



# SCHOOLS REOPEN ON "APRIL FOOLS" DAY

► Goa Board Schools to start new academic session from April 1

Team Goemkarponn

**PORVORIM:** The Directorate Of Education (DoE) today has issued a circular to all educational institutions informing them that New Academic Year 2025-26 will commence from April 01 for Class VI to Class X and Class XII.

With this, the change would bring



State Board schools into line with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) calendar, which has summer vacations from May 1 to June 4 (or until the first week of June) and an academic

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## THE NEW BEGINNING...

- New Academic Year 2025-26 will commence from April 01 for Class VI to Class X and Class XII
- The classes will be conducted for the above grades in the month of April up to 11:30 a.m.
- The students of the above Grades will have summer vacation from 1.5.2025 to 3.6.2025.
- The schools will follow regular timings from 4.6.2025 onwards.
- It is anticipated that this shift in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) will make it easier to finish the curriculum on time.

## Goa govt makes APAAR ID mandatory

APAAR ID is also mandatory to obtain benefits of free textbooks, mid-day meals & other Govt. benefit schemes

**PORVORIM:** With the aim of utilizing APAAR ID as the primary identifier of the student, the Goa government has made it mandatory to quote APAAR ID in inter-school transfers and migration from here onwards. Further, APAAR ID is also mandatory to obtain the benefits of free textbooks, mid-day meals and other Govt. benefit schemes.



Therefore, the Heads of all institutions are enjoined to expedite the process of APAAR ID generation of its students. A copy of this circular should be prominently displayed on the School's notice board, ensuring that all

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## No changes in festive holidays: Secretary Edu Prasad Lolayekar

Team Goemkarponn

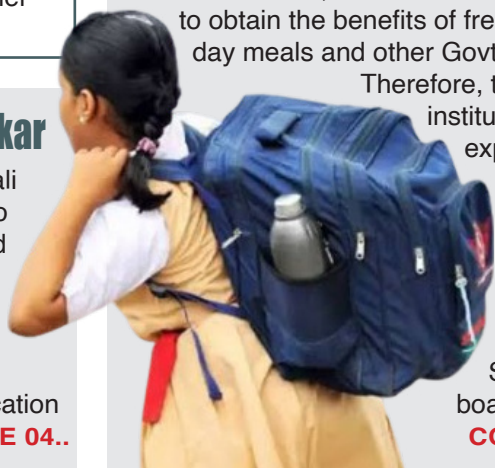
**PANAJI:** Secretary Education Prasad Lolayekar today said that there would be no changes in Chaturthi, Diwali and Christmas vacation and will be



held as per schedule. "There would be no changes in Chaturthi, Diwali and Christmas vacation and will be held as per schedule," said Lolayekar. He further

said that during Diwali vacation attempt is to get students involved in non curricular activities; meeting of Headmasters called on Friday. "The summer vacation

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## WWIP Passes Cancelled, No Vehicles: Key Changes After Maha Kumbh Stampede

**Maha Kumbh 2025:** The tragedy occurred on Wednesday as millions of pilgrims attempted to reach the waters for a sacred dip on Mauni Amavasya, one of the most auspicious days of the Kumbh Mela.

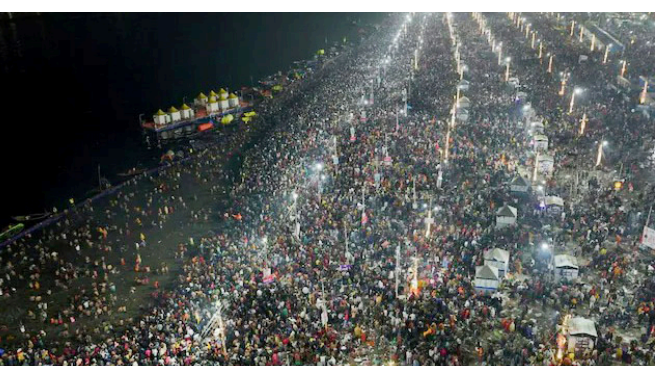
**Prayagraj:** In the early hours of January 29, 2025, the sacred grounds of the Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, were marred by a devastating stampede that resulted in the loss of 30 lives and left 60 others injured. This tragic event occurred on Mauni Amavasya, one of the most auspicious days for the holy dip, drawing millions of pilgrims to the banks of the Ganga, Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati rivers.

The incident has highlighted critical crowd management issues at

one of the world's largest and most revered religious gatherings. In response, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has ordered a judicial probe and implemented a series of stringent safety measures to prevent such tragedies in the future.

The stampede at the Maha Kumbh Mela was triggered by pilgrims pushing against barricades near the Sangam area, a spot considered sacred due to the confluence of the three rivers. The sheer volume of devotees,

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## 19 Dead As American Airlines Plane Collides With Helicopter Midair In Washington

A mid-air collision between a passenger plane and a helicopter near Reagan National Airport resulted in both aircraft crashing into the Potomac River. Rescue operations are underway.

**Washington:** In a devastating incident that has sent shockwaves through the nation, a midair collision between an American Airlines passenger plane and a Black Hawk helicopter near Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport resulted in both aircraft plummeting into the icy waters of the Potomac River. The crash, which occurred during the landing

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## Vengurla Tourists Brutally Beaten at Arambol Over Public Drinking

■ The altercation began when the tourists were found drinking in a public place, a practice that apparently sparked a confrontation with the locals.

Team Goemkarponn

**ARAMBOL:** In a disturbing incident that unfolded on Wednesday, in the Harmal area of Arambol, Goa, a group of tourists from Vengurla, Maharashtra, were severely assaulted by local residents.

The altercation began when the tourists were found drinking in a public place, a practice that



apparently sparked a confrontation with the locals.

According to police reports, the tourists were initially taken to the

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## The ASSAULT

- The altercation began when the tourists were found drinking in a public place
- Tourists were consuming alcohol in a public area at Bhoma, Palyem, which led to a verbal altercation with the locals.
- Tourists were initially taken to the primary health centre in Tuem for treatment.
- Due to the severity of their injuries, they were later shifted to the district hospital in Mapusa.
- As their condition required further medical attention, they were eventually moved to the Goa Medical College Hospital in Bambolim late in the night.



# Action on subletting of shacks was long overdue...

*"Beach shacks symbolize a lifestyle and livelihood for many Goans who strive to earn a living in the tourism sector. When these shacks are sublet to outsiders, particularly those who may engage in irresponsible behaviour—such as drug use, noise disturbances, or worse—it tarnishes the reputation of Goan tourism and jeopardizes the quality of life for local residents."*

*The impacts of this subletting issue extend far beyond a simple violation of policy. It fosters an environment where the original purpose of these establishments is lost, transforming them into hubs for potentially harmful or illegal activities."*

The enchanting beaches of Goa have long stood as a bastion for sun-soaked relaxation and vibrant tourism. Among the numerous attractions, the beach shacks offer a unique flavour to this coastal paradise, providing a quintessential Goan experience with local food, drinks, and hospitality. However, recent actions taken by the Department of Tourism signal a crucial turning point in the governance of these temporary

establishments, enforcing the need for compliance with regulations designed to preserve the integrity of this picturesque state.

On January 27, 2025, a significant development unfolded when the Mandrem Police Inspector reported a breach of the Goa State Shack Policy concerning the subletting of beach shacks. Manuel Esprit Santo Fernandes, the licensee of Shack No. 4 at Arambol Beach, was found to have sublet his establishment,

defying Clause 20 of the policy that ensures shacks are reserved for local Goans for self-employment.

The department's prompt decision to impose a hefty penalty of ₹25,00,000 and revoke Fernandes's license illustrates the seriousness with which the government is approaching such violations.

The reasoning behind these regulations is not merely bureaucratic; it stems from a commitment to both the preservation of local culture and the safeguarding of the coastal environment.

Beach shacks symbolize a lifestyle and livelihood for many Goans who strive to earn a living in the tourism sector. When these shacks are sublet to outsiders, particularly those who may engage in irresponsible behaviour—such as drug use, noise disturbances, or worse—it tarnishes the reputation of Goan tourism and jeopardizes the quality of life for local residents.

The impacts of this subletting issue extend far beyond a simple violation of policy. It fosters an environment where the original purpose of these establishments is lost, transforming them into hubs for potentially harmful or illegal activities. Goa's scenic beaches should remain a safe haven for both tourists and locals alike, which is why maintaining control over who operates these shacks is critical.

The decisive actions taken by the Department of Tourism should not only be commended but also serve as a deterrent to others who might be tempted to flout the regulations. The permanent blacklisting of Fernandes signifies that there are serious consequences for those who do not adhere to the established laws governing shack operations.

Such strict enforcement is essential to ensure that the shack allotment process is reserved exclusively for Goans, allowing them to

benefit meaningfully from their local resources, which in turn supports the economy and cultural integrity of the region.

Moreover, by prioritizing compliance with the shack policy, the government is sending a clear message that it values the opinions and experiences of its citizens. The voices of local residents who face the brunt of illegal activities are finally being heard. Tourists and potential beach shack owners must understand the importance of respecting local regulations.

Hence, subletting of beach shacks to outsiders must be rigorously opposed and curtailed. The Department of Tourism's actions reflect a robust commitment to preserving Goa's heritage and ensuring that its beaches remain vibrant, safe, and welcoming for everyone. Upholding these regulations is not just about enforcing rules; it is about protecting a way of life that is uniquely Goan.

## Scooter Rider Killed in Tragic Accident Near Verna

Team Goemkarponn

**VERNA:** A fatal accident occurred near Goan Maharaja Hotel, Verna, on Tuesday evening, when a tipper truck, allegedly driven in a rash and negligent manner, rammed into a TVS scooter, dragging the rider along the road. The victim, identified as Rajesh Naik, a resident of Sancoale, who was grievously injured later succumbed to his injuries while undergoing treatment at GMC Bambolim.

According to a complaint filed by Head Constable Umesh Naik of

### Truck Driver Arrested



Verna Police Station, the accident took place around 6:55 PM. The accused driver, Chanabasappa Godachi, a resident of New Vaddem, Vasco, and native of Belgaum, Karnataka, was reportedly heading from Pirni Junction towards Titan Junction when he crashed into the scooter from behind.

Following the accident, Verna police rushed to

GMC Bambolim, where an inquest panchanama was conducted and the body was referred to post mortem. The body was later handed over to the family for final rites.

Verna Police have registered a case against the truck driver under Sections 281 and 106 (1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

The accused has been arrested, and further investigation is being carried out by LPSI Pramila Fernandes under the supervision of PI Melson Colaco and the guidance of Mormugao DySP Gurudas Kadam.

## 3-yr-old drown in swimming pool at Saligao

Team Goemkarponn

**SALIGAO:** Tragically, a three-year-old child is said to have drowned in a swimming pool at Saligao.

The three-year-old child drowned after unintentionally falling into a swimming pool at a guest house in Grande Morod, Saligao.

When the incident happened, the boy, who was on holiday with his father from Maharashtra, was strolling by the pool.

The curious toddler ventured too near the pool and fell into the water while the father was momentarily



distracted by a mobile phone call, the police said.

After being saved right away, the boy was sent to the Primary Health Centre (PHC) in Candolim, where he was pronounced dead.

Under the direction of the Saligao PI, PSI David Costa is carrying out additional investigations into the unnatural death case that the Saligao police have filed in this regard. Majik Somnath.





## Auto theft gang busted by Porvorim police

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PORVORIM:** Porvorim police have seized four stolen motorcycles valued at Rs 4 lakh and apprehended a gang involved in temple burglaries and two-wheeler thefts.

A Royal Enfield Himalaya motorcycle worth Rs 1.5 lakh was stolen on January 19 at around 1.10 am, according to Saurabh Dessai of PDA Colony,

Porvorim, who filed a complaint with Porvorim police, according to North Goa SP Akshat Kaushal.

Inspector Rahul Parab of Porvorim Police established a police team to look into the matter after receiving the complaint. The police squad discovered and detained Lalit Nanu Vaigankar (19) of Sodiem-Siolim at Ankale in Khanapur, Karnataka, with the aid of CCTV footage and after gathering

information.

