



Goa CM meets Governor Pillai Amid Cabinet Reshuffle Speculations

■ Sources say CM discussed relocation of 4 govt colleges to GU Campus

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Amid growing rumors of a Cabinet reshuffle, Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant met with Goa Governor PS Sreedharan Pillai at the Raj Bhavan on Wednesday. Sources close to the development revealed that the

discussion primarily revolved around Goa University and plans to relocate four government colleges to its campus. Sources suggest that the key agenda of the meeting was the government's plan to shift four government-run colleges—Architecture, Fine Arts, Pharmacy, and



Music—onto the Goa University campus. This proposal is seen as part of a larger strategy to consolidate the state's

higher education system, aiming to enhance both academic offerings and infrastructure under a unified campus. The timing of this meeting is noteworthy, as it coincides with widespread speculation about a potential reshuffle of CM Sawant's Cabinet.

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Goa govt orders temporary suspension of cutting, dismantling, or disconnection of internet cables

■ Disconnecting of cables providing internet services/T.V. cable services kept in abeyance till further orders: CEE

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: In a bid to maintain uninterrupted access to essential services, the government has ordered a temporary suspension on the cutting, dismantling, or disconnection of cables providing internet and television services.

The directive will remain in place until further notice, with authorities highlighting the need to ensure continued connectivity for the public.

“As per the directives of the Government, it is directed to ensure that cutting/dismantling/disconnecting of the cables providing internet services/T.V. cable services is kept



in abeyance till further orders.” the order by CEE Stephen Fernandes reads.

The order has been issued to Division I/III/IV/V/VI/VII/IX/X/XI/XII/XIII/XIV/XV (Civil & Nodal Officer, Land Acquisition Cell)/XVI/XVII/XVIII Panaji/Ponda/Margao/Bicholim/Curchotem/Tivim/Vasco/Xeldem/Kadamba/Verna and Mapusa-Goa.

The All Goa Internet Service Providers Association (AGISPA)

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Goa RS MP Tanavade raises demand for Davorlim flyover in Parliament



Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament Sadanand Shet Tanavade raised an important issue regarding the daily hardships faced by residents of Davorlim Village in the Navelim constituency, South Goa

District, due to the railway crossing gate at Davorlim.

This crucial link connects Davorlim to Aquem-Baixo and key towns such as Quepem, Cuncolim, and several neighbouring villages, playing a vital role in regional connectivity.

Tanavade highlighted

that this railway crossing is the first after Margao Railway Station, a major junction in Goa, which experiences heavy train movement, with over 20 to 30 trains passing daily.

“The gate remains closed for 20 to 25 minutes per cycle, causing

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MGP President Deepak Dhavlikar meets BJP President Damu Naik; holds discussions on current political senario

Sonia Gandhi Decries Waqf Bill as 'Assault' on Constitution

■ Hours after the Lok Sabha passed the Waqf amendment bill, Sonia Gandhi said the bill was "bulldozed" through in the lower house.

New Delhi: In a move that has ignited heated debates, the Lok Sabha's passage of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill has been described by Congress figurehead Sonia Gandhi as a brazen assault on India's Constitution.

This criticism comes on the heels of a marathon 12-hour debate that culminated in the bill's approval, with opposition amendments falling flat. The legislative hurdle now



shifts to the Rajya Sabha, where the bill's fate hangs in the balance.

Sonia Gandhi's stern critique reflects a broader concern that the BJP is using such legislation to maintain societal divisions, a strategy she terms "permanent polarisation."

Waqf Amendment Bill Clears Lok Sabha with 288-232 Vote

■ The proposed legislation -- which will be tabled in Rajya Sabha later today -- aims to amend the 1995 law governing Waqf properties.

New Delhi: In the wee hours of Thursday, the Lok Sabha witnessed a crucial moment as the Waqf Amendment Bill, 2025, was passed with a significant majority of 288 votes in favor and 232 against. This development marks a significant amendment to the 1995 law governing Waqf properties, which will now head to the Rajya Sabha for further deliberation. The bill's passage follows



a marathon 12-hour debate that saw intense exchanges between the government and the opposition, setting the stage for a potentially contentious discussion in the upper house.

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Goa CM Congratulates PM Modi, Amit Shah on Passage of Waqf Amendment Bill 2025

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant has congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, and National Democratic Alliance



(NDA) partners on the successful passage of the Waqf Amendment Bill 2025 in the Lok Sabha.

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11 Booked as GWMC Targets Black Spots in Mapusa

■ GWMC Launches Early Morning Enforcement Drive in Mapusa

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: On a brisk morning in Mapusa, the Goa Waste Management Corporation (GWMC)

embarked on a strategic enforcement drive aimed at curtailing illegal waste dumping in the city's notorious black spots.

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Goa Govt Needs to Address the Aggression of Local Taxi Drivers

“The incident unfolded when the family staying at a resort booked a taxi online for a day of sightseeing. Upon the GoaMiles driver’s arrival, he was blocked by a local taxi driver named Shekhar, who verbally assaulted him and attempted to prevent him from completing his journey.

The aggressive conduct did not stop there; the local driver also harassed the tourist family, effectively turning a simple transportation need into a nightmare. Thankfully, the Anjuna Police acted swiftly, apprehending Shekhar at his residence, yet the underlying issues remain unresolved.”

In a troubling incident recently reported by Arpora, a GoaMiles cab driver was subjected to harassment and intimidation by a local taxi driver while attempting to serve a family of tourists. The distressing episode, captured on mobile phone footage, highlights a growing concern about the aggressive behaviour of some local taxi drivers, which threatens both the safety of tourists and the reputation of Goa as a premier travel destination.

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This alarming behaviour reflects a larger conflict within Goa’s transportation system, where local taxi drivers are often resistant to competition

from app-based services like GoaMiles.

While these new players offer transparent pricing and reliable service, the traditional taxi drivers’ hostility towards them poses a significant risk. Moreover, with Goa already facing criticism on social media for declining tourist arrivals, incidents like this further tarnish the state’s image and deter potential visitors.

The Goa government’s inertia in addressing the aggression of local taxi drivers is becoming increasingly problematic.

Tourists and locals alike deserve a safe and efficient transport system.

If app-based services like GoaMiles can meet these needs at reasonable prices, it is imperative that the government allows for a more competitive landscape, perhaps by inviting established giants like Ola and Uber to operate in the region.

These platforms can not only improve service standards but also enhance the overall tourist experience, driving greater economic benefits for Goa.

It is crucial for the state to acknowledge that the current model, where local taxi operators prioritize short-term profits over customer service, is unsustainable.

Many tourists report feeling extorted by local drivers

who take advantage of their unfamiliarity with the area, charging exorbitant fares for short distances.

This not only generates dissatisfaction but also fosters a sense of unease among visitors. If the goal is to develop Goa as a safe and welcoming tourist destination, drastic changes must be made in how local taxi drivers operate and interact with both tourists and app-based services.

Furthermore, educational initiatives aimed at informing local drivers about the benefits of competition and customer service could go a long way in improving their interactions with both tourists and local residents.

Instead of viewing app-based services as adversaries, local drivers could be encouraged to embrace them as partners in elevating Goa’s tourism experience.

In summary, the Goa government must take decisive action to quell the aggression of local taxi drivers and ensure a safe environment for all travellers. By embracing modern transportation solutions and fostering cooperation between traditional and app-based taxi services, Goa can enhance its reputation as a vibrant and secure destination, ready to welcome tourists from around the globe.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

FDA Raids Crucial on ₹ 99 Biryani outlets

Soon after Goa CM Dr Pramod Sawant’s Budget announcement that the government will be strict on unhygienic food outlets, the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) began raiding outlets operating without legal licences. Now this is a crucial step, especially the one in Anjuna-Vagator and another at Aalankar Mapusa. Several people frequent this place and one can see rats and cockroaches all around the food outlets. Where is the hygiene?

Several people face the problems of food poisoning etc but the government and agencies do not act.

Not just these, the FDA also needs to raid the Rs 99 Biryani outlets in Calangand and other areas.

Is Chicken biryani at Rs 99 affordable in these times? God knows what they must be adding. Urge the FDA to please act on such eateries.

- Sneha Naik, Mapusa

LIFE’S JOURNEY

The last two years have been a state of flux. But now as an Overseas Citizen of India (OCI), the path is clear to contemplate on how to thread the remainder of my life.

To be an Advocate was my childhood dream and by the Grace of God, I will continue the legal profession till my last breath on a wider landscape with Goa as my headquarters.

While reflecting on the past, taking stock of the present and chalking out the road ahead, my immense gratitude goes to all who have been part of my life’s roller coaster expedition. More importantly all those who corrected me and put me back on the right

track when I faulted and erred.

To all my dear Teachers from nursery to Law College, many of whom are blessing me from their heavenly abode, I am so very grateful for all their patience in dealing with the challenging student that I always was.

Thanks to the bureaucrats and government employees at all levels who over the decades have been so gracious to help my fellow people in need by resolving their grievances and to date continue to do so.

It has been a tough life, but enriching in experiences and success in the pursuit of justice

and the truth for the common good, with every day being a different one.

Coping with these challenges has not been easy but my multitude of friends across the globe made a difference and contributed towards making my trek worthwhile. I would not have been grounded in this voyage of life without your warmth and good wishes and I will always cherish them.

The journey of life is not meant to be feared. It is not always planned. It is meant to be travelled and enjoyed with enthusiasm and gratitude.

- Aires Rodrigues, Ribandar

CM Dr. Pramod Sawant Commends Saligao MLA Kedar Naik, Hints at Future Role

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: In a gathering that underscored the spirit of collaboration and dedication, Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant recently attended the BJP Karyakarta Melava Programme in Alto Pilerne, Saligao. The event, held in late fall, highlighted the critical efforts of BJP party workers across various sectors. It was here that Dr. Sawant expressed his commendation for Saligao MLA Kedar Naik's persistent commitment to improving the lives of his constituents, hinting at potential future recognition



of his contributions. Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant addressed the event alongside important figures such as BJP Goa President Damu Naik, BJP North Goa President Dayanand Karbotkar, and local BJP leaders. Dr. Sawant specifically lauded MLA Kedar Naik for spearheading initiatives that aim to

make Pilerne Village the first Swayampurna Village in Goa, a model of self-sufficiency and development under the government's schemes. Additionally, he commended all BJP workers in Saligao for their unwavering commitment in ensuring that government benefits reach every citizen,

particularly in areas such as infrastructure, education, agriculture, industrial development, and social welfare. The Chief Minister's acknowledgement of MLA Naik's efforts underscores the potential for future recognition within the government, highlighting the importance of dedicated leadership at the local level. The BJP Karyakarta Melava Programme served as a testament to the collaborative approach being taken by the party to ensure that all citizens benefit from central and state government initiatives.

Goa BJP Chief Damu Naik's Remarks on Marathi kicks-up row

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: In the aftermath of a significant meeting in Goa, controversy has erupted over remarks made by the newly appointed Goa BJP President, Damu Naik, regarding the status of Marathi as an official language. His statement that the issue of Marathi being the official language has been resolved has been met with strong objection from the Marathi Rajbhasha Nirdhar Committee.

The committee, which has been advocating for Marathi's status as an official language for decades, views Naik's comments as mocking their efforts and contradicting the BJP's previous stance on the matter.

Damu Naik's recent statement has sent shockwaves through the community of Marathi language supporters in Goa. The Marathi Rajbhasha Nirdhar Committee has expressed its deep disappointment and objection, pointing out that such assertions are not only baseless but also undermine the tireless efforts made by the committee over the years.

The committee has highlighted instances where prominent BJP



leaders, including former Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar and current central ministers, have publicly supported the cause of making Marathi an official language.

The committee's strong objection stems from the historical context of the BJP's support for Marathi's official status. For instance, in 2000, Manohar Parrikar presented a bill in the Goa Assembly advocating for Marathi to be recognized as an official language.

Furthermore, resolutions were passed at significant party gatherings, including one presided over by former party president L.K. Advani at a grand meeting in the precincts of Shri Dev Bodgeswar.

The ongoing struggle for Marathi to gain official recognition has been a central issue in Goa's political landscape, with many seeing it as a matter of cultural identity and language rights.

