



Electricity Dept sets 10-Day Deadline for Companies to Clear Cables from Poles

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Electricity Department has given a 10-day ultimatum to companies across Goa, demanding remove their cables from electricity poles across the state.

"The illegal cables, OFC and other illegal infrastructure on Electricity Poles are without valid permissions and without any survey or without obtaining stability certificate from

this Authority," said EE Kashinath Shetye.

He further said that as per the order of the High Court of Bombay at Gon dated 22.01.2025 In Civil Application No 183 of 2025(F) in Writ Petition no 296 of 2022, the facility providers were supposed to make applications to Electricity Department under the Telecommunication (Right of way) Rules 2024.

"This Authority has not received any application



from any license holder to undertake a survey in respect of underground or overground

telecommunication or cable network nor received any application regarding application for establishment of underground or overground telecommunication/ cable network," he added.

It is seen that structural stability certificate of the pole herein called as "Furniture for laying and maintenance of the telecommunication and cable network is not

CONTD TO PAGE 04..



2 chargesheets filed against Suleiman Siddique by SIT Land Grab

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: SIT Land Grab today has files chargesheets against notorious criminal Suleiman alias Siddique Khan in 2 land grab cases.

As per information, the 852 paged chargesheet filed before Mapusa JMFC Court against him for allegedly grabbing plot in Mapusa and another 656 page chargesheet has been filed before Valpoi JMFC Court for allegedly grabbing plots in Tiswadi.

Police claim that Siddiqui has been avoiding arrest for the past five years by frequently changing his clothes and disguising himself as a woman in order to elude the harsh grip of the law.

The accused, along with his associates, is alleged to have forged sale deeds and signatures, falsely showing them as 'executed' before the sub-registrar in Valpoi. He used the same as genuine ones, the police said.

Siddiqui, a 54-year-old Hubli native who now lives in Thivim, was wanted in a land fraud case for allegedly illegally transferring a plot in Ekta Nagar into his name and erecting buildings without the necessary permits. Last month, Mapusa Municipality bulldozed the buildings.

In addition to installing barbed wire fencing and unlawfully erecting two concrete structures and a metal shed on the site without the necessary authority's consent, Siddiqui was arrested for unlawfully obtaining the property surveyed under PT sheet No.67 chalta No.2, Ekta Nagar, Mapusa.

On Tuesday, November 11, he was taken into custody and brought before JMFC Mapusa, who placed him under detention in police custody for nine days.

After evading arrest for more than four years, the SIT successfully tracked Khan to Hubballi

CONTD TO PAGE 04..

Goa falling short in green power generation: Dhavalikar

■ Says Goa has not able to achieve any targets on solar energy so far

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Power Minister Ramakrishna Dhavalikar today slammed his own department over State's failure to meet the green energy target for Goa.

Addressing the gathering at the training Program under PM Surya Ghar:Muft Bijlee Yojana, Dhavalikar pointed out how Goa aimed to achieve



150MW of solar power by 2020 but failed to do so and even now it has not reach even 1MW for the current financial year as against set target of 10MW.



In keeping with Prime Minister Modi's goal of producing 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030, Dhavalikar underlined the need of reaching renewable

energy targets.

Dhavalikar said that progress is being hampered by delays in processing solar applications under the rooftop plan. He emphasized that in order to guarantee that every household has access to clean, green energy, these delays must stop.

"I've given authorities **CONTD TO PAGE 04..**

Amit Shah's Fresh Dig At AAP's Manish Sisodia Before Delhi Polls: 'He Only Opened Liquor Shops'

■ Amit Shah said Manish Sisodia was the only Education Minister in the country who went to jail in for a liquor scam

New Delhi: As the Delhi Assembly elections approach, Union Home Minister and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Amit Shah delivered a blistering attack on Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders during an election rally in Jangpura, marking the final day of campaigning. Shah's remarks were aimed squarely at AAP's Manish Sisodia and Arvind Kejriwal, highlighting what he termed as their failures



and corruption. Shah accused Manish Sisodia, the former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister, of achieving nothing substantial in his 10-year tenure except for the controversial opening

of liquor shops near schools and temples. He emphasized that Sisodia is the only education minister in the country to have been jailed in a liquor scam. Sisodia, who is now contesting from the Jangpura Assembly seat after leaving his previous constituency of Patparganj, was criticized for allegedly deceiving the people of Patparganj and making false promises in his new

CONTD TO PAGE 04..

High-Octane Campaigning For Delhi Polls To End Today, BJP, AAP, Congress Make Final Push

■ The fiercely contested electoral battle has been defined by an unprecedented use of AI-generated spoofs, sharp political jibes, and high-decibel roadshows.

New Delhi: As the sun sets on February 3, 2025, the high-voltage campaigning for the Delhi Assembly polls will come to an end, marking the beginning of a 48-hour silence period before the voters head to the polls on February 5. This intense electoral battle has seen the Bharatiya Janata Party



(BJP), the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), and the Congress party engage

in a fierce contest, each making a final push to

CONTD TO PAGE 04..

Middle-Class Will Definitely Benefit from Budget 2025

“The past ten years under Modi’s government have marked a departure from the norms of economic policy that previously restrained growth. Whether one can pinpoint a singular “big” budget in Modi’s tenure is subjective, but the growth trajectory of the Indian economy speaks volumes. Today, India stands as not only the world’s fastest-growing economy but also a resilient participant in global markets, continuing to thrive amid various economic headwinds. This newfound stability and growth create an environment in which the middle class can finally breathe easier, knowing they are recognized and prioritized.”

The Union Budget 2025, presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, stands as a pivotal moment for the middle class in India. While it may not have specifically catered to regions like Goa, its overarching impact on the nation highlights a progressive shift catering to the hopes and aspirations of everyday citizens.