Two motorcycles were found on him by the police: a KTM Duke that had been stolen from Mapusa and a Himalayan (Royal Enfield) that had been taken from Porvorim.

The accused revealed during questioning that he and other individuals had stolen an Aprilia scooter from Assonora, and that the scooter had been found on him.

According to

authorities, another Yamaha motorcycle that had been stolen from Sawantwadi, Maharashtra, was also found during the inquiry. Two more suspects in this crime are being sought by Porvorim police.

According to reports, Vaigankar also revealed that they were part of a January 16 temple break-in at Moira, and that two accused people and a young kid are connected to this crime.

## Several beach shack operators misusing policy & sytem: Min Khaunte

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte has acknowledged that some beach shack owners have been abusing the system by unlawfully renting out their buildings to people who are not licensed, including non-Goans.

The minister said that in order to escape discovery, these operators do not use any official papers. But now, the agency will monitor and punish infractions using technology.

These days, subletting occurs without documentation, which makes it challenging for us to take action. Therefore, in order to track shacks and guarantee compliance, we shall implement technology-driven surveillance. He issued a warning: "Those found guilty of subletting will face strict penalties."

The minister added



that it is the duty of shack owners to operate their establishments in accordance with their license.

"We make it very clear that subletting shacks is not acceptable. From delaying fee increases to giving licenses and allotments prior to the start of the season, the Tourism Department has complied with the demands of shack owners. As long as they run their firm independently and don't turn it over to unlicensed parties, we created the policy in accordance with their needs," he said.

Violations are punishable by a fine of Rs 25 lakh, license revocation, and other measures.

## Tobacco Violations: 5,224 cases booked in South Goa in 2024

**Team Goemkarponn**

**MARGAO:** The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) was enforced more strictly by South Goan police, who booked 5,224 instances in 2024 a significant increase from the 3,924 cases they had in 2023.

According to data, South Goa police stations booked 1,938 cases by May 2023, a considerable increase from 1,206 instances in the same period in 2022. A total of

3,401 cases has been reported by December 2022.



Dabolim Police (516 cases), Margao (388), Vasco Railway Police (382),

and Colva (240) were among the top enforcers in 2022. Maina-Curtorim (176), Cuncolim (251), Fatorda (164), Quepem (88), Curchorem (169), Sanguem (203), Canacona (182), and Verna (133) were among the other police stations that recorded infractions.

## Rottweiler attack: One injured in Assagao

**Team Goemkarponn**

**ANJUNA:** In a shocking incident, an Assagao resident Vinil Salgaonkar was allegedly attacked by a Rottweiler. The victim sustained bite injuries on his left leg. The Family filed



a complaint against the dog's owner with Anjuna

police.

As per Anjuna police, the accused Sham Govekar kept his Rottweiler Dog unleashed and failed to take care against the probable danger to human life as a result the Dog attacked

complainant brother namely Vinil Salgaonkar, age 40 yrs r/o H. No. 710, Badem. Assagao, Bardez Goa thereby causing him injury. Anjuna police has registered an FIR against owner Sham Govekar U/ 291 BNS 2023.

## UP native arrested in money extortion case

■ Accused used computer resources to facilitate the crime

**Team Goemkarponn**

**PANAJI:** The Cyber Crime Police have detained a man from Uttar Pradesh who threatened a Siolim resident with a fictitious

police complaint in order to get money from her.

After the victim was tricked by an unidentified individual posing as a Delhi Crime Branch police inspector, the Cyber

Crime Police Station filed a case under several provisions of the BNSS and the IT Act. The victim received fraudulent letters purporting to be from the Supreme Court of India,



informing her that a police complaint had been made against her.

## Villagers halt RVNL's construction material dumping at Velsao



■ Locals accuse RVNL of encroaching Pvt land

**Team Goemkarponn**

**VELSAO:** The villagers of Velsao have successfully halted the dumping of construction materials by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) for the controversial double-tracking project.

Locals accused RVNL of encroaching on private land

and attempting to create a coal corridor under the guise of railway expansion.

Residents strongly opposed the dumping of mud and construction debris near their heritage properties, fearing it would lead to landlocking and potential damage to their ancestral homes. Amid

intense resistance, villagers forced the authorities to withdraw their machinery from the disputed site.

This confrontation adds to the ongoing tensions between locals and RVNL, as villagers continue to protest against projects they claim threaten their land, environment, and way of life.



# Ravindra Bhavan at Canacona Faces Multiple Operational Issues: Bhandari

Team Goemkarponn

**CANACONA:** Canacona leader Janardhan Bhandari has expressed his dissatisfaction with the current state of the Ravindra Bhavan at Canacona, highlighting several issues that have plagued the facility since its opening.

Bhandari outlines a series of problems that are hindering the full potential of Ravindra Bhavan, a cultural and community hub in Canacona. The tweet invites supporters to join a demand for the immediate restoration of all facilities at the venue, scheduled for January 30, 2025.

Ravindra Bhavan, intended to be a vibrant cultural centre, has faced numerous operational



challenges. According to Bhandari, the air-conditioning system is inadequate, the audio setup frequently malfunctions, and power cuts during events are common, raising questions about the functionality of the generators. Additionally, the canteen remains non-functional, and the presence of an electric

transformer in front of the building is seen as a necessity for relocation.

The extra costs incurred for staging shows due to the lack of proper curtains, have also been highlighted as uneconomical. Moreover, Bhandari pointed out that the Ravindra Bhavan Committee, essential for the management and oversight of the facility,

has not been constituted yet. This oversight has likely contributed to the myriad issues faced by the venue.

The authenticity of Bhandari's tweet has been verified through his official social media account. His involvement in community affairs and advocacy for local development projects lends credibility to his concerns.

## 24-yr-old held with drugs valued at Rs 1 lakh

Team Goemkarponn

**ANJUNA:** A 24-year-old Assagao resident has been taken into custody by Anjuna Police on suspicion of carrying narcotic substances worth Rs 1.10 lakh.

The arrest happened on Wednesday during a raid in the vicinity of Tembi Ground in Anjuna.