IPSCDL Seeks Time Extension for Sewerage Work in Panaji

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: In a significant development, Imagine Panaji Smart City Development Limited (IPSCDL) has submitted an affidavit to the Bombay High Court of Goa, outlining the progress of the Smart Cities Mission and AMRUT 1.0. The document, presented in response to the court's earlier directives, provided a detailed status report of the infrastructure projects



completed by March 31, 2025. Additionally, it highlighted the works scheduled for completion by May 31 and June 30, 2025. This submission marks a crucial step in

the judicial oversight of Panaji's urban development efforts, occurring on the heels of the company's previous affidavit on January 27, 2025.

The affidavit not only reported on the completed projects but also sought an extension for the remaining 200 meters of sewerage work from Taad Maad to the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), where challenges have delayed completion. In addressing these setbacks, IPSCDL acknowledged the court's observations and reiterated its commitment to meeting the deadlines set for the outstanding tasks.



FDA Cracks Down on Alankar Food Stalls Over Safety Violations

■ Nine eateries shut; Others warned on permanent closure

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: In the vibrant streets of Mapusa, a series of crackdowns by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has left nine food stalls near Alankar Theater in shambles as their unhygienic conditions and blatant disregard for food safety standards came under scrutiny. These raids were a part of a broader initiative aimed at

ensuring that food vendors in public spaces adhere to minimum hygiene and safety standards. FDA officials conducted thorough inspections, revealing a dismal state of affairs at these stalls. They found that food preparation and storage practices were grossly inadequate, with raw materials not handled properly and excessive use of food coloring being common.

Flying Squads to Crack Down on Illegal Construction & Land Filling

■ Squads to Operate in All Talukas, Immediate Action Required Within One Hour of Complaint

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: In a decisive move to curb illegal and unauthorized land development activities, the Collector of South Goa, Egna Cleetus, has ordered the formation of Taluka Level Flying Squads across the district.

The decision, made in response to a directive from the High Court in PIL Suo Motu No. 3 of 2024 (dated March 6, 2025), aims to tackle illegal land filling, unauthorized construction, and unlawful hill cutting.

According to the official order issued by the Flying Squad Section of the Collector's office, each taluka in South Goa will have a dedicated Flying Squad responsible for swiftly



addressing land-related violations. The squads have been mandated to act immediately on complaints, ensuring action is taken within one hour of receiving a report.

Composition of the Flying Squads Each Taluka Level Flying Squad will consist of:

The Deputy Collector & SDO of the respective sub-division – In-charge

The Mamlatdar of the concerned taluka – Deputy In-charge

The Police Inspector

of the local jurisdiction – Member

The Chief Officer of the Municipal Councils in the taluka – Member

The Block Development Officer of the respective block – Member

The Talathi of the concerned village – Member

A Representative from the Town and Country Planning Department (for illegal hill cutting and land filling cases) – Member

The squads have

also been provided with mobile handsets and official contact numbers (with WhatsApp facility) for quick communication and coordination.

Key Responsibilities of the Flying Squads The squads will perform the following duties:

Address complaints related to illegal or unauthorized construction, land filling, and hill cutting.

Take immediate preventive measures within one hour of receiving complaints.

Conduct on-site inspections and prepare detailed reports, which will be forwarded to the Deputy Collector & SDO, the Chief Officer of the Municipal Council, and the Block Development Officer.

Pedestrian Injured in Hit-and-Run Incident at New Vaddem

Team Goemkarponn

NEW VADDEM: In a shocking hit-and-run incident, a pedestrian sustained injuries after being struck by a speeding vehicle at New Vaddem. The Vasco Police have registered a case against the accused driver, who fled the scene without offering medical assistance to the victim. According to the police report, the incident occurred at around 8:40 PM on the slope

leading towards the New Vaddem residential area. The accused, identified as Romeo Carvalho, a resident of New Vaddem, was driving a WagonR car in a rash and negligent manner, endangering public safety. While proceeding from GSL Vaddem towards New Vaddem, Carvalho allegedly hit pedestrian Manoj Sharma, who was walking on the left side of the road. Following the collision, the driver reportedly fled the scene



with the vehicle, failing to provide medical aid or inform the authorities about the accident. As a result, Sharma fell to the ground and suffered injuries. Upon receiving the complaint from Head Constable Suresh Dassir (HCB No. 4642) of Vasco

Police Station, an offence was registered against Carvalho under Sections 281 and 125(b) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Sections 134(a) & (b) of the Motor Vehicles Act.

The Vasco Police have launched an investigation into the incident, with Head Constable Suresh Dassir leading the case. Further action is expected as authorities work towards identifying and apprehending the accused driver.



Household Items Guttled in Fire at Vaddem

Team Goemkarponn

VADDEM: A major fire broke out at a house in Vaddem, opposite Pai Hospital, leaving household items completely gutted. The house, belonging to Sadanand Poojari, was engulfed in flames while the owner was away. Fortunately, no casualties or injuries were reported.

The cause of the fire remains unknown, but the damage was extensive. Alert neighbors noticed thick black smoke billowing from the house and immediately informed Poojari and the Vasco Fire Station. Firefighters arrived promptly at the scene and managed to douse the flames, preventing the fire from spreading to nearby

houses.

Speaking to reporters, Poojari expressed his shock over the incident.

"I have been living here for many years, and I never expected something like this to happen. In fact, I had closed everything properly, including the cooking gas connection, before leaving for my native place this morning. I left around 9:30 AM, but then I got a call that thick smoke was coming from my house. I rushed back only to find my home on fire," he said.

He further added, "I am not sure what caused the fire—whether it was a short circuit or something else. My clothes, household appliances, bed, and other belongings have been completely destroyed."

UP native arrested with ganja worth Rs 5 lakhs

Team Goemkarponn

SIOLIM: A narcotics raid took place in Siolim, Bardez, Goa, on April 1, 2025, between 00:35 hrs and 03:40 hrs, based on reliable information. During the operation, Sonu Yadav, a 29-year-old from Nauwaboh, Islamabad Post,

Madanpur, Deoria, Uttar Pradesh, was arrested for possessing 5,010 grams of suspected Ganja, valued at around Rs. 5,00,000.

