



CM: Action after verification in Cash-for-Jobs Scam

Sawant says police verifying Pooja Naik's claims before summoning those named; FIR to follow statement review

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant today said that the police are in the process of verifying all facts related to the alleged cash-for-jobs scam before taking further action. He assured that once verification is complete, those named by accused Pooja Naik will be called for questioning.

"The police team is investigating the case and should be allowed to verify the facts. After verification, those named by Pooja Naik will be called for questioning. Once the report is received, I will disclose the names mentioned in it," Sawant said. The Chief Minister added that an FIR will be filed based on Naik's statement and



reaffirmed that strict action would be taken against anyone involved, including ministers or officers, if evidence supports the allegations. Meanwhile, the Crime Branch (CB) recorded Naik's statement at the Bicholim Police Station on Sunday after her video alleging a minister's involvement went viral. SP (Crime Branch) Rahul Gupta confirmed the development, stating that the content of her statement is being

Cabral Urges Pooja Naik to Name Those Involved in Job Scam Allegations



Team Goemkarponn

Curchorem: Former PWD Minister and Curchorem MLA Nilesh Cabral has reacted to allegations made by

examined and the next course of action will be decided accordingly. The CB is currently cross-checking the claims made in Naik's statement

Responding to media queries, Cabral said Naik should "name the minister, IAS officer, and engineer" allegedly involved in the scam, instead of making general statements. The MLA refrained from commenting further, saying that concrete details were necessary for any meaningful action or investigation into the matter.

Pooja Naik in connection with the ongoing job scam row, urging her to publicly reveal the names of those she has accused.

as part of the ongoing investigation into the alleged scam involving recruitment irregularities and monetary exchanges for government jobs.

Min Sudin expresses distrust in Pooja Naik's allegations



Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: Power Minister Sudin Dhavalikar has said that those involved in the cash-for-job scam are "playing with people and their futures," while expressing distrust in complainant Pooja Naik's claims. He further demanded strict action against anyone found guilty. "If anyone is involved, the court must give them strict punishment," Dhavalikar

"The Crime Branch has initiated an investigation into the cash-for-job scam, and I believe the Chief Minister will make the right decision. If any minister, IAS officer, or anyone from the PWD is involved, then they are playing with the people. I don't trust Pooja Naik."

said. The Minister also referred to an earlier case in Ponda, alleging that the police did not properly investigate a job scam involving a suspended teacher. "I have seen the papers myself. I have a letter wherein a teacher took money. Teachers are involved in many such cases; one teacher from our school was also involved and was suspended," he added.



90% public grievances resolved within two days: Goa CM

Sawant inaugurates new Directorate office, launches website at Patto, Panaji.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant today said that the Directorate of Public Grievances has been efficiently addressing citizen complaints, with nearly 90 per cent of grievances resolved within two days. The remaining 10 percent, he added, are disposed of within four to five days. Dr. Sawant

said the prompt redressal system reflects the government's commitment to transparency and accountability. "Most grievances are resolved within two days. Only a small percentage take longer due to inter-departmental coordination issues," he noted. The Chief Minister was speaking after inaugurating the new

Probe Uncovers 350 Kg Explosive Stockpile In Faridabad After Srinagar Lead

Sleeper Cