on their doors. A total of 254 units were sealed in the city during the day for not allowing visitors to park their vehicles in their premises.

The drive was part of AMC's recently launched campaign, the first phase of which will target malls, hotels, hospitals, garages, car accessories or used-car showrooms, which do not provide vehicles' parking within their premises. On Wednesday, 155 units in central zone were sealed, while 97 units in west zone and two in north zone suffered the same fate.

Citing the example of a building in central zone, deputy municipal commissioner Arjav Shah said, "During checking, it was found that Shubh Complex near Rajasthan Hospital in Shahibaug was not allowing visitors to park vehicles despite having a large parking area. AMC subsequently found that due to some dispute with the builder, the parking area was kept closed."

In west zone, AMC sealed University Plaza, a commercial complex near Vijay crossroads. "The vehicles parked on the roads were leading to congestion, due to which we sealed the entire complex; 97 units in the complex have also been sealed," said an official.

In north zone, two car showrooms



WEDNESDAY'S TALLY					
ZONE	North	Central	West	South	East & New West
UNITS SEALED	2	155	97	fine of ₹28,000	—

were sealed. "We sealed Sharma Hyundai in Noblenagar and JK Auto in Naroda on Wednesday morning because of parking issues," stated deputy municipal commissioner JM Luni.

Meanwhile, in south zone, fine was levied on erring units. "Commercial complexes where parking was being done on roads and footpaths instead of the parking area have been fined. Planet Suzuki, Apex Honda in Kanakaria, TVS showroom in Ghodasar

were fined, as were garages in Behrampur which were using the roads for repairs," said CR Kharsan, deputy municipal commissioner.

While adding that a fine of Rs28,000 was collected from the zone, Kharsan said that the campaign will intensify on Thursday when a sealing drive will be carried out. However, the new west and east zones were left out in Wednesday's drive.

Elaborating on the campaign, municipal commissioner Guruprasad Mohapatra said, "Many of the commercial and residential units have parking facility, but occupy municipal roads and do not allow parking in their premises, which leads to traffic chaos. The campaign will target major malls, hospitals, hotels and car showrooms or garages so as to enable parking facility." The sealed units could be reopened only when they allow parking, he added.

Man cries 'suicide', keeps AMC and police waiting

A complainant had threatened to commit suicide at AMC premises as civic body had allegedly failed to act on his complaint

DNA Correspondent

Complaints from residents are quite common, but a seemingly serious one left the civic body authorities shocked. In an e-mail to the civic body, the complainant had threatened to commit suicide. The premises of Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) wore a sombre look on Wednesday morning, after the AMC office received the letter. Though the threat turned out to be empty, it kept the civic body officials and the police on their toes throughout the day.

The letter, bearing the name of Maheshkumar Barot, resident of Naranpura, claimed that animals were being slaughtered illegally at Mirzapur mutton market in the city. The e-mail, addressed to deputy municipal commissioner of north zone JM Luni was sent on Tuesday evening.

In his letter, Barot said that he had complained several times, but the civic body had not taken action. He claimed that he would



commit suicide at the AMC premises on Wednesday at 10.30 am, if AMC did not act immediately.

Security guards of AMC carried out rigorous checking amid police protection. Two gates were kept closed, while employees were allowed to enter through one gate, after being frisked thoroughly.

"As soon as we received the letter, we informed the police and started taking necessary measures. Since nothing has happened as yet, we believe it was a fake letter," said Luni on Wednesday evening. He added that a team of AMC officials visited the Mirza-

pur market to check the veracity of the complaint made by Barot, but found nothing amiss.

Gaikwad Haveli police inspector JM Patel said, "We received the complaint letter from AMC. Five constables each from Gaikwad Haveli and Karanj police stations were deployed at the spot." A fire emergency van was also present at the AMC premises for the entire day. The police later found that the residential address mentioned in the letter was false. "We checked the address that Barot had mentioned in the letter. But there is no one by that name there," added a police official.

Say Namaste to keep swine flu at bay!

DNA Correspondent • GANDHINAGAR

The traditional Indian way of greeting visitors with hands folded in a 'namaste' spread a long way in checking the growth of swine flu, say experts at the state health department. While swine flu toll in state is rising, state health department feels that the root cause is lack of basic hygiene practices. The department has also come out with some observations that show that the elderly, women and children are more vulnerable to swine flu.

Dr Dinkar Raval, deputy director (epidemic) of state health department, said, "There were 18 new cases and three deaths in the state on Wednesday. The gross figures of registered patients have reached 408, of which and 213 have been cured while 78 died. There are two deaths in Rajkot and one in Kutch reported on Wednesday."