The narcotics were discovered on Yadav's white Honda Activa scooter (Registration No. GA-07-M-7636). As a result, the Anjuna Police



Station filed an FIR (No. 57/2025) under Section 20(b)(ii)(B) of the NDPS Act, 1985. Yadav was taken into custody and

remanded to five days of police custody by the court. The investigation is being handled by PSI Viraj Naik of Anjuna PS, with oversight from PI Anjuna PS and overall direction from SDPO Mapusa and SP North Porvorim.

Further developments are expected as the investigation continues.

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Goa CM meets Governor Pillai Amid Cabinet Reshuffle Speculations

Sawant had earlier dismissed speculation surrounding a potential cabinet reshuffle, stating that such decisions are political and will be made at the right time. He had clarified that any reshuffle would be announced a day before it takes place to allow the media to inform the public. Responding to reports suggesting a reshuffle might occur in April, Sawant had urged caution, advising not to trust unverified dates. "Someone comes up with

a date, and everyone starts talking about it," he remarked, emphasizing that the reshuffle will happen when it's deemed appropriate. The CM further had explained that the reshuffle will be carefully analyzed to benefit both the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the government, with a focus on securing their position in the next state elections, due in 2027. Currently, the 12-member cabinet led by Sawant includes 11 members from

the BJP and one from its ally, the Maharashtra Gomantak Party (MGP). Goa's assembly allows for a maximum of 12 ministers. The BJP, which holds 28 seats in the 40-member legislative assembly, along with two MGP members and three Independents, enjoys a strong majority. Sawant's remarks suggest that any reshuffle would be a strategic move to maintain the party's dominance ahead of the upcoming election.

Goa govt orders temporary suspension of cutting, dismantling, or disconnection of internet cables

filed a petition against the Electricity Department, claiming the department acted unfairly by cutting fibre optic cables. However, the association decided to withdraw the petition after settling the matter, which was communicated to Justices Bharati Dangre and Nivedita Mehta during the final hearing. As a result, the court allowed the withdrawal and dismissed the case. The association argued

that despite following proper procedures, the Electricity Department acted arbitrarily. They pointed out that their application for the Right of Way (RoW), submitted on November 22, 2023, to the Department of Information Technology, was still pending. The group had requested permission to deploy fibre networks across seven regions of Goa but had not received approval, despite multiple attempts to follow

up. The petition also referenced the National RoW Policy, which takes effect on January 1, 2025, and requires states like Goa to enable the use of electricity poles for fibre optic deployments. Although the association claimed it was in compliance with this policy, it still faced interruptions, including cable cutting by the Electricity Department before any official decision had been made.

Goa RS MP Tanavade raises demand for Davorlim flyover in Parliament

severe traffic congestion, particularly during peak hours" he said. This disruption affects students, working professionals, and commuters, forcing many to take longer routes, leading to unnecessary inconvenience, traffic jams, fuel wastage, and increased travel time. "There is a strong public demand for a flyover at this railway crossing.

More than 30,000 people, including residents of Curtorim, Navelim, and Velim constituencies, as well as surrounding villages and Margao city, will benefit from this much-needed infrastructure," said Tanavade MP. Sadanand Shet Tanavade emphasized that this flyover will significantly reduce congestion and accommodate the increased traffic from the upcoming educational hub in Davorlim, which will house over 30 schools from Margao city and surrounding constituencies.

Waqf Amendment Bill Clears Lok Sabha with 288-232 Vote

At the heart of the Waqf Amendment Bill are several contentious provisions. Non-Muslim Members: The bill mandates the inclusion of two non-Muslim members in the Central Waqf Council and Waqf Boards, a move that has sparked controversy. Eligibility for Donation: Only individuals who have practiced Islam for at least five years will be eligible to donate properties to Waqf, reinstating a rule that was changed in 2013.

Goa CM Congratulates PM Modi, Amit Shah on Passage of Waqf Amendment Bill 2025

The bill, which aims to bring significant reforms to the management of Waqf properties, was lauded by CM Sawant for its potential to promote transparency, accountability, and inclusive representation in the operations of Waqf Boards. In a statement, Dr. Sawant emphasized that the passage of the bill reinforces the rule of law and ensures efficient management of Waqf properties, which are crucial for the welfare of minority communities. "This reform will ensure that the Waqf Board functions with greater transparency and accountability, and that it serves the needs of the community in a more inclusive and effective manner," the Chief Minister stated.

11 Booked as GWMC Targets Black Spots in Mapusa

The operation, which took place from 6:30 am to 10:00 am on April 2, 2025, was a collaborative effort involving key officials and the local police to ensure public spaces remain clean and safe. The drive resulted in the booking of 11 individuals under Section 3A 5(b) of the Goa Non-Biodegradable Garbage (Control) Act, 1996, for illegally disposing of garbage. The main objective of this early morning initiative was to heighten awareness about proper waste disposal and discourage residents from dumping trash in public areas.

Tawadkar's Co Seeks 1 Lakh Sqm of Land in Loliem for Fruit Processing Units

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA : After requests were received for 1 lakhs Sqm land from a Limited Company belonging to Speaker Ramesh Tawadkar, Loliem-Polem Comunidade has called for an extraordinary general body meeting to allot the land.

Residents however, see this as a clandestine move to usurp comunidade land in the back-drop of Loliem-Polem Comunidade's NOC to the Entertainment Society of Goa to set up Film City project on the



lines of 'I will supply Film City project, you give me land to set-up Multi-Fruits Processing Units', decries the locals.

In a recent Gazette notification, an extraordinary general body meeting of Loliem-

Polem Comunidade is called on Sunday, 6th April at 10.30 am at Keshav Devalaya, Loliem.

According to the notification, Eight (8) applications are received from Mallikarjun Multi-Fruits Processing

Producers Company Limited; require 1 lakh sqm land without the formalities of auction, etc sy no. 358/1, and accordingly the Loliem-Polem Comunidade meeting called to allocate land. Incidentally, 8 application files have been received by Loliem-Polem Comunidade from M/s Mallikarjun Multi-Fruits Processing Producers Co. Ltd (MMFPPCL) for allotment of a total of 1 lakh sqm of land without formalities like auction, etc in survey number 358/1 for setting up of different type of fruits processing units.



National Fire Service Day to be observed on April 14

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Directorate of Fire & Emergency Services, Government of Goa, is observing National Fire Service Day on April 14, 2025, followed by the Fire Prevention Week from April 14th to 20th April, 2025. This annual observance serves as a solemn occasion to pay tribute to the brave firefighters who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

It also aims to spread awareness about fire safety measures and preventive steps to mitigate fire hazards in homes, workplaces, and public spaces. National Fire Service Day is observed every year on April 14 to commemorate the heroic fire fighters who lost their lives during the tragic

Bombay Dock Explosion of 1944. This day stands as a reminder of the immense courage and dedication of fire personnel who risk their lives to safeguard the public from fire and related emergencies.

It also emphasizes the importance of fire prevention, preparedness, and response to minimize fire-related risks.

In line with the theme for this year's observance "Unite to Ignite, a fire safe India," the Directorate of Fire & Emergency Services, Goa, has planned a series of activities to engage and educate the public on fire safety practices.

Various interactive and educational events will be conducted across the state to instil a culture of fire safety and preparedness among citizens.

Jharkhand man arrested with ganja worth Rs 4.9 lakh

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Anti-Narcotics Cell (ANC) of Goa Police has arrested a 21-year-old man from Jharkhand for allegedly trafficking Ganja worth Rs 4.90 lakh in another interstate drug bust.

The ANC reported that Himanshu Singh was caught during a raid outside Tivim Railway Station on Tuesday evening.

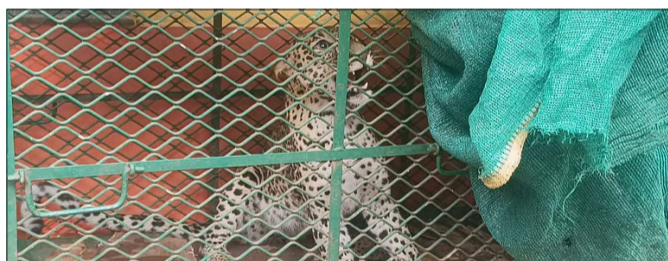
Singh was found with 4.910 kg of Ganja, valued at Rs 4.90 lakh. This follows a recent operation where the



ANC apprehended a Goan supplier and two transporters from

Jharkhand with 13 kg of Ganja. With help from Jharkhand Police, the main supplier, who regularly smuggled the drug into Goa, was also arrested.

This is the third narcotics raid conducted by the ANC in the last 10 days.



Leopard Captured in Harmal Nanoskar Wada

Set for Release After Medical Checkup

Team Goemkarponn

HARMAL: A one-year-old leopard was captured in a forest department trap early this morning around 3 am at Harmal Nanoskar Wada. The forest department confirmed the capture, reassuring the public that the animal was unharmed and is in stable condition.

Officials from the forest department stated that the leopard would undergo a thorough medical examination to ensure its health and well-being before being released back into its natural habitat within the sanctuary area.

However, the release will only take place after

obtaining the necessary permissions from the Chief Wildlife Warden.

The forest department emphasized the importance of these measures in ensuring the safety of both wildlife and the local residents. "The capture was conducted with the utmost care for the animal's well-being, and we are closely monitoring the situation to facilitate its safe return to the wild," a spokesperson said.

The department's actions highlight the delicate balance between preserving wildlife and maintaining safety in regions where animals and human populations coexist.

MP Viriato Fernandes Urges Union Min to Review Early Start to Goa's Academic Year

Team Goemkarponn

DELHI: In a detailed five-page memorandum, Fernandes criticized the decision, which has sparked protests from students, parents, and educators. Parents, who recently submitted their own memorandum to Fernandes opposing the shift, have voiced their main concerns over the extreme summer heat and the inadequate school

infrastructure to handle the early start.

"Traditionally, even before Liberation, schools in Goa concluded by the first week of April, allowing students to travel, rest, and enjoy time with family before the new academic year begins in June with the onset of the monsoon. In Delhi, summer sets in later, and that's why schools start the academic year in April," Fernandes explained. He



went on to argue that the decision to start the year in April reflects a lack of consideration for Goa's unique climate. "The Goa education department seems to be blindly following the Centre's directives without applying

logic or understanding the local context. The education department is failing to adequately address the needs and concerns of students, teachers, and parents," Fernandes added, speaking to reporters outside the Lok Sabha on Wednesday. The parents' memorandum also sharply criticizes the rushed implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in Goa.

PE Teacher suspended for assaulting student in school

Team Goemkarponn

CURCHOREM: A physical education teacher at a reputable high school in Curchorem was suspended by the Education Department for reportedly beating a Class 9 pupil who was making noise in the classroom. According to reports, the student sustained serious

neck injuries.

According to reports, the instructor had previously been transferred several times as a result of similar instances that had happened in numerous other schools.

The teacher was thereafter the target of a complaint from the

child's mother at the Curchorem police station. The mother said that because the teacher had abused her son, she had filed the complaint.

"The teacher came into the classroom and slapped my son without cause or rhyme as he was waiting for the English session. He grabbed my

son's collar and roughed him up, which made him uncomfortable. The mother then described how the teacher struck her son in the neck.

The incident has sparked worries about student safety and demands for stronger regulations to prevent future occurrences of this kind.



Airbnb Unveils 'Goa Unseen'- A Digital Guide to the State's Hidden Cultural Treasures

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa's glistening coastline and vibrant nightlife have made it one of India's most sought-after travel destinations. However, beyond the bustling beaches lies a world waiting to be explored, rich in heritage, artistry and local traditions — where colonial-era mansions, serene spice plantations, and vibrant markets tell the story of Goa's deep-rooted cultural legacy.

To bring this lesser-known side of Goa into the spotlight, Airbnb, in collaboration with the Goa Tourism Department, proudly launches 'Goa Unseen'—a digital guidebook that takes travelers beyond the obvious, uncovering the very soul of the state through its hidden cultural treasures and heritage gems.

As a part of Airbnb and the Goa Tourism Department's Rediscover



Actor Abhay Deol, Goa Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte and Airbnb's country head for India and Southeast Asia Amanpreet Singh Bajaj

Goa campaign, the 'Goa Unseen' guidebook is designed to encourage travelers to explore the state's hidden gems. The guidebook was launched in the presence of Shri Rohan Khaunte, Hon'ble Minister for Tourism, Government of Goa, Amanpreet Singh Bajaj, Airbnb's Country Head for India and Southeast Asia and renowned Indian actor Abhay Deol, who shares a deep connection with this sunshine state.

The 'Goa Unseen' guidebook has been thoughtfully curated with insights from local experts who offer a fresh, authentic perspective of the state. Contributors include culinary maestro Avinash Martins, food writer Nolan Mascarenhas, artist and content creator Siddharth Kerkar, GoaGetterr founder Garv Vohra, travel writer Insia Lacewalla, and TV host and content creator Scarlett Rose.

Each of them has shared their personal favourite recommendations for Goa - from off-the-beaten-path cultural landmarks, to secret culinary delights, and immersive local experiences—that will help travelers uncover Goa's true essence.

Goa continues to be one of the most popular destinations for Airbnb in India, and the platform has witnessed an over 20% increase in bookings for Goa in 2024 compared to 2023. This surge highlights the increasing interest in the state as a prime vacation spot for tourists from around the world. Particularly, South Goa has seen a significant uptick in bookings, with an over 25% rise in bookings in 2024 versus the previous year. This growth is a testament to travelers seeking new experiences beyond Goa's well-known hotspots, with many now exploring the state's serene hinterlands and vibrant local culture.

"Reckless": Indian-American Lawmakers Criticise Trump's Reciprocal Tariffs

■ The lawmakers also said that Donald Trump's tariffs will likely make Indian goods less competitive.

New York: In a move drawing sharp criticism, President Donald Trump's imposition of a 26% reciprocal tariff on India has been labeled "reckless and self-destructive" by Indian-American lawmakers.

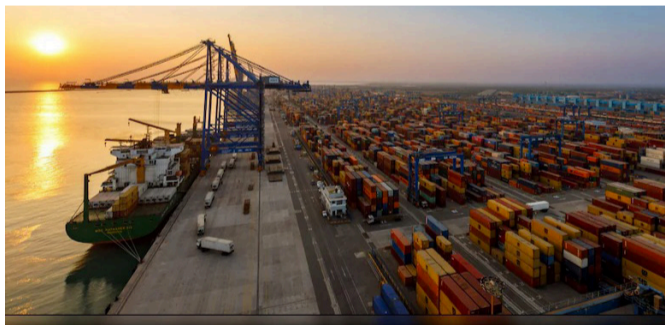
This significant trade policy shift is intended to counter India's 52% tariff on American products, but its potential to render Indian goods less competitive could have far-reaching economic implications.

President Trump's announcement, part of a broader "Liberation Day" initiative, aims to address what he sees as uneven trade practices. However, critics argue that this approach may backfire, impacting not just India but the U.S. economy as well. Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, for instance, sees these tariffs as a stealth tax on working families that fails to strengthen either the American economy or national security.

Country	Reciprocal Tariff	Current Tariff
India	26%	52%
China	15%	15%
Japan	10%	10%
South Korea	10%	10%
Canada	10%	10%
UK	10%	10%
EU	10%	10%
Australia	10%	10%
ASEAN	10%	10%
Other	10%	10%

The economic concerns are not limited to rhetoric. Congressman Ro Khanna has expressed worry that these tariffs could trigger a recession, citing their potential to drive up prices for essential goods like cars and groceries. Such economic uncertainty could deter business investments and lead to stagnation. Dr. Ami Bera further emphasized that the tariffs would ultimately increase costs for American consumers, contradicting Trump's claims of economic benefits.

Ajay Bhutoria, a former advisor to President Joe Biden, highlighted the potential damage to the strong U.S.-India economic partnership.



Adani Ports Achieves Record 450 MMT Cargo Handling in FY2024-25, Mundra Port Leads with 200 MMT

Mundra, APSEZ's flagship port, achieved a historic feat by surpassing the 200 MMT cargo mark in a single fiscal, a first for any Indian port.

Ahmedabad: Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) has once again proven its status as a frontrunner in India's maritime sector by handling a record 450 million metric tonnes of cargo in the financial year 2024-25. This milestone marks a 7% year-on-year growth, solidifying APSEZ's position as India's largest port operator. The crowning achievement comes from its flagship port, Mundra, which has

made history by becoming the first Indian port to surpass the 200 million metric tonnes cargo mark in a single fiscal year. In the preceding fiscal year, APSEZ handled 420 million metric tonnes of cargo, exceeding the government's target of 410 million metric tonnes. This period saw significant financial gains, including a 24% increase in revenue, a 50% rise in net profits, and a 24% growth in cargo movement.

Goa's infrastructure growth receives global recognition as Dabolim Airport named best AAI Airport

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: In a significant milestone for Goa's aviation sector, the Goa International Airport at Dabolim has been ranked as the best airport under the Airports Authority of India (AAI), based on the ASQ rating in the prestigious ACI-ASQ Survey 2024. This recognition reaffirms Goa's commitment to providing world-class infrastructure and seamless travel experiences to visitors.

The announcement, made on the 30th Annual Day of AAI, highlighted Dabolim Airport's exceptional service quality and passenger experience, placing it ahead of Chennai International Airport and Tiruchirappalli International Airport.

Goa's tourism industry has witnessed robust growth, supported by



Photo caption: Shri George Varughese, Airport Director received 2024 ACI-ASQ first rank award from Shri Vipin Kumar, IAS, Chairman, AAI.

significant improvements in connectivity and infrastructure. The state continues to enhance its transport facilities and develop sustainable tourism initiatives to ensure a superior experience for both domestic and international travellers. The ongoing expansion of tourism-related amenities aligns with the government's vision of making Goa a premier travel destination while preserving its cultural and environmental integrity.

Shri Kedar Naik, Director Tourism, Government of Goa, expressed his enthusiasm about the recognition, stating, "The top ranking of Dabolim Airport reflects Goa's dedication to excellence in hospitality and infrastructure. We are committed to further enhancing the state's connectivity through strategic investments in tourism infrastructure, ensuring that Goa remains a world-class destination for travellers from across

the globe."