Suman Bishwokarma was discovered unlawfully in possession of roughly 1.181 kg of what the police suspect to be



ganja. The medicines that were confiscated are estimated to be worth Rs 1.10 lakh. According to the applicable sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, an offense has been reported. Investigations are still under progress.

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## No changes in festive holidays: Secretary Edu Prasad Lolyekar

will be from May 1 to June. This is a balanced move. The regular school timings will commence from June 4, after the summer break," said Lolyekar. He further said that for students upto Class 5, the academic term will

commence from June 4 onwards. "To ensure smooth implementation of the new schedule, the Education Department has directed schools to take appropriate action to ensure classes commence in April," he added

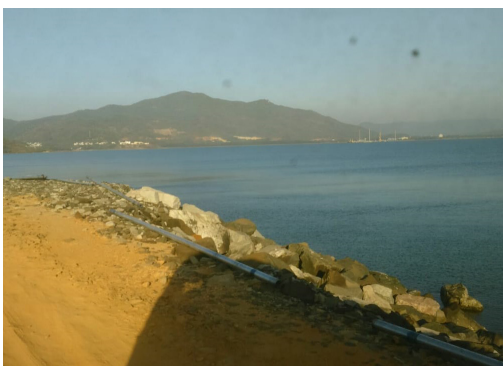
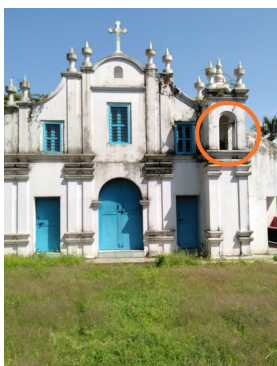
## Canacona devotees demand with Navy to allow celebration of Feast at Goa's Anjediva Church

Team Goemkarponn

**CANACONA :** As yet another annual traditional feast day, devotees have once again come out to demand government's intervention to prevail over Defence (Navy)'s decision to disallow entry of civilians on Anjediva island to celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Brotas on Feb 2.

Even as it looks like the Archdiocese has given up all the hope to revive the tradition of celebrating two feasts annually (on Oct 4 and 2nd Feb), Octogenarian Natividade De Sa leading the one-man army refuses to give-up the religious rights of Catholic belief and in spite of repeated denials from all the concerned authorities, has once again demanded that Indian Navy (Defence)'s Seabird project (who usurped the Anjediva Island as part of its strategic location in view of national interests) to allow the celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Brotas on February 2, on coming Sunday.

'Navy should allow us even if it means permitting a handful faithfulls including a priest to celebrate a high-mass in the Anjediva church on the occasion of the Feast of OL of Brotas, which has abruptly stopped now, since over a decade ago (year 2014).



Though I have reached my ripe age, religious sentiments of many Catholics including mine are gravely hurt and we are left disillusioned as we strongly feel we are discarded by our own democratically elected government.'

To support De Sa's sentiments, Natty D'Souza of Chinchinim echoes similar sentiments stating all their hopes and trusts in a democratic country like us is infringed by our very own nation citing un-suitable reasons for denying civilians access to the Island stating it's risky in view of its strategic location.

This sorts of arrogance is not shown even by Portugal rulers or British rulers, even as the Anjediva Island though in their own (Portuguese) position, but located and more accessible from Karwar (Karnataka), which at that time was governed by Britishers, before India's

Independence. However, as the Indian Navy took it over for the Seabird project, they were forced to stop celebrating feasts which is a direct infringement on one's faith'.

Before and for several years after liberation of Goa from Portuguese regime, and though the island was not habituated, people had continued the legacy of its traditional celebrations of not one but annually two feasts at Anjediva Island (the other feast being of St. Francis de Assisi on October 4).

According to Natty, one good thing is the Navy is duty bound not to demolish or destroy the Anjediva Church, but maintain it with renovation and repairs as a Heritage Site.

But people, some of whom including Hindu families, are heartbroken for not allowing celebrating the feasts, which have been passed on to them by their ancestors.

## SCHOOLS REOPEN ON "APRIL FOOLS" DAY

year that starts on April 1 and ends on March 31.

It is anticipated that this shift in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) will make it easier to finish the curriculum on time.

"Government of Goa has decided to commence the new Academic Year from 1 April from the Academic Year 2025-2026 for the grades 6 to 10 & grade 12 for government, government aided and unaided recognized Schools in the state," the circular issued by Directorate of Education (DoE) states.

The education department has also issued instructions that the classes will be conducted for the above grades in the month of April up to 11:30 am and that the students of the above Grades will have summer vacation from 1.5.2025 to 3.6.2025.

"The schools will follow regular timings from 4.6.2025 onwards. Heads of institutions are enjoined

to take appropriate action to commence the Academic Year from 1 April," it states. DoE also said that a copy of this circular should be prominently displayed on the School's notice board, ensuring that all stakeholders including teachers, students and parents are informed and are aware of the commencement of the Academic year. It also said that this Circular is issued with the approval of the Competent Authority. The All Goa Secondary School Teachers Association, however, has voiced significant resistance to the planned reforms, which include extending school hours to 39 hours per week and starting the academic year in April rather than June.

In a press release, the Association stated, "We believe these changes will adversely impact students, teachers, and the overall education system in Goa."

## Goa govt makes APAAR ID mandatory

stakeholders including teachers, students and parents are informed and are aware of the same.

This Circular is issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.

The APAAR ID card is a digital identification system designed for students enrolled in private and government institutions nationwide. It provides a unique 12-digit APAAR number to

each student, digitally storing and managing their academic credentials such as degrees, scholarships, awards, and other achievements. APAAR ensures accountability and transparency in education by tracking student progress and streamlining academic records. It enhances efficiency, removes duplicity, minimizes fraud, and includes co-curricular achievements for holistic student development.



# Girish Karnad's 'Naagmandala' opens Goa chapter of Bharat Rang Mahotsav

■ CM Dr Pramod Sawant invites NSD to establish an institute in Goa

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** The National School of Drama (NSD) kicked off the Bharat Rang Mahotsav (BRM) in Goa with the acclaimed play 'Naagmandal', written by Girish Karnad, one of India's most influential playwrights, at Kala Academy, Panaji.

Chief Minister of Goa Dr Pramod Sawant was the chief guest at the Opening Ceremony. Inaugurating the international theatre festival, Dr Sawant said that he was more than delighted to have the NSD and the BRM 2025 in Goa.

"I believe a deeper collaboration between Goa and NSD would be immensely beneficial for the State and its artists. I invite them to consider establishing an institute in Goa, offering Goans and others access to their invaluable expertise. This celebration of art, theater, and culture is truly inspiring," the Chief Minister said.

"It's wonderful to see so many languages from across India given a platform and



reaching such a wide audience. I hope, in the future, to see Konkani represented among the voices celebrated at this prestigious festival," he said.

The featured play 'Naagmandal' left a profound impact on the audience. Performed by Satvik Art Society, Chandigarh, and directed by Amit Sanouria & Sarver Ali, the play beautifully explored the intricacies of love, marriage and societal struggles.

Shri Suneel Anchipaka, Secretary of Art & Culture, Goa; and Shri Sagun R. Velip, Director of Art

& Culture, Goa; were present at the Opening Ceremony. Prof. Bharat Gupta, Vice Chairman of the National School of Drama Society, presided over the event, while Shri Chittaranjan Tripathy, Director of the NSD, delivered the welcome address. The four-day festival, organized in collaboration with the Directorate of Art & Culture, Goa, will feature four plays including 'Naagmandal', at Kala Academy till February 1.

Fondly called 'Bharangam', BRM is the world's largest theatre festival. BRM 2025 is

being held under the theme 'Ek Rang, Shreshth Rang' (One Expression, Supreme Creation). Noted actor and NSD alumnus Shri Rajpal Yadav is the Rang Doot (Festival Ambassador) for this year. BRM 2025, which spans a period of 20 days, from January 28, 2025 to February 16, 2025, will feature more than 200 unique productions from nine different countries apart from India, showcased across 11 locations in India and two abroad, which are Kathmandu and Colombo.

Alongside the festival's epicenter in Delhi, the locations in India include Goa, Agartala, Ahmedabad, Bathinda, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Gorakhpur, Jaipur, Khairagarh and Ranchi. The international theatre groups participating in the festival are hailing from Russia, Italy, Germany, Norway, Czech Republic, Nepal, Taiwan, Spain, and Sri Lanka. Notably, the Bharat Rang Mahotsav coincides with the 65th Anniversary of the NSD, and the 60th Anniversary of the NSD Repertory Company.



## Assagao Union High School Celebrates Annual Day with Spectacular Performances

Team Goemkarponn

**ASSAGAO:** Assagao Union High School recently hosted its annual day with a dazzling display of talent and creativity. Ruldo D'Souza, Secretary of the Assagao Association, welcomed the gathering with a warm address.

The chief guest of the evening, Mr. Sanjay Divkar, The Deputy Education Officer at North Education Zone Mapusa in his address, emphasized the crucial role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the modern world. He highlighted the importance of equipping students with the necessary knowledge and skills to navigate this rapidly evolving field.

The guest also spoke about the significance of incorporating the latest learning software into the education system

to enhance the learning experience and make it more engaging and interactive.

Sanjay Divkar further emphasized the importance of the New Education Policy in fostering holistic development and creating a more inclusive and equitable education system. He also stressed the significance of incorporating outdoor games into the daily routine of students, emphasizing the importance of physical activity for both physical and mental well-being.

Mr Sanjay Divkar concluded his address with a heartfelt message to parents and teachers, urging him to treat every child with gentleness and understanding, recognizing their unique talents and avoiding comparisons that can negatively impact their self-esteem.

# Goa Tableaux displayed at Bharat Parv, Delhi

"Goan Artistes Enthral Delhities with Rich Cultural Traditions"

Team Goemkarponn

**PANAJI:** The Goa State Tableaux which was proudly presented at the 76th Republic Day parade held at Katravayapath, New Delhi is now displayed at the much awaited Bharat Parv amid cultural extravaganza organised by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India as part of Republic Day celebrations at the Red Fort, New Delhi.

Bharat Parv is organized to celebrate the spirit of India i.e Unity in Diversity and to generate patriotic fervour and to showcase the rich and varied cultural diversity of



the country. Thousands of people, particularly Delhities, are thronging at the venue. The Goa Tableaux has been evoking overwhelming response from the general public.

On January 27 a colorful Goan Folklore was presented at Bharat Parv by artists from

Goa led by Shri Dinesh Priolkar.

Goa tableau is presented on the theme "Swarnim Bharat, Virasat aur Vikas" (Golden India, Heritage, and Development), celebrated Goa's rich culture, musical heritage and progress through vibrant live performances

of music and dance. Conceptualized under the Department of Information and Publicity, Government of Goa, it was met with widespread applause and standing ovation from the spectators.

Well known artist from Ponda Goa Shri. Sushant Khedekar has conceptualized,

aesthetically designed and fabricated Goa tableaux will be displayed at Bharat Parv till January 31.

Apart from Goa State other States have displayed their tableaux in Bharat Parv, a mega event being held at the Lawns and Gyan Path in front of Red Fort.

It may be noted that Bharat Parv is being held in national capital since 2016 as part of the Republic Day Celebrations. The event includes a food festival, a Handicraft Mela, Folk and tribal dance performances, cultural troupe performances and the Illumination of the Red Fort among other things.

This year in addition to the display of Goa tableaux the State has set up a pavilion highlighting tourism related information to attract tourists and also a food stall to promote Goan cuisine at the national level under the Department of Tourism.



# Tito's IPO: Goa's Iconic Nightclub Eyes Market Debut With Rs 1,000 Crore Valuation

Brothers Ricardo and David D'Souza, involved in building Tito's as a marquee brand in Goa's tourism, are said to be working on the optimal strategy to unlock value through the IPO.

**PAANJIM:** In a significant move that is set to shake up India's hospitality sector, Tito's Resorts & Hospitalities, the iconic Goa-based nightlife brand, is preparing to make its debut on the stock market with an ambitious SME IPO. The company, valued at up to Rs 1,000 crore, is poised to dilute at least 30% of its equity, marking a pivotal moment in its growth trajectory.

Brothers Ricardo and David D'Souza, the visionary founders behind Tito's, are meticulously strategizing to unlock maximum value through this public offering. ICICI Securities has been finalized as one of the lead bankers for the issue, underscoring the seriousness and scale of



this financial endeavor.

Tito's Resorts & Hospitalities is on the cusp of a major milestone as it readies itself for an SME IPO debut, targeting a valuation of up to Rs 1,000 crore. This public offering will involve the dilution of at least 30% of the company's equity through a fresh issue of shares, with no immediate plans for an offer for sale.

This strategic move is designed to capitalize

on the current robust investor interest in India's hospitality sector, which is experiencing a post-pandemic resurgence in tourism and leisure spending. The D'Souza brothers, who founded Tito's in 1971, are at the helm of this IPO effort.

Their brand is synonymous with Goa's vibrant nightlife, particularly through the iconic Club Tito's and Cafe Mambo in

Baga. These venues have hosted numerous high-profile events, including the Femina Miss India auditions and the Sunburn After Party, cementing their status as premier entertainment destinations.

Despite selling 65% of Tito's Resorts to external investors in 2021, the D'Souza brothers retain full control over Tito's Spirits, the arm of the business that handles alcohol sales in Goa. This IPO is part of a broader strategy to expand and diversify the business, including potential ventures into real estate and software services, as well as exploring opportunities in the casino industry, both in Thailand and potentially in Goa.



## Consumer Welfare Club Inaugurated at PES's Ravi S. Naik Higher Secondary School, Farmagudi

**Ponda:** The Consumer Welfare Club (CWC) at PES's Ravi S. Naik Higher Secondary School in Farmagudi, Ponda, was inaugurated today by Dr. Gaurav Gopal Naik, Assistant Director of Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Ponda Taluka.

Dr. Naik took the opportunity to enlighten students about their consumer rights and responsibilities. During his talk, he explained various consumer rights, the role of the Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, and the importance of being informed consumers.

In addition to the

informative session, the event also featured competitions in poster making and essay writing.

These activities encouraged students to creatively express their understanding of consumer welfare. Prizes were awarded to the winners of these competitions. The event was coordinated by Principal Smt. Gayatri Kanekar and CWC Coordinator Ms. Pooja Palyekar. The inauguration marks the beginning of an initiative aimed at fostering awareness and empowering students in matters of consumer rights and protection.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

## VVIP Passes Cancelled, No Vehicles: Key Changes After Maha Kumbh Stampede

estimated to be around 10 crore on that single day, overwhelmed the existing infrastructure and crowd control measures. To address these issues, the entire Maha Kumbh fair area has been declared a No-Vehicle Zone, effectively banning the entry of all types of vehicles. Additionally, all VVIP passes that allowed vehicle entry have been canceled, eliminating any

exceptions. A one-way traffic system has been enforced to streamline the movement of devotees, and vehicles arriving from neighboring districts are being stopped at district borders to reduce congestion. The entry of four-wheelers into Prayagraj has been completely banned until February 4 to maintain order and prevent further incidents.

## 19 Dead As American Airlines Plane Collides With Helicopter Midair In Washington

of American Airlines Flight 5342, has triggered a massive and urgent rescue operation. So far, the efforts have yielded the recovery of 19 bodies, and all flight operations at the airport have been halted. The freezing water temperatures of the Potomac River have significantly complicated the rescue efforts, posing a critical challenge for emergency responders.

American Airlines Flight 5342, a Bombardier CRJ-701 twin-engine jet, was on its final approach to Reagan National Airport when it collided with a Black Hawk helicopter. The plane, which was carrying 64 people including passengers and crew members, was at an altitude of approximately 400 feet and traveling at a speed of 140 miles per hour. The helicopter, with three people on board, was also in the vicinity, leading to the catastrophic midair collision.

The incident unfolded as air traffic controllers directed the plane to land on the shorter Runway 33. Just moments before the collision, controllers instructed the helicopter to pass behind the CRJ.

## Vengurla Tourists Brutally Beaten at Arambol Over Public Drinking

primary health centre in Tuem for treatment, but due to the severity of their injuries, they were later shifted to the district hospital in Mapusa. As their condition required further medical attention, they were eventually moved to the Goa Medical College Hospital in Bambolim late in the night. The incident came to light when the Mandrem police rushed to the scene and conducted a preliminary investigation. It was revealed that the tourists were consuming alcohol in a public area at Bhoma, Palyem, which led to a verbal altercation with the locals. The situation escalated into a physical brawl, resulting in the tourists being brutally beaten. The police have confirmed that four individuals were seriously injured in the assault. The Mandrem police are currently investigating the incident and gathering more details. The incident comes a couple of days after a local was brutally murdered at a beach shack.

## Nirmala Sitharaman To Make History With 8th Consecutive Budget

This will take Nirmala Sitharaman closer to the record of 10 budgets that were presented by former Prime Minister Morarji Desai over different time periods.

**New Delhi:** On February 1, 2025, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present her eighth consecutive Union Budget, a milestone that cements her position as one of the most prolific finance ministers in Indian history. This presentation not only marks her eighth straight budget under the same prime minister, Narendra Modi, but also brings her closer to the record of 10 budgets held by former Prime Minister Morarji Desai.

Sitharaman's tenure as India's first full-time woman finance minister, which began in 2019, has been characterized by significant economic policies and presentations. Her budgets have been instrumental in shaping India's economic journey, introducing bold reforms and targeted policies aimed at driving inclusive growth.

The Union Budget 2025 is expected to



address the current economic slowdown and the financial strain on the middle class. India's economic growth rate for the fiscal year 2024-2025 is estimated to be between 6.5% and 6.8%, a figure that, although lower than previous projections, still reflects resilience in certain sectors such as rural consumption and the services industry.

The budget is anticipated to include measures to boost economic growth, simplify taxes, and increase capital spending. This approach aims to make

taxes more manageable for everyone and invest more in infrastructure to support economic growth. Key industry demands, including those from the gold, paint, and crypto sectors, are also expected to be addressed.

For instance, the gold market is concerned about potential hikes in import duties, while the paint industry seeks reduced import duties and government support for R&D and exports. The crypto sector is calling for a clearer regulatory framework and tax reductions.