Budget 2025 is significant not just in its numerical allocations but in the broader narrative

it encapsulates. Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s administration has consistently shifted away from the traditional, high-tax regime characteristic of previous decades under the United Progressive Alliance. This movement away from excessive taxation, which stemmed from the Nehruvian socialist framework, is a landmark development that is well-received by the middle class. Historically burdened with high tax rates, this demographic can finally begin to enjoy

the fruits of their labor without the government’s hefty slice — evidence lies in the announced windfall tax break exceeding Rs 1 lakh crore, representing about 3.5% of the budget.

The past ten years under Modi’s government have marked a departure from the norms of economic policy that previously restrained growth. Whether one can pinpoint a singular “big” budget in Modi’s tenure is subjective, but the growth trajectory of the Indian economy speaks volumes. Today, India stands as not only the world’s fastest-growing economy but also a resilient participant in global markets, continuing to thrive amid various economic headwinds. This newfound stability and growth create an environment in which the middle class can finally breathe easier, knowing they are recognized and prioritized.

Furthermore, businesses stand to gain as well. The forthcoming introduction of a simpler tax code is heralded as a breakthrough, designed to streamline the complexities

that have historically hindered entrepreneurial aspirations. The government’s commitment to ongoing deregulation promises an ecosystem where businesses, especially startups, can flourish. Empowering entrepreneurs feeds into the larger narrative of economic expansion, which ultimately benefits consumers and workers alike.

Additionally, the agricultural sector will see noteworthy enhancements thanks to the increase in loan ceilings, which rise from Rs 2 lakhs to Rs 5 lakhs. Farmers, often pressed for financial resources, will now have greater access to funds, allowing them to invest in equipment, expand their operations, or weather lean periods. This commitment to agricultural development reflects the government’s understanding of the foundation that farming provides to India’s economy and rural livelihoods.

One of the most heartening aspects of this budget is the focus on healthcare. Significant steps have been taken

to reduce the prices of cancer drugs, making them more accessible to the average citizen. Establishment of cancer treatment centers across district hospitals is a forward-thinking initiative that aims to provide essential health services to previously underserved populations, demonstrating a holistic approach to governance that prioritizes health as a pillar of economic well-being.

In conclusion, while Budget 2025 may not have resonated with specific regional agendas, it indeed lays forth a comprehensive structure that promises substantial benefits for the middle class and beyond. Through tax relief, support for businesses, enhanced agricultural financing, and strides in health care, the budget symbolizes a turning point that reaffirms the government’s commitment to the average Indian citizen. The future looks robust, and there’s a palpable sense of optimism in realizing that the aspirations of the middle class are finally being acknowledged and supported.

Two-wheeler rider dies after crashing into bus

Team Goemkarponn

BAGA: A 25-year-old man named Dhurba Jyoti lost his life in a sad tragedy that happened in Calangute on Saturday morning. Around 8.30 am, he lost control of his motorcycle while traveling along the beach and crashed into a nearby passenger bus at Baga Circle.

At the time of the event, Pramod Kandolkar’s bus was turning onto the main road in the direction of the bus stand.

Even though Dhurba Jyoti was sent to the Candolim Primary Health Center immediately, he passed away from his serious injuries



while traveling there and was pronounced dead. Since then, his body has been moved to GMC, Bambolim’s morgue.

To find out the specifics of the incident, the police are presently investigating, which includes a panchanama of the accident scene.

Assonora panch member dies in self-accident

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: Nilesh Naik, a member of the Assonora Panchayat, tragically died on Sunday night in a self-accident.

On his Bullet motorcycle, Naik, who represented Ward 7 of the Assonora Panchayat, was involved in the fatal accident while riding home from Sirsaim.

Police investigations state that the collision happened at approximately 5 p.m. while Naik was traveling to Assonora.

According to reports, he lost control of his bike and collided with his home’s cement compound wall. The motorcycle sustained considerable damage from the incident, including a twisted front tire, a shattered



front headlight, and a broken shock absorber tube.

Naik was immediately rushed to the district hospital, where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

Police performed a panchanama after the event, and the body was subsequently sent to Goa Medical College and Hospital in Bambolim for additional

treatment.

Sources revealed that Naik had attended a gram sabha meeting earlier in the day. Upon learning about the accident, panchayat members and family members rushed to the hospital. The Colvale police have registered the case and are conducting further investigations into the incident.

SHOCKING! Two toddlers drown after falling into Salaulim canal



HSRP fitment mandatory in Goa

Team Goemkarponn

CURCHOREM: Two toddlers tragically died in the Salaulim canal in Betmoddi-Bonsai, Curchorem, on Saturday afternoon. The children were playing when they went about 50 meters from their rental home and fell into the canal, according to the Curchorem police.

Rehan Sadik Shrittey, a 15-month-old Karnataka native, and Wajid Ashpak Hashmi, an 18-month-old Uttar Pradesh native, have been identified as the victims. The children were taken around two kilometers from the scene of the incident after falling into the river.

Luckily, a few locals spotted them and were able to pull both kids out of the water. Soon after they left the region, their family learned of their



abduction, which sparked a desperate search that finally found the kids in the canal.

According to police, one body was discovered about 12:30 pm, and the second one was discovered not long after. After being taken to the Curchorem health center, both youngsters were tragically pronounced dead.

The two children lived in a leased room close to Betmoddi-Bonsai, Curchorem, and were from separate

households. The mothers of both victims were frequent visitors to the canal, where families renting apartments frequently laundered their clothes, according to the Curchorem.

About 11 families have been residing in the region for a few months, according to the police, and the majority of the men work as laborers in Curchorem. The ladies were at home on the day of the incident, while their husbands were at work.

After hearing the news,

the fathers of the departed children, who had been laborers in Verna, went back to their homes. The two youngsters fell into the canal after wandering 50 meters from their rented room while playing with eight other kids earlier that morning. The children chose to approach the canal from the front because they were unable to scale the wall in the rear of the rented property, which is barely 30 meters from the canal, according to the police.