"Simple precautions can save one from the disease. Swine flu virus is active on any kind of surface for at least 12 hours. So, it is a must to keep washing hands at regular intervals

3 more deaths reported in state on Wednesday

after coming into contact with people, doorknobs, handle etc. A 'namaste' is more preferable than a handshake as apart from showing respect, it also protects you from infection. One must cover the mouth with a handkerchief while coughing or sneezing," said Dr Raval.

He added, "It is observed that the reason for swine flu deaths is failure to reach hospital on time. Further, we have also observed that people, already suffering from another illness, died of swine flu. Around 32% people who died due to swine flu were suffering from diabetes, 20% were pregnant women and 10% people had illnesses like tuberculosis or asthma, where the breathing is compromised." Rajkot has remained at the top in the tally of swine flu deaths with 19 of total 125, followed by Jamnagar with 15 deaths out of 56 patients and Ahmedabad with 13 deaths.

Elderly woman duped of jewellery worth Rs15L

DNA Correspondent

A 78-year-old woman lost gold ornaments worth Rs15 lakh to thieves, who distracted her by throwing currency notes under her car near CN Vidyalay on Tuesday evening.

The theft occurred when Kanchan Vachchhani, accompanied by her sister-in-law Manjula Amrutiya, was waiting for her driver to return to their parked car. When a man drew Amrutiya's attention to Rs10 notes lying under the car, she came out and started collecting the notes. While Vachchhani was engrossed in watching her relative, a youngster quietly vanished with a bag containing the ornaments, kept next to her on the rear seat.

Vachchhani did return home on Tuesday afternoon after taking 60 tola of gold ornaments from the

locker of her bank in Panchavati. As one of her grandsons was getting married soon, she had decided to bring her ornaments from the bank. When she left home for other works in the evening, she decided to take the valuables along for safekeeping.

She first asked the driver to take them to an imitation jewellery shop in Paldi. After spending sometime at the shop, they went to a shop near C N Vidyalay in Ambawadi to buy a mosquito repellent. She gave some cash to the driver and asked him to buy it from the shop after parking the car, when the duo targeted them.

Vachchhani stays alone at Elegance Tower. Her husband died in 2001, while her two sons reside in the United States. She was in the US from May to October 2012.

Robbery in Bopal

DIAL 100!

DON'T EXPECT HELP



We dialled 100 at least 20 times to inform police about the incident, when the robbers were standing in front of us, but nobody answered our calls... Had the local residents not helped the elderly couple who were attacked by the robbers, they would have been killed, as there was no help from the police"

— Jitu Patel, an eyewitness

Callers give up as police control room refuses to respond

Ritesh Shah & Roxy Gagdekar

If you expect a white jeep with a beacon and siren to arrive at your doorstep within minutes of dialling 100 – the police helpline number – then beware! You may not get any response from the police control room. That's what several residents of Bopal area experienced on Tuesday night, when repeated attempts to call the cops to deal with burglars who targeted Silver Alaknanda Society proved futile. Calls by these correspondents to the same number at 8 pm on Wednesday met with the same fate.

For someone residing in Bopal or Sarkhej, or localities on the city's outskirts, it is a case of double trouble, as one has to inform two control rooms – those of the City police and the Rural police. Dialling 100 connects you to the City police, who in turn direct the phone to Rural control room, or provide the caller with another number.

"We dialed 100 at least 20 times to inform the police about the incident, when the robbers were standing in front of us, but nobody answered our calls," said Jitu Patel, an eyewitness to the Bopal dacoity of Tuesday night. "If local residents had not helped the elderly couple who were attacked by the robbers, they would have been killed, as there was no help from the police," he added.

Inspector general of police, Ahmedabad Range, RB Brahmabhatt said that Rural police were not informed about the incident. "When someone dials 100, the city control informs the Rural control and we respond accordingly," he said. "However, in this specific incident, as nobody had answered on 100, we did not have intimation," he added. However, the city police refuse to accept the lapse. According to DCP,



Police at the crime site; seen on the table is a bottle of whiskey consumed by the robbers

Daredevils have their way

When a security guard went to Pillai's house on hearing the screams, one of the robbers told him that they were painters working at Pillai's house. He even dared him to call Pillai or the police and offered him a mobile phone. Stunned by the confidence of the robber, the guard went away.

The robbers switched on all the lights of the bungalow and even consumed liquor. Cops have recovered the liquor bottles from the bungalow.