Shri George Varughese, Airport Director, Goa International Airport, Dabolim stated, "With great pride and immense pleasure I would like to announce that Goa international Airport, Dabolim has been awarded 1st rank among AAI Airports in India for ASQ rating in ACI-ASQ survey of 2024. This prestigious award is for outstanding service quality and passenger experiences.

US Announces 26% "Discounted Reciprocal Tariff" On India

■ **Trump Tariff Announcement:** The US President also announced a 20 per cent levy on imports from the European Union and 10 per cent from the UK - two of the main trade partners and allies of the United States.

New Delhi: In a move aimed at rebalancing international trade, US President Donald Trump has announced a comprehensive package of tariffs targeting major trade partners. At the center of this strategy is a 26% "discounted reciprocal tariff" on India, part of a broader effort to address long-standing trade imbalances.

These tariffs, set to take effect in early April, reflect a broader shift in US trade policy, emphasizing what Trump terms "reciprocity."



The tariffs announced include a 26% duty on Indian imports and a 34% duty on those from China. These rates are described as "discounted" because they were set based on what Trump referred to

as half the amount that these countries charge on US imports. For instance, Trump referenced India's high auto tariffs when explaining the measure, noting a previous conversation with Prime

Minister Narendra Modi where he expressed concerns about unfair trade practices.

In addition to these tariffs, the European Union will face a 20% levy on its imports, while the UK will incur a 10% tariff. Japan is set to encounter a 24% tariff on its exports to the US. These tariffs will be imposed on top of a baseline 10% import duty on all foreign goods entering the US. The baseline tariff starts on April 5, with the specific country tariffs following on April 9.



Centre Analyzes Consequences of US Tariffs; Deems Them 'Mixed Bag'

■ According to the official, the universal 10 per cent tariffs will come into effect on all imports into the US from April 5 and the remaining 16 per cent from April 10

New Delhi: In a bold move aimed at redressing trade imbalances, the United States has imposed a 26% reciprocal tariff on Indian goods. This significant development has prompted the Indian Commerce Ministry to scrutinize the potential effects on the nation's economy. The tariffs are part of a broader strategy by President Donald Trump to tackle long-standing trade disparities with countries like India, known for imposing substantial tariffs on American products.

The United States will begin enforcing a universal 10% tariff on all imports starting April 5, with an additional 16% levied from April 10. This dual-pronged approach reflects the administration's commitment to rebalancing its trade relationships globally.

Meanwhile, India is actively engaged in negotiations with the United States to finalize the first phase of a bilateral trade agreement by September-October this year. This ongoing dialogue aims to address mutual trade concerns and could potentially

mitigate the impact of the tariffs.

President Trump's announcement highlighted the high tariffs India imposes on American goods, citing a 52% rate. In response, the US has implemented a "discounted" reciprocal tariff of 26%. Trump also underscored the significance of April 2, 2025, as a landmark day for American industry and economic resurgence, emphasizing the need for fair trade practices. The chart presented during the announcement visually underscored the disparity in tariffs between the two nations.

Despite these developments, the Indian Commerce Ministry views the situation as a "mixed bag" rather than a setback. This perspective is informed by President Trump's personal relationship with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which could offer an avenue for diplomatic solutions.

Trump's emphasis on maintaining friendly relations with India's leader while pressing for equitable trade practices adds a nuanced dimension to the situation.

Jaishankar Criticizes Yunus's 'Cherry-Picking' of Northeast Connectivity

■ Muhammad Yunus, during his recent four-day visit to China, remarked that India's Northeast was "landlocked" and had "no way to reach out to the ocean."

New Delhi: The recent visit of Bangladesh's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus to China has ignited a diplomatic firestorm after he described India's Northeast as "landlocked" and positioned Bangladesh as the "guardian of ocean access" for the region.

This provocative statement has drawn sharp rebukes from Indian leaders, including External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, who highlighted India's pivotal role in the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral



Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC).

Muhammad Yunus, during his China visit, accentuated the strategic potential of Bangladesh's maritime access for India's Northeast. This, coupled with his encouragement

for China to extend its economic influence in Bangladesh, has raised concerns about geopolitical alignments in the region. Bangladesh's status as a gateway for the Northeast to the ocean, particularly through

the Chittagong Port, has been a significant factor in regional trade dynamics, especially given India's historical reliance on these ports for logistical purposes.

S Jaishankar swiftly responded by emphasizing India's strategic importance in BIMSTEC, noting its extensive coastline of almost 6,500 km and its crucial connectivity role for several member states. He stressed that cooperation in the region should be comprehensive rather than selectively cherry-picked.

Supreme Court Upholds Cancellation of Teachers' Appointments in West Bengal

■ The Mamata Banerjee government had challenged the Calcutta High Court order in the Supreme Court

New Delhi: In a dramatic turn of events, the Mamata Banerjee government in West Bengal has suffered a significant setback as the Supreme Court upheld a Calcutta High Court order, voiding the appointments of over 25,000 teachers and non-teaching staff. This decision not only highlights the alleged recruitment fraud that marred the hiring process but also marks a broader

issue of governmental accountability.

The controversy centers around the 2016 recruitment process by the West Bengal School Service Commission, which was found to be tainted by manipulation and fraud. Despite the state government's efforts to challenge the High Court ruling, the Supreme Court saw no reason to interfere, affirming that the



entire selection process lacked credibility.

At the heart of the controversy are "supernumerary posts"



created by the state government, which allowed more appointment letters to be issued than there were vacant positions. This

irregularity has been linked to a broader recruitment scam that has implicated several top Trinamool Congress leaders, including former Education Minister Partha Chatterjee.

To rectify the situation, the state government has been directed to conduct a fresh recruitment process within three months. Candidates who succeed in this new selection process will

not be required to return their previous salaries, while those who fail must repay. An exception has been made for persons with disabilities, who can continue in their current roles.

Senior BJP leader Amit Malviya has termed the Supreme Court verdict as a "crushing defeat" for Mamata Banerjee, emphasizing the need for accountability.

Suryakumar Yadav Denies Leading 'Coup' in Mumbai Cricket Amidst Team Changes

New Delhi: The Mumbai cricket scene has found itself at the center of intrigue following the abrupt departure of rising star Yashasvi Jaiswal to Goa. Jaiswal's move, facilitated by a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Mumbai Cricket Association, has sparked speculation about internal team dynamics. Adding fuel to the fire are rumors suggesting a potential coup within the team, with senior batter Suryakumar Yadav allegedly at the helm. However, Yadav quickly dismissed these claims with a satirical post, bringing a dash of humor to an otherwise tense situation.