Children may have unintentionally fallen into the water, according to authorities. At Betmaddi, a bystander noticed the kids floating in the canal and informed the nearby people. Both children's bodies were recovered and transferred to the hospital, where medical staff pronounced them dead.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Directorate of Transport has threatened severe action, including fines in accordance with the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, for car owners who have failed to comply with the otherwise necessary High Security Registration Plates (HSRP).

As part of the pan-India campaign, the HSRP rule, which has been in existence for more than five years, was implemented to deter auto theft and encourage uniformity.

Director of Transport Pravimal Abhishek said in a public notice released on Saturday that RTO officers discovered that a number of vehicle owners had not yet complied with this requirement during field inspections. They are therefore instructed to guarantee HSRP fitment

as soon as possible, with the option to have it completed by any licensed dealer.

"The department has permitted car dealers to do the HSRP affixation in order to expedite this process. The Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers' official website, www.siam.in, is where orders for HSRP can be placed.

The notification reads, "Strict action, including penalties as prescribed under the applicable provisions of law, shall be taken in the event that this directive is not followed."

The transport department reports that more than 40% of vehicles still do not follow the instructions. According to the official, they have now let car owners to select any licensed dealer for the retrofit in order to speed up the installation of HSRP.

Goa based employee cheated of Rs 93.2 lakh via WhatsApp

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: In a significant development, Goa's Cyber Crime Police have detained a cybercriminal who defrauded an employee of Rs 93.21 lakh by posing as the chairman of a private limited business situated in Goa.

After an inquiry, the accused, Nahim Mukarram Khan, 19, of Faridabad, Haryana, was taken into custody. Three bank accounts totaling Rs 71 lakh that were connected to the crime have been frozen by authorities.

The situation was brought to light after the firm's Deputy General Manager (Accounts) filed a complaint alleging that an unidentified person impersonated the chairman of the company using two WhatsApp numbers between December 3 and December 5 of last year.

Through WhatsApp, the accused persuaded the complainant to transfer a total of Rs 93.21 lakh into many



bank accounts by claiming to be at an urgent meeting.

The cops discovered a primary bank account in Nahim Khan's name that had received Rs 35.60 lakh after following the money trail. After being located in Faridabad, Haryana, via technical monitoring, Khan was taken into custody by a squad from the Cyber Crime Police Station.

Khan has been charged under Sections 66-C and 66-D of the Information Technology Act, as well as Sections 318(4), 319(2) read with 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Investigations are still underway, and he has been placed under custody.

Cybercrime authorities were able to freeze Rs 33 lakh in the accused's bank account in order to retrieve the fraudulent monies.

Overseas Job Scam: Victim loses Rs 1.51 lakh

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: A job seeker in Bahrain lost Rs 1.51 lakh over the course of two months after falling for false employment promises in yet another instance of an overseas job scam.

Cell SP for Cybercrime According to Rahul Gupta, the victim was looking for work in December 2024 when she was directed to a person who claimed to be hiring for a Bahraini auto company.

She had a recognized acquaintance who made the recommendation.

According to the case records, she was given a Sales Consultant post with a monthly pay of Rs 90,000 and company-provided housing after contacting the alleged recruiter. She went ahead and filled out the application.

The scam started when

she was requested to pay Rs 80,000 for a number of employment-related

documents, such as a registration bill, LRMA registration certificate, CPR card in the company, insurance, and medical costs.

The scammer requested more money after the initial payment was made in order to book tickets and finalize the visa.



EMPLOYMENT SCAM

Young Labourer Dies in Tragic Accident at Vasco Railway Construction Site

Team Goemkarponn

SHANTINAGAR: A tragic accident at a railway construction site near Shantinagar, Vasco, claimed the life of a 19-year-old labourer on Friday. The deceased, identified as Lalsun Ali, lost his life in a horrific mishap involving an Ajax mixer truck.

According to Vasco police, the incident occurred behind Kabrastan, where concrete mixing work was in

progress. Construction materials, including metal stones, sand, and cement, were dumped at the site, and an Ajax mixer truck was being used for mixing.

During the investigation, it was revealed that the mixer truck's bucket was damaging cement bags kept near the metal stone heap. In an attempt to move the cement bags aside, Ali reportedly slipped on the heap and accidentally came under the bucket. The sharp edge of the bucket caused



a fatal injury, decapitating him on the spot.

Police officials arrived promptly at the scene and conducted a spot inspection. A Scene of Unnatural Death (UD) Occurrence Panchanama was drawn, followed by an inquest Panchanama. The deceased's body

was sent for post-mortem examination at SGDH Margao, where the police surgeon confirmed the cause of death as "exsanguination and traumatic transection of the cervical spinal cord due to decapitation."

Following the post-mortem, the body was handed over to the family for the final rites. Vasco police have registered a case of unnatural death under Section 194 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

No Link Between IPSCDL Works and Water Pipeline Burst at Bhatlem: IPSCDL

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: In a recent clarification, the Panaji Smart City Development Ltd. (IPSCDL) has stated that the water pipeline burst at Bhatlem, which resulted in significant water wastage and temporary flooding in low-lying areas, was not caused by any Smart City-related works. The incident occurred on February 2, 2025, in the Dhanlaxmi Colony area of Bhatlem, on the outskirts of Panaji.

According to IPSCDL, the water pipeline burst was due to an internal pipeline end cap breakage within Dhanlaxmi Colony. This breakage was an isolated event and not



related to any activities undertaken by IPSCDL in the area.

The authorities have emphasized that no Smart City development works were being conducted in the affected zone, thereby ruling out any connection between the pipeline

burst and the Smart City initiatives.

The burst pipeline led to water flooding into dozens of homes in the low-lying area, causing significant distress to the residents. The flooding resulted in the destruction of

appliances and furniture, prompting residents to demand compensation for the damages incurred. Despite the clarification from IPSCDL, the community remains outraged over the negligence that led to the incident.

Residents of Bhatlem have expressed their frustration and disappointment over the lack of immediate response from the authorities. The community is seeking prompt action and compensation for the losses suffered due to the flooding. The incident has highlighted the need for better maintenance and oversight of the water infrastructure in the area.