# Government Convenes All-Party Meet Ahead Of Budget Session

■ The session commences on Friday with the address of the president to the joint sitting of the two Houses.

**New Delhi:** In a precursor to the highly anticipated Budget session of Parliament, the government convened an all-party meeting on Thursday, setting the stage for a collaborative and potentially contentious legislative period. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh chaired the meeting, which aimed to outline the government's legislative agenda and solicit inputs from various political parties.

The gathering included a diverse array of leaders, underscoring the government's effort to foster a cooperative environment for the upcoming session.

The all-party meeting, held at the Parliament Annexe building in New Delhi, brought together floor leaders from all political parties to discuss the government's priorities and the issues that



opposition parties intend to raise. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, along with other Union Ministers such as Kiren Rijiju, JP Nadda, Arjun Ram Meghwal, and L Murugan, led the discussions.

The Budget session of Parliament is scheduled to commence on Friday, January 31, with President Droupadi Murmu addressing the joint sitting of both Houses. This address marks the beginning of the first part of the session, which will

run until February 13. The Union Budget, a pivotal event in the session, will be presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1. The session will then break for an inter-session recess, resuming on March 10 to discuss the demands for grants of various ministries and complete the budgetary process. The entire session is slated to conclude on April 4, encompassing a total of 27 sittings.

Prominent leaders attending the meeting included BJP president and Union Minister JP Nadda, Congress leaders Gaurav Gogoi and Jairam Ramesh, DMK's T R Baalu, and TMC's Sudip Bandhyopadhyay and Derek O'Brien.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju was also present, emphasizing the government's hope for smooth and cooperative discussions during the session.

The meeting served as a platform for the government to inform parties about its legislative agenda and for opposition parties to highlight the issues they plan to raise, such as the economic slowdown, price rise, and unemployment. This collaborative approach is crucial for ensuring the smooth functioning of Parliament during the Budget session.



## EC Demands 'Factual Evidence' From Kejriwal Over Yamuna Poisoning Remark

**AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal accused the Haryana government of deliberately poisoning the Yamuna River to create chaos and shift blame on the AAP government**

**New Delhi:** In a dramatic escalation of a pre-election controversy, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal has been at the center of a storm after accusing the Haryana government of deliberately poisoning the Yamuna River.

This allegation, made just ahead of the Delhi assembly elections, has sparked a fierce backlash from both the Haryana government and the Election Commission of India (ECI).

The controversy began when Kejriwal alleged that the Haryana government, led by the BJP, had mixed

poison in the Yamuna water supplied to Delhi, a claim that could have severe implications for public health and interstate relations.

The ECI has swiftly responded, demanding that Kejriwal provide factual evidence to support his allegations. Meanwhile, the Haryana government has announced plans to file a case against Kejriwal for spreading misinformation and creating panic among the people of Delhi and Haryana. This dispute highlights the longstanding and critical issue of water quality and pollution in the Yamuna River.

## Anti-India Propaganda, Threat Sent To Rajnath Singh's Residence: Govt Exposes Pannun's SFJ

**India's government revealed that Sikh For Justice (SFJ), led by Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, faces 104 cases for unlawful activities, including anti-India propaganda and terrorism.**

**New Delhi:** In a significant move to counter separatist activities, the Indian government has reinforced its stance against the pro-Khalistan group, Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), led by Gurpatwant Singh Pannun. The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal has upheld a 5-year ban on SFJ, citing its persistent engagement in subversive activities that threaten India's internal security.

A recent incident highlighted the gravity of SFJ's actions when a pre-recorded threat was sent to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's residence, warning of bombings and targeting the children of Indian officials studying abroad. This incident is just one of many that underscore the organization's dangerous



agenda.

The tribunal, led by Justice Anoop Kumar Mendiratta, confirmed the 5-year ban on SFJ, which was initially imposed by the Ministry of Home Affairs in July last year.

This decision was based on extensive evidence of SFJ's involvement in recruiting youth through social media, financing terrorism through smuggling networks, and procuring weapons and explosives to further its separatist goals.

## GBS Outbreak: Maharashtra Records Second Death After A Woman Passed Away In Pune

■ The Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) has reserved 40 hospital beds, including 10 with ventilators, for treatment of GBS cases.

**Pune:** In a grim turn of events, a woman in Pune has succumbed to Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS), marking the second death in Maharashtra due to this rare neurological disorder. This tragedy comes as the city grapples with an alarming surge in GBS cases, with 127 people affected, the highest number in the state.

The Pune Municipal

Corporation (PMC) has swiftly responded to the crisis by reserving 40 hospital beds, including 10 equipped with ventilators, at the Kamala Nehru Hospital to treat GBS patients. This move is crucial given that the first death from GBS was reported earlier this month in Solapur, with the deceased believed to have contracted the infection in



Pune.

The suspected GBS case that led to the recent death was hospitalized on January 9, highlighting the rapid progression of the disease. The outbreak in Pune has been

particularly severe, with cases escalating rapidly since the cluster formed on January 9. As of now, 17 patients are on ventilator support, while seven have been discharged after recovery. GBS is a mysterious condition whose exact causes are still unknown, but it is often triggered by respiratory or gastrointestinal infections, or even the Zika virus.

## Kejriwal Says Haryana Chief Minister "Spat Out" Yamuna Water, BJP Responds

**Arvind Kejriwal has claimed that the Haryana government had mixed poison in the water coming to Delhi from the Yamuna River.**

**New Delhi:** In a dramatic escalation of the water dispute between Delhi and Haryana, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief Arvind Kejriwal has accused Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini of pretending to drink water

from the Yamuna River, only to spit it out. This allegation has sparked a heated political row, particularly as the Delhi assembly elections approach on February 5, 2025.

The controversy began



when Kejriwal alleged that the Haryana government had contaminated the

Yamuna water supplied to Delhi, posing a significant health risk to its residents.



# "Pakistan Struggles to Meet Stadium Renovation Deadline for Champions Trophy 2025"

■ The PCB has to complete all renovation work in Champions Trophy stadiums by January 31.