When surrounded by other residents, they went to the terrace and started hurling stones and bottles at everyone who tried to come closer. Venugopal and Ramkumari had moved into the bungalow just three months ago.

It is learned from sources that this is the same house that district superintendent of police (DSP) Gagandeep Gambhir was interested in after she was appointed DSP of Ahmedabad-Rural.

Robbers snatched air tickets of the Pillai couple and refused to return them. They also grabbed their PAN cards, debit cards and two mobile phones.

Investigation revealed that the gang was from the tribal district of Dahod or Jhabua in Madhya Pradesh. After beating Venugopal, robbers took the address of his son Sujith in Thaltej and threatened to rob him too.

control room, Ahmedabad City, MK Nayak, the two police forces have different systems. "It is not our responsibility," he said. The response does not alter the fact that dialling 100 from anywhere within the city and its out-

skirts will divert the call to the city police control room. DGP, Gujarat state, Amitabh Pathak said, "I will ensure strict action in this case. One has to answer the call, irrespective of the jurisdiction."

We have suspended Bopal PSI J K Ninama for not firing at the robbers on Monday night. The modus operandi in both the robberies was similar. They speak in Hindi and might be from tribal areas. We have formed five teams to trace the robbers"



— Gagandeep Gambhir, DSP, Ahmedabad district

"The robbers had stolen two mobile phones of Pillai. They dropped one SIM card of BSNL at the bungalow, while the other one, of Idea, was still in the mobile. We are trying to track that phone to catch the robbers"



— SN Chaudhari, PI, Local Crime Branch.

"My house was targeted just 3 months back by thieves when we were out of the city. At that time, I had requested other residents to add more security guards, but they did not take the matter seriously. We have only three guards during the night"



— Harshvardhan Dalwadi, resident

"If you want to live in Gujarat, be prepared to protect yourselves, as police are proving useless for citizens. Had neighbors not come to my parents' help, they would have been dead. I want answers and results from police,"



— Sujith Pillai, son of Venugopal Pillai

"In last 2 years, thieves have targeted this society several times, but this is the first such horrific incident. Some cops usually rest at Pleasure club at night, but they are of no use. I called the cops several times on 100, but no one replied. I feel that had I not sent my dog behind the robbers, the couple might have been killed"



— Prajal Patel (He took Venugopal to hospital)

DURING HER VISIT TO GUJARAT, DR MINET SCHINDEHUTTE DELIVERED LECTURES ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP

'When I talk entrepreneurship, people talk Guj'

DNA Correspondent



Gujarat chief minister Narendra Modi may have been dumped by the Wharton India Economic Forum, but professor and scholar from Syracuse University in New

York, Dr Minet Schindehutte, has a different view.

In her maiden visit to Gujarat, Dr Schindehutte said that Modi was doing good work. She was delivering a lecture on entrepreneurship at Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDI). After interaction with students and teachers at EDI, she told media persons that though she doesn't know Modi first hand, she could say that Gujarat is a hub for entrepreneurship and Modi has done good work in providing opportunities for entrepreneurship.

"Whatever information I have on Modi is second-hand. It would not be appropriate to speak about an individual without getting to know about him first-hand," she further clarified.

Dr Schindehutte is a scholar, a bird watcher and an adventurous traveller. A native South African, she has worked in academia as well as the private sector. On her three day visit to Ahmedabad, she has been delivering a number of lectures on entrepreneurship and teaching entrepreneurship in an innovative manner.

As a Fulbright-Nehru Scholar hosted by at the Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani (Goa campus), Dr Schindehutte is in India for nine months and will be teaching and conducting research in India during the academic year, 2012-2013.

After flying in from Rajasthan on Tuesday evening, she met students and faculties of Amrut Mody Business School. On Wednesday, she delivered a lecture at EDI in Gandhinagar and at AMA in Ahmedabad.

On Thursday, she is scheduled to give one more lecture on entrepreneurship at Nirma University and in the evening at IIMA, before flying back to Goa.

Following the lecture at AMA on Wednesday, Dr Schindehutte said that she knew about the state. Gujarat means entrepreneurship, she said. "This is my

first visit to Gujarat but this does not mean that I don't know about the state. Whenever I go in the country to speak about entrepreneurship, people talk about Gujarat," she said.

Some believe that Gujarat has produced a number of entrepreneurs, but lags behind in creating a global brand. However, she opined, "It is not necessary that entrepreneurship means creating a global brand. The biggest plus point of Gujarat is that they successfully retain their customers or clients. They have gained and maintained customer loyalty. In case of America, people are fighting to achieve that."

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