CM Pramod Sawant met & interacted with Union Minister of Commerce & Industries Piyush Goyal at New Delhi.

Budget 2025-26 reaffirms govt's commitment to Tourism sector: Min Khaunte

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: While welcoming the Union Budget 2025-26, the Tourism Minister Rohan it reaffirms the Government of India's commitment to tourism as a key driver of employment and economic growth.

He said that Goa stands to benefit immensely from the focus on skill development, MUDRA loans for homestays, and improved tourism infrastructure for key destinations.

"The Budget's emphasis on spiritual and wellness tourism aligns with Goa's strengths, while enhanced connectivity and streamlined e-visa facilities will further boost international arrivals," said Khaunte.

He also said that the government remains committed to working with all stakeholders to make Goa a global tourism



leader.

Additionally, Khaunte said that the announcements related to the IT sector are promising.

"The focus on digital infrastructure, skill training in emerging technologies, and incentives for startups will create new opportunities for India's and Goa's youth and entrepreneurs," he added.

The Minister said that strengthening digital connectivity will further enhance India's appeal as a hub for remote work and innovation-driven enterprises which will greatly benefit Goa too.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

Electricity Dept sets 10-Day Deadline for Companies to Clear Cables from Poles

obtained and the stringing of the overground cables and OFC is without permission and without following safety measures in an up-hazard manner.

Kashinath Jairam Shetye, being the Nodal Officer For Land Acquisition and Property Management Under section Section (18) Right to seek removal of the Telecommunications (Right of Way) Rules, 2024 by the facility providers, have been put to notice to remove all

illegal cables and infrastructure from the electricity poles and other electricity "Furniture" within 10 days from the date of this notice.

"From the expiry of 10 days the JE AE/EE of Electricity Department having jurisdiction over the area will clear all such illegal cables and infrastructure from the electricity Poles as its against Public interest and in safety of public at large," the order states.

Goa falling short in green power generation: Dhavalikar

seven days to process Surya Ghar applications. In order to fully benefit from renewable energy, Goa needs to act more quickly," he continued.

Furthermore, the government has started reviewing applications for the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana's Free Solar Rooftop Scheme. After reviewing more than 3,500 forms, individuals who meet the requirements will be sent a "letter of offer." "In the next two days, our officers will receive training on how to inspect and address the needs across Talukas in Goa,"

Dhavalikar continued. Along with PM Modi's emphasis on reaching 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030, the Minister also highlighted the country's energy policy. India will produce 1000 GW of electricity by 2030, with nuclear and renewable energy sources being essential. Every home, particularly in Goa, needs to be involved in this change as it is part of the Prime Minister's vision. The government is providing incentives to promote the use of electric vehicles (EVs) in addition to solar energy. Dhavalikar noted

that EV tariff reductions and rebates will increase the public's access to and affordability of clean energy transportation. The significance of sustainable energy practices was also emphasized by Dr. Tripura Thakur, Director of the National Power Training Institute (NPTI). "Everything costs money, and it's critical to recognize the value of electricity. Freebies will be eliminated with the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijlee Yojana, and electricity shouldn't be politicized. We must advance the cause of sustainability.

2 chargesheets filed against Suleiman Siddique by SIT Land Grab

in Karnataka, where he was apprehended earlier this month in relation to three separate land fraud cases. Khan had been declared a proclaimed offender in two cases filed with the Anjuna and Mapusa police stations.

The police alleged that he is involved in at least 15 criminal cases in Goa, Delhi, Pune, and Hyderabad.

The accused had been on the run since August 2020, the police said.

High-Octane Campaigning For Delhi Polls To End Today, BJP, AAP, Congress Make Final Push

sway the electorate. The BJP, determined to reclaim power in Delhi after more than 25 years, has organized 22 roadshows and rallies across the city on the final day of campaigning. This aggressive strategy is part of the BJP's broader effort to challenge the AAP's dominance, which has been unyielding since 2015. The AAP, on the other hand, remains confident in its governance model, highlighting its free welfare schemes as a cornerstone of its campaign. The Congress, which once ruled Delhi for 15 years, is striving to regain its lost ground after failing to secure any seats in the last two elections. Campaign Dynamics and Electoral Preparations The campaign for the Delhi Assembly polls has been

characterized by an unprecedented use of AI-generated spoofs, sharp political jibes, and high-decibel roadshows. The Election Commission's Model Code of Conduct (MCC) mandates that all public meetings, election-related functions, and campaigning must cease 48 hours before the close of polling. This period also prohibits the dissemination of campaign material via cinema, TV, and print media. The AAP has branded the BJP as "Bharatiya Jhootha Party" (Indian Liar Party) and "Gali Galouch Party" (Abusive Party), while Prime Minister Narendra Modi has retaliated by dubbing the AAP as "AAP-Daa" (disaster) and its chief Arvind Kejriwal as "Ghoshna Mantri" (Minister of Announcements).

Amit Shah's Fresh Dig At AAP's Manish Sisodia Before Delhi Polls: 'He Only Opened Liquor Shops'

constituency. Shah also targeted AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal, referring to him and Sisodia as "bade miyan and chote miyan" who have allegedly looted Delhi through the liquor scam. He criticized Kejriwal

for failing to fulfill his promise to clean the Yamuna River, instead promising that if the BJP comes to power, they will construct the Yamuna River Front within three years.

Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrão re-elected CCBI President; Abp

■ Peter Machado elected Vice President, Abp. Vincent Aind as Secretary General

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrão has been re-elected as the President of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI), while Archbishop Peter Machado of Bangalore has been elected as the Vice President and Archbishop Vincent Aind of Ranchi as Secretary General. The elections took place during the 36th Plenary Assembly of the CCBI at XIM University, Bhubaneswar.

Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrão (72) was first elected the President at the 31st Plenary Assembly held in Chennai in 2019. He was re-elected for a second term in 2023 at the 34th Plenary Assembly in Bangalore. In



addition to his leadership in India, he also serves as th President of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC), an office he assumed in January 2025. He is also the member of the Dicastery for Evangelisation and the Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops.

Born on January 20, 1953, in Aldona, Goa, he was appointed Titular Bishop of Vanariona and Auxiliary Bishop of Goa

and Damão on January 25, 1994. A decade later, on January 16, 2004, Pope St. John Paul II named him Archbishop of Goa and Damão. Installed as Archbishop on March 21, 2004, he was later created a Cardinal by Pope Francis on August 27, 2022, with the Title of Santa Maria in Via. Cardinal Ferrão is also a member of the Dicastery for Evangelization and the Synod Secretariat. Archbishop Peter

Machado (70) was born on May 26, 1954, and ordained a priest on December 8, 1978, for the Diocese of Karwar. He holds a doctorate in Canon Law from the Pontifical Urban University, Rome. He was appointed Bishop of Belgaum on February 2, 2006, and ordained on March 30, 2006. He was later appointed Archbishop of Bangalore on March 19, 2018 and installed on May 31, 2018. He currently serves as the President of the Karnataka Regional Bishops' Council and the Chairman of the CCBI Commission for Laity. Archbishop Vincent Aind (70) was born on January 30, 1955, in Kalchini, West Bengal, in the Diocese of Jalpaiguri.



Davorlim-Dicarpalli VP Wins ICAI Awards for Promotion of Accounting Reforms in Local Bodies 2024-25

Team Goemkarponn

DAVORLIM: Davorlim-Dicarpalli Village Panchayat has been adjudged as Winner in the category of Panchayats, Sub-Category:Gram Panchayats at National Level. Only Panchayat in India.

The Award was Received by The Sarpanch, Shri Sham M. Rajadhyax and

Secretary, Shri Pradeep M. Tamhanker from the Auspicious hands of Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Hon. Minister for Law and Justice in presence of CA Shri Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal, President ICAI, CA Kemisha Soni, Chairperson CPGFM, ICAI and other dignitaries present on the diace in the program World Forum of Accountants (WOFA) organized by ICAI at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi.



Vasco MLA Krishna Salkar extends personal financial aid to fire affected shopkeepers

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: In a heartfelt gesture of support, Vasco MLA Krishna Salkar personally extended financial assistance to four shopkeepers whose businesses were impacted by a fire incident at the Mormugao Municipal Council (MMC) Sunday Market.

The fire, which broke out in the early hours, completely gutted two shops while partially affecting two others. While the government had assured financial aid to the victims, Salkar stepped forward with immediate relief from his own pocket, acknowledging the daily struggles of small business owners.

"We had assured them of government assistance, but I realized the process could take time. These shopkeepers rely on daily earnings to sustain their families, and a prolonged closure would be a significant hardship. I decided to personally assist them so they can repair their shops and resume their businesses at the earliest," Salkar stated.

Emphasizing the humanitarian aspect of his contribution, Salkar expressed his gratitude to the shopkeepers who have supported him since his tenure as a councillor. "They have always stood by me, and in their time of difficulty, it is my duty to stand by them," he added.

Annual procession of Our Lady of Fatima held at Curchorem

Team Goemkarponn

CURCHOREM: The annual procession of Our Lady of Fatima saw a large gathering of devotees as it wound its way from Guardian Angel Church, Curchorem, to Tisk-Sanvordem via the bustling Curchorem and Sanvordem markets on Sunday evening.

Parish Priest Fr. Jose Caetano D'Costa and



Assistant Parish Priest Fr. Ashliff Correia led the faithful, who carried lanterns, recited the rosary, and sang hymns in

devotion.

The procession, which followed the Eucharistic celebration at Guardian Angel Church, was met

with a warm welcome at Tisk-Sanvordem, where people of all faiths had gathered. A beautifully decorated pandal was set up to mark the occasion. At Sanvordem, Fr. Movin Menezes, Assistant Parish Priest of St. Joseph Church, at St. Jose de Areal, delivered a homily, highlighting the significance of February 2 as the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus.

GMC all set to expand NICU capacity to 30 beds: Vishwajit

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Health Minister Vishwajit Rane said that Goa Medical College (GMC) is set to expand its Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) capacity from the existing 15 beds to 30 beds.

"Goa Medical College (GMC) is set to expand its Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) capacity from the existing 15 beds to 30 beds, further strengthening the state's healthcare infrastructure," said Rane.



He further said that this significant enhancement aims to cater to the increasing demand for specialized neonatal care, ensuring that critically ill newborns

receive timely and advanced medical attention. "This decision was recently taken during discussions on enhancing the Pediatric and Neonatal Resource

Centre (PNRC) to provide timely care and early interventions for children, underscoring the government's commitment to improving pediatric healthcare facilities in Goa," he added. Rane said that through programs like the iBreastExam device, a radiation-free tool for lump detection, Goa is leading the way in cancer care with early screening.

"The state also offers cutting-edge therapies including immunotherapy and oncoplastic surgery.

St. Xavier's College hosts International Seminar on 'Exploring New Frontiers in Biosciences'

Mapusa: The Departments of Microbiology and Biotechnology, St. Xavier's College, Goa organised an International Seminar on 'Exploring New Frontiers in Biosciences' on January 23-24, 2025 in collaboration with the Microbiologists' Society, India (MBSI) and Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC). Dr. Satish Shetye, Former Vice-Chancellor of Goa University and Former Director of the National Institute of Oceanography, Dona Paula, Goa, was Chief Guest at the inaugural function and applauded St. Xavier's College for always being progressive.

Rev. Fr. Antonio Salema, The College Administrator hailed the seminar as a comprehensive platform for eminent scientists, academicians, industry personnel, research scholars, and students to discuss emerging

trends and innovative breakthroughs in science and technology.