The core of the controversy revolves around Jaiswal's decision to leave Mumbai for Goa, a move motivated by personal reasons, as per reports. This development has not only raised eyebrows but also underscored changing allegiances within Mumbai cricket. Recently, players



like Arjun Tendulkar and Siddhesh Lad have made similar transitions to Goa, marking a shift in the state's cricket landscape. Suryakumar Yadav, known for his impactful

performances in international cricket, faced allegations of orchestrating a player exodus, which he promptly quashed. In a light-hearted social media post,

he ridiculed the notion, calling it baseless and entertaining. This reaction suggests that despite the buzz, there is no substantial truth to claims of internal strife.

Jaiswal's departure marks the third significant move from Mumbai to Goa in recent years. The young cricketer, who last played for Mumbai in a Ranji Trophy match against Jammu and Kashmir, had a lackluster outing, scoring just 4 and 26. Despite his modest display, Jaiswal remains a promising talent, having risen through the ranks and earned a spot in the national team.

Jaiswal's journey in cricket is a testament to perseverance. He began his career at the age of 12, moving from Bhadohi, Uttar Pradesh, and facing hardships before being discovered by coach Jwala Singh. Now, as he embarks on a new chapter with Goa, the focus shifts to how he will adapt to his new role and contribute to his new team's success.

'Goa Has Offered Me a Leadership Role': Yashasvi Jaiswal Explains Shift from Mumbai

Yashasvi Jaiswal wrote to the Mumbai Cricket Association on Tuesday, expressing his wish to leave Mumbai for Goa, and the governing body swiftly accepted his request

New Delhi: In a move that has sent shockwaves through Indian cricket, Yashasvi Jaiswal, the talented young opener, has bid farewell to Mumbai and signed up with Goa for the 2025-26 domestic season. This unexpected decision to leave one of the most storied teams in Indian cricket comes as Jaiswal seeks new horizons, especially a potential leadership role. Despite being just 23 years old, Jaiswal has already made his mark on the international stage as India's first-choice opener in Tests.

Jaiswal's decision to switch allegiances was not taken lightly. The Mumbai Cricket Association accepted his request, understanding that the allure of a leadership position elsewhere was too great to ignore. In a candid confession, Jaiswal expressed gratitude to Mumbai, acknowledging its role in shaping his career. However, he emphasized that Goa's offer of a captaincy role was an opportunity he couldn't miss. Jaiswal is



set to prioritize his duties with the national team but will don the mantle for Goa whenever available. Jaiswal last played for Mumbai in a Ranji Trophy match against Jammu and Kashmir, before which he was part of a high-profile lineup that included stalwarts like Rohit Sharma and Shreyas Iyer. His request to leave was swiftly approved by the MCA, despite some surprise at his decision. Goa Cricket Association's secretary confirmed that Jaiswal will join their ranks from the next season, with possibilities of leading the side when not on national duty.

Jaiswal follows in the footsteps of other Mumbai cricketers who have made the move to Goa, including Arjun Tendulkar and Siddhesh Lad.



Noah Luis Shines as Navelim Villagers Advance in United Trophy

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: In a thrilling match, Navelim Villagers Union defeated CAC Cansaulim 2-1, propelling themselves into the quarterfinals of the United Trophy. Hosted by the United Club of Telaulim at the Rosary Church ground in Navelim, this victory was a testament to the team's determination and skill on the field.

The match saw both sides adopt an aggressive strategy, creating equal opportunities for scoring. However, it was Navelim Villagers Union who capitalized on their



chances, with Noah Luis scoring twice in the first session. His impressive performance earned him the Man of the Match award, presented by Padu Vardi.

Despite their efforts, CAC Cansaulim managed to pull one goal back in injury time courtesy of Rishley Soares.

Crickokers Hospitality Announces the 2nd Edition of the All India 50+ Players Cricket Tournament in Goa

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Crickokers Hospitality, a well-known name in sports tourism since its incorporation in 2019, is set to host the second edition of the All India 50+ Players Cricket Tournament in Goa from April 4 to April 6, 2025.

The tournament will take place at three venues: Margao Cricket Club (MCC), Arlem Ground, and SAG Chicalim, and will feature eight veteran teams from across the country, bringing together seasoned cricketers who have significantly contributed to the sport. Around 100 cricketers will take part in this prestigious event.

The first edition of the tournament, held in May 2024, saw teams from Indore, Delhi,

Dharwad, and Mumbai competing in a spirited display of skill, strategy, and sportsmanship. This initiative is part of a growing movement to keep the passion for cricket alive among veteran players, offering them a

competitive platform to showcase their enduring love for the game. The upcoming tournament will follow a T20 format, featuring eight teams—Central Strikers (Indore), Rising Star XI (North India), Omtex ICWC – Western Lions (Mumbai), DCA (Dharwad), Palakkad Veterans (Kerala), Western United (Mumbai), Rest of India (Delhi), and Crickokers

(Goa). Matches will be played across the three designated grounds in Goa, promising an exciting and high-energy competition.

Speaking about the vision behind Crickokers Hospitality, Anup Borkar, Spokesperson – Crickokers Hospitality, said, "Crickokers

Hospitality is the vision of three passionate sports and travel aficionados—Raghuvir Kuncolienkar, Amar Devidas, and myself—who have combined our expertise in sports tourism, finance, and business operations to create a premier platform for sports enthusiasts. With vast experience in handling sporting events, Crickokers Hospitality

is dedicated to curating exceptional sports tourism experiences. Our journey is fueled by a deep love for cricket, and we are committed to delivering world-class sporting events that bring together players, fans, and the spirit of the game."

The All India 50+ Players Cricket Tournament is more than just a sporting event; it is a celebration of dedication, teamwork, and sportsmanship. It brings together former cricketers who, despite retiring from professional play, continue to inspire and contribute to the sport. With rigorous planning underway, this year's edition aims to surpass the success of its predecessor, ensuring thrilling encounters and unforgettable moments for both players and spectators

