



Worli resident Madhu Tulsi points to the gas hub

Phoenix Mills raises a stink with locals

Neighbours complain of gas leak from 'illegal' gas hub in complex

ALKA SHUKLA

Phoenix Mills, one of mid-town Mumbai's happening hangouts, seems to have run into trouble with its luxury mall, Palladium.

The wing, which houses showrooms of high-end brands and restaurants, is now the bone of contention between the management and the 35-odd families living in the adjoining Gandhinagar Rahivasi Sangh Colony.

Residents say there has been a leak from the 40 gas cylinders stored in an LPG hub built in the mall's backyard, allegedly without permission. The hub borders the row of houses in the colony.

"We've been complaining about the gas leak since two months," said Manoj Jaiswal, who has been writing to various authorities. Madhu Tulsi added, "I don't even remember how many times I've woken up at night thinking I've left my stove on, but the smell is actually emitting from the mall's cylinders. What if they catch fire?"

BMC's law committee that inspected the premises observed the gas cylinders were being used by the mall's Shangri La Hotel. Gyanmurthy Sharma, the committee's deputy chairman, said, "They have permission only for five cylinders, but are using 40. There's hardly any distance between the hub and the residences, which goes against Gas Cylinder Rules. Procuring cylinders without licence is in violation of Indian Explosives Act."

P S Rawool, manager, High Street Phoenix, said, "We have an NOC from the Fire Department. I don't want to comment on today's inspection as we have done nothing wrong."

Yashwant Gadkari, assistant municipal commissioner of the concerned ward, said, "I have directed the Licence Department to seizure action. The Building Proposal Department has also been asked to take action."



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