Ms. Ursula Barreto, College Principal and Head of Microbiology, highlighted the seminar's significance in fostering interdisciplinary collaborations. Dr. Trelita de Sousa, the Convenor of the Seminar and Assistant Professor in Microbiology, conveyed that the seminar was aligned with the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which provided a blueprint to address planetary challenges like the emergence of infectious diseases, climate change, and biodiversity loss.

The Resource Persons for the Seminar were a star-studded ensemble of eminent scientists and academicians. Prof. Srikanth Mutnuri, Dean, International Programmes and Collaboration Division, Department of



Biological Sciences, BITS-Pilani, Goa, very vividly discussed the Vertical Flow Constructed Wetlands (VFCW) as nature-based solutions for Decentralized Wastewater Treatment.

Dr. Shetye spoke of the impact of the summer monsoons on the Indian estuarine ecosystems and biodiversity highlighting the significance of Goa's Mandovi and Zuari estuaries in nutrient cycling and management of coastal environments.

Dr. Prabu D., Head in Charge, Department of Microbiology, University

of Madras, Tamil Nadu, delivered two highly thought-provoking and interactive sessions on the applications of nanotechnology in Microbiology and the use of animal models for quality research in Life Sciences, emphasizing the crucial role of microbiologists in the understanding of complex biological processes and advancing therapeutic innovations. Prof. Momna Hejmadi, Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education Quality and Enhancement),

Department of Life Sciences, University of Bath, U.K. also delivered two enthralling sessions on the transformative role of AI in driving scientific breakthroughs in health and technology and elucidated the vast opportunities of Biosciences in terms of career options, intellectual satisfaction, and societal progress. The sessions were insightful and generated a huge interest amongst the enthusiastic students leading them into impromptu interactive group discussions with the

resource persons.

The seminar garnered the participation of over 200 participants from all across the globe including Australia, Germany, India, U.K., and U.S. The participants presented their novel ideas and exciting research through vivid scientific posters and interactive oral presentations. Ms Florence Pereira from Kingston University, London bagged the Best Poster Presentation and Ms. Yuga Ghotge from BITS Pilani, Goa won Best Oral Presentation. The seminar was an enriching learning experience for all the participants allowing innovative deliberations for sustainable research in Biosciences. It culminated in a short cultural programme by the students of St. Xavier's College, Goa showcasing the vibrant Indo-Portuguese heritage of the State.

MLA Cruz Silva Inaugurates "Auxilium Computer Training Center"

Team Goemkarponn

Ambelim: In a significant move to enhance digital literacy and bridge the technological gap in Ambelim, MLA Cruz Silva has inaugurated the "Auxilium Computer Training Center." This initiative, funded through the MLA Local Area Development (LAD) funds, is a collaborative effort with the Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco, who will manage the center. The state-of-the-art facility is designed to provide essential digital skills and education, marking a crucial step in the community's technological advancement.

MLA Cruz Silva officially opened the "Auxilium Computer Training Center" in Ambelim, a project that has been made possible through the MLA Local Area Development funds. The center, under the stewardship of the Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco, is equipped with



advanced technology to facilitate comprehensive learning. The facility boasts 15 desktop computers, a projector, a smart TV, 15 chairs with writing pads, 15 computer tables, three white wall boards, and a printer. The primary objective of the "Auxilium Computer Training Center" is to empower local youth and adults by equipping them with essential computer skills and digital literacy.

Through a range of training programs, participants will gain proficiency in computer applications and other IT skills, significantly enhancing their job prospects and fostering

lifelong learning. This initiative is particularly important in today's technology-driven world, where digital skills are paramount for career advancement and community development.

During the inauguration, MLA Cruz Silva underscored the critical role of technological education in bridging the digital divide and enabling the community to thrive in an increasingly technology-dependent environment.

He expressed his deep gratitude to the Salesian Sisters for their unwavering commitment to education and community service.

The Awakening Earns Spotlight at Waves Film Festival

Panjim: 'The Awakening', a short film created by students of Don Bosco College, Panjim, celebrated a milestone with its official selection and screening at the Waves International Short Film Festival. Directed by Rameez Shaikh, the film was showcased at the prestigious Maquinez Palace.

This thought-provoking film delves into the theme of apathy, shedding light on society's indifference to critical environmental issues. Director Rameez Shaikh credited the film's success to the collective dedication and hard work of his team. The talented cast includes Siya Chodankar and Cyrus Fernandes, whose powerful performances leave a lasting impact.

Behind the scenes, Sharvi Dhond and Ebenezer R. from the production team



ensured smooth operations, managing the necessary equipment. Numair Khan played a pivotal role as both the screenplay writer and cinematographer, while Varun Kashyap skilfully edited the film with stunning effects. The film's emotional depth was amplified by a musical score composed by Cyrus Fernandes, complemented by immersive sound design by Merister Gomes, with Boskon Studio providing valuable support during the sound design process. 'The Awakening' has received

international acclaim, including recognition as the South Asia Regional Winner at the Don Bosco Global Film Festival, where it was screened in over 150 countries. Its focus on environmental conservation also earned it a screening at the Mangrove Festival, further amplifying its message. This achievement underscores the talent and creativity of the students of Don Bosco College, Panjim, and their dedication to addressing global issues through the art of filmmaking.

Opposition Raises Slogans Against Maha Kumbh Stampede In Lok Sabha, Speaker Condemns Move

■ The Opposition continued its sloganeering despite Speaker Om Birla's direction to raise the Maha Kumbh stampede issue after the end of Question Hour

New Delhi: The third day of the Parliament's Budget session was marred by intense protests as Opposition MPs in the Lok Sabha demanded accountability for the recent Maha Kumbh stampede that claimed the lives of at least 30 people. Despite the Speaker's directives to maintain order, the Opposition continued their sloganeering, alleging that the actual death toll was significantly higher than the government's reported figures.