**New Delhi:** With the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 just around the corner, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is under intense scrutiny as it races against time to complete the renovation of cricket stadiums in Lahore, Karachi, and Rawalpindi. Despite assurances from the PCB, the slow progress of the renovation work has raised significant concerns about the readiness of these venues.

The PCB has a tight deadline of January 31 to finish all renovation work, a task that now seems almost impossible to achieve. The stadiums, which are also scheduled to host a four-match tri-series featuring New Zealand and South Africa from February 8 to 14,



are still far from being ready. This additional commitment has amplified the pressure on the PCB to deliver.

The renovation work at the stadiums in Lahore, Karachi, and Rawalpindi is significantly behind schedule. Karachi's National Stadium, in particular, is facing substantial setbacks due to delays in equipment delivery and clearance

processes. Bilal Chohan, overseeing the renovations in Karachi, has expressed frustration over the delays, highlighting the late release of essential panels from the Karachi Port, which has further hindered the progress. The PCB has invested a substantial amount of approximately PKR 12 billion in the renovation and installation of modern

facilities across the three stadiums. However, despite this massive investment, the pace of work remains a major concern. PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi has reassured the public that the Champions Trophy will proceed as planned, but the ground reality tells a different story. The logistical challenges, including labor shortages and security issues, have compounded the problems. The ICC, meanwhile, has begun ticket sales for the Pakistan leg of the Champions Trophy, despite the unfinished renovation work. This move has added to the anxiety, as fans are left wondering if the promised 'world-class experience' will be delivered.

## India Sets Sights on 2036 Olympics, Emphasizing Holistic Sports Development

The track and field legend highlighted the improvements the country would witness in addition to the increased level of sporting quality, such as the exchange of culture and the promotion of the true spirit of sports if the nation could manage to successfully bring the 2036 edition of the Olympics to India.

**New Delhi:** In a significant move to bolster its bid for the 2036 Olympics, India is underscored its commitment to a holistic approach to sports development, extending beyond the realm of competitive sports. At the 1st International Olympic Research Conference, Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President PT Usha highlighted the nation's aspirations to host the prestigious event and the broader societal impact it could bring.

The conference, which brought together experts from diverse fields, served as a platform to showcase India's readiness and determination to host the Olympics. PT Usha and IOA Vice-President Ajay Patel were among the key speakers, emphasizing



the crucial role of research and innovation in India's sporting ambitions. This gathering sent a powerful message to the international sporting community about India's dedication to contributing meaningfully to the global Olympic movement.

**Main Body**  
PT Usha stressed that India's engagement with the Olympic movement transcends mere competitive sports, aiming to promote peace, education, and cultural exchange.

## Natasha Palha Soares Plays at Gadre Gaspar Dias Open 2025

### Team Goemkarponn

**Panaji:** Indian tennis icon Natasha Palha Soares showcased her prowess on the court at the ongoing Gadre Gaspar Dias Open 2025 with a score of 6-0 against Janavi Sawadia in the Open Ladies Singles category. The tournament is currently taking place at the Clube Tennis de Gaspar Dias courts in Miramar.

Natasha, who has been on a hiatus from playing competitively since 2020 and founded a tennis coaching academy, played a deft game, besting Janavi and moving on to the next round in the category. The Open Ladies Singles category also witnessed thrilling showdowns, with Atika Gaur trouncing Ishani Tagare 6-2, and Anupama defeating Tanya Shelyazhynska-Caldeira 6-3. In the Open Men's Singles



category, Round 3 saw Husen vanquish Shaurya Awasthi 6-0, Siddharth Nunes beat Shreyas Patil 6-2, and Jay Pawar and Aryan Kotasthane defeat Sudhanshu Bondre and Aaditya Lahori, respectively, with a score of 6-1. The pre-quarterfinals in the same category followed, with Nishad Shevde and Ashley De Sa defeating Anil Kumar and Raviteja Damera, respectively, with a score of 6-0, Mano

Chhabra overpowering Omkar Islampur 6-1, Vishal beating Rushikesh Barave 6-3 and Sagar Kumar overcoming Jay Pawar 7-6.

Two rounds of the Open Mixed Doubles category have taken place so far. In Round 1, Prapthi Shetty/Rahul Kishore Ubrangala overpowered Lianne Ribeiro D'Souza/Eugene D'Souza 6-0, Poojal Naik/Pankaj Nanoskar trounced Hazel Fernandes/Wilfred Mascarenhas 6-2.

## Sao Jose de Areal Advances to Quarterfinals with 1-0 Win

### Team Goemkarponn

**Margao:** In a tightly contested match, Sao Jose de Areal secured a crucial 1-0 victory over Parish Youth Nuvm, advancing to the quarterfinals of the 1st Vauradencho Ixtt Trophy 2025. The decisive goal came in the 48th minute, courtesy of David Colaco, which sealed the fate of Parish Youth Nuvm.

The game, organized by Batora United Curtorim in association with Margao Sports Club, was held at the DSYA ground in Curtorim on Wednesday.

The match was a testament to the competitive spirit of both teams, with several close calls and missed opportunities. Early in the game, Niclau Colaco of Parish Youth Nuvm initiated a promising attack with a long-range pass to Shubert Colaco, who fired a shot that hit the crossbar in the 10th minute. This



near-miss set the tone for a match where both teams struggled to find the back of the net.

As the first half progressed, Alvito Moura of Sao Jose de Areal had a golden opportunity just before halftime, but his shot narrowly missed the target, leaving the score at 0-0 at the break. The second half saw increased intensity as both teams sought to break the deadlock. Shedroy Colaco of Parish Youth Nuvm created a scoring chance for Drawin Colaco in the 34th minute, but he failed to capitalize on it.

The turning point came in the 48th minute when

David Colaco of Sao Jose de Areal scored the winning goal, ensuring his team's place in the quarterfinals. Daryl Costa of Sao Jose de Areal was recognized for his outstanding performance, receiving the man of the match award from chief guest Joaquim Gunja. The award ceremony was also attended by Roque Carneiro and Frankly Rebello. This victory marks a significant milestone for Sao Jose de Areal as they move forward in the tournament, while Parish Youth Nuvm's journey in the 1st Vauradencho Ixtt Trophy 2025 comes to an end.