The Budget Session of the Lok Sabha was disrupted on Monday as Opposition members raised slogans, calling for transparency and accountability regarding the Maha Kumbh stampede. Speaker Om Birla condemned the behaviour of the



Opposition leaders, urging them to respect the House's decorum. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju also appealed to the MPs to maintain calm and order. The Opposition, however, persisted in their demands, questioning the government's handling of the tragedy.

A devastating stampede occurred during the Mauni Amavasya celebrations at the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj last week,

resulting in the deaths of at least 30 devotees. This incident has sparked widespread outrage, with the Opposition in the Lok Sabha demanding a comprehensive list of those who lost their lives in the tragedy. The slogans, including "Kumbh pe jawab do" (Give answers about the Kumbh), echoed through the House as the Opposition pressed for a detailed discussion on the stampede.

Speaker Om Birla

directed the Opposition to raise the issue after the end of Question Hour, but they continued their protest, disrupting the proceedings. The Opposition claims that the actual death toll is significantly higher than the number reported by the government, fueling their demands for a thorough investigation and accountability.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju appealed to the MPs to maintain order in the House, emphasizing the need for respectful and constructive dialogue. However, the Opposition's determination to highlight the issue led to continuous sloganeering throughout the session.

Despite the chaos, the Lok Sabha proceedings continued, with various ministers scheduled to lay papers on the table.

"Drink Yamuna Water, Will Meet You In Hospital": Rahul Gandhi Jabs Arvind Kejriwal

Rahul Gandhi said Arvind Kejriwal had promised to clean the Yamuna water within five years, but it was "still dirty".

New Delhi: As the Delhi Assembly elections approach, scheduled for February 5 with vote counting on February 8, the political landscape is heating up with sharp criticisms and challenges. In a recent public meeting at Hauz Qazi Chowk, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi launched a scathing attack on Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor Arvind Kejriwal, highlighting his unfulfilled promise to clean the Yamuna River.

Gandhi's challenge was straightforward and provocative: he dared Kejriwal to drink the water from the Yamuna River, suggesting that if he did, Gandhi would meet him in the hospital afterward. This bold move underscored Gandhi's criticism that Kejriwal had failed to deliver on his promise to clean the Yamuna within five years, a pledge that remains unfulfilled.

During his address, Gandhi emphasized that Kejriwal's promise to bring a new political system and end corruption had also



fallen short. He pointed out that despite Kejriwal's assurances, the Yamuna River remains polluted, and the people of Delhi are still forced to drink contaminated water. This, Gandhi argued, is a stark example of AAP's failed promises.

Gandhi also targeted Kejriwal's core team, which includes prominent figures like Manish Sisodia, Atishi, Sanjay Singh, and Raghav Chaddha. He criticized the team for lacking representation from Dalit, OBC, or Muslim communities, likening them to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's team in terms of ideological alignment. Gandhi suggested that there is no difference between Kejriwal's and Modi's ideologies, with Kejriwal being more silent but equally divisive.

Haryana CM Saini Accuses Kejriwal Of Tarnishing 'His Birth Land', Says He Belongs To 'Tihar Jail'

Aam Aadmi Party chief Arvind Kejriwal had accused Haryana's BJP government of poisoning Yamuna water coming to Delhi

New Delhi: As the Delhi assembly elections approach on February 5, a bitter feud has erupted between Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief Arvind Kejriwal over allegations of the Yamuna water supply being poisoned. This controversy has not only heightened political tensions but also drawn the attention of the Election Commission and the judiciary.

AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal sparked the controversy by accusing the BJP-led Haryana government of deliberately contaminating the Yamuna water with ammonia, thereby jeopardizing Delhi's water supply. Kejriwal claimed that the ammonia levels in



the Yamuna water had increased sharply, posing a significant health risk to Delhi's residents.

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini vehemently denied these allegations, labeling them as false propaganda aimed at deflecting attention from Kejriwal's own failures in managing Delhi. Saini accused Kejriwal of spreading lies to create tension between Haryana and Delhi, and

to cover up his own mismanagement of the city's water supply.

The Election Commission issued a notice to Kejriwal, requesting him to provide evidence for his claims about the Yamuna water poisoning. In response, Kejriwal reiterated his allegations and called for a criminal case against Saini. This exchange has further escalated the political standoff.

India Takes Proactive Stance on Trade Amid Trump's Tariff Increases

India slashed custom duties on motorcycles with engine capacity of 1,600 cc or more to 30 per cent from 50 per cent on fully-built imports.

New Delhi: In a strategic move to bolster its economic stance and avoid being labeled protectionist, India has reduced import duties on high-end motorcycles and cars in its 2025-26 Union Budget. This decision comes on the heels of US President Donald Trump's recent tariff increases aimed at Canada, Mexico, and China, although India was not directly targeted.

Finance Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey emphasized that India is committed to a non-protectionist approach, even as global trade tensions escalate. "We don't want to give



anybody any signal that we would like to be protectionist," Pandey stated, underscoring India's intention to reduce its average tariff level to 11% from 13%. India has made significant cuts in import duties on high-end motorcycles, reducing the tariff from 50% to 30% for fully-built imports with an engine capacity of up to 1,600 cc. Additionally, the import duty on semi-knocked down (SKD) kits has been lowered

to 20% from 25%, and completely knocked down (CKD) units will now be taxed at 10% instead of 15%. These reductions are part of India's broader strategy to support domestic companies and make the country a more attractive manufacturing hub.

The timing of these duty reductions is noteworthy, given the recent trade actions by the Trump administration. Trump's latest executive orders have imposed 25% tariffs on imports from Canada and Mexico, and a 10% tariff on imports from China, effective from February 4, 2025.

"Record-Breaking Abhishek Sharma Steals the Show in India's 150-Run Win"

■ During his stay at the crease on Sunday, Abhishek hammered 7 fours and 13 sixes and helped the Men in Blue secure a big win by 150 runs.

New Delhi: In a dazzling display of batting prowess, Abhishek Sharma etched his name into the annals of Indian cricket history with a blistering 135 runs off just 54 balls in the fifth T20I against England. This monumental innings, which included 7 fours and 13 sixes, was the cornerstone of India's resounding 150-run victory over England at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on February 2, 2025.

Sharma's performance is being hailed as one of the best T20I knocks by an Indian batter, breaking several records in the process. His innings not only surpassed Shubman Gill's record for the highest individual score in a T20I match for India but also set a new benchmark for the most sixes hit by an Indian batter in a single T20I match. The match saw Abhishek Sharma take center

stage, scoring at an incredible rate that left the English bowlers reeling. His partnership with Tilak Varma and Shivam Dube was pivotal, as India amassed a daunting total of 247/9. This set England a nearly insurmountable target of

248 runs, which they failed to achieve, succumbing to a record 150-run defeat. Sharma's innings was a testament to his meticulous pre-match preparations and the unwavering support he received from his coaches and captain. In the post-match press conference, he attributed his success to the extensive practice sessions where he simulated match scenarios, allowing him to capitalize on the pace of England's fast bowlers

and the spin of Adil Rashid.

Abhishek Sharma's knock was not just about personal achievement but also about setting new standards for Indian cricket. His 135 runs from 54

balls marked the highest individual score by an Indian in a T20I, eclipsing Shubman Gill's previous record of 126 not out. Additionally, his 13 sixes in a single innings broke the record for the most sixes hit by an Indian batter in a T20I match.

Despite the competitive nature of international cricket, Abhishek Sharma emphasized the camaraderie among himself, Shubman Gill, and Yashasvi Jaiswal. He mentioned that there was no feeling of competitiveness or insecurity among them, as their shared dream of playing for India remained the paramount goal. This performance is a significant milestone in Abhishek Sharma's career, coming just months after his T20I debut on July 6, 2024.



A tale of two halves, as FC Goa stumble in Jamshedpur

Team Goemkarponn

Panjim: Jamshedpur FC delivered a commanding performance at the JRD Tata Sports Complex on Sunday night, securing a 3-1 victory over FC Goa in a crucial Indian Super League (ISL) encounter. Despite a spirited second-half fightback, the Gaurs were undone by the hosts' clinical finishing, slipping to third place in the league standings as a result.

Right from kick-off, Jamshedpur FC signaled their intent, creating wave after wave of attacks primarily through the flanks. FC Goa's defence found itself under intense pressure, struggling to contain the Men of Steel while also being restricted in their own attacking movement.

The first-half water break at the 30-minute mark provided a brief

respite for the Men in Orange, but it did little to halt the hosts' momentum. Just four minutes later, the deadlock was broken in spectacular fashion by defender Lazar Cirkovic.

Latching onto a pass from Javi Hernandez just outside the box, Cirkovic unleashed a powerful left-footed shot that soared past a diving Hrithik Tiwari into the top-right corner. Jamshedpur doubled their advantage almost immediately, scoring again in the 37th minute.

Mohammed Sanan's initial attempt from a tight angle forced a block from Tiwari, but the ball slipped right through the Goa custodian into the path of Javi Siverio, who made no mistake in slotting it into an empty net. Despite being second-best for most of the first half, the Gaurs found a way back into the contest just before halftime.



Beniston Barretto's Hat-Trick Leads UC Verna to Quarterfinals

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: In a thrilling display of football prowess, the United Club of Verna has secured a quarterfinals berth in the 1st Vauradencho IXTT Trophy, following a convincing 4-1 victory over Maina SC. The match, held at the DSYA ground in Curtorim on Sunday, was a testament to the team's cohesive strategy and individual brilliance, particularly highlighted by Beniston Barretto's hat-trick.

The 1st Vauradencho IXTT Trophy, organized by Batora United Club in

association with Margao Sports Club, has been attracting significant attention, and this match was no exception. Prominent guests, including Jose Pais and Carlos Paes, were in attendance to witness the exciting encounter. The United Club of Verna's dominance was evident from the early stages of the match. Beniston Barretto opened the scoring in the 5th minute, setting the tone for what would be a stellar performance. He doubled the lead in the 15th minute, further solidifying Verna's grip on the game.

Canacona Mathagram United Pull Off Thrilling Last-Over Win; Priority Titans Dominate

Margao: The Alcon GSB Unity Cup T20 cricket tournament, organized by Goa GSB Sports & Charitable Trust in association with Goa Saraswat Samaj, witnessed two contrasting matches on Sunday at the MCC Ground, Margao. While Priority Titans cruised to a dominant win over Rising Stars of Antruz, Canacona Mathagram United edged



out Sinq Rangers UC in a nail-biting finish.

In the first match, Rising Stars of Antruz, opting to bat first, struggled against the

disciplined bowling attack of Priority Titans and were bowled out for a paltry 79 runs in 18.3 overs. Siddharth Ghanekar was awarded Man of the Match

for delivering a stellar spell, taking 3 wickets for just 11 runs in his four-over spell, which included two maidens. Priority Titans made light work of the chase, reaching 83/2 in just 8.3 overs to register a comprehensive victory.

The second match turned out to be a thriller, with Canacona Mathagram United staging a dramatic last-over comeback against Sinq Rangers UC.

Baale BPS Open 2.0 Announces Goa's Debut Wheelchair Tennis Tournament

The Wheelchair Tennis Challenger Tournament is an inclusive endeavour to aid athletes who use a wheelchair to showcase their skills on the tennis court at the upcoming Baale BPS Open 2.0, Registrations for the tournament, taking place on February 22, will open soon.

Panaji: In a first-of-its-kind initiative in Goa's tennis circuit, wheelchair-bound physically disabled athletes will get a chance to showcase their skills on-court and compete in the upcoming Wheelchair Tennis Challenger Tournament at the Baale BPS Open 2.0.

Organised by the BPS Sports Club, Margao, the tournament provides an inclusive platform for tennis players with disabilities. Registrations across various categories for the Baale BPS Open 2.0 and Wheelchair Tennis Challenger Tournament will soon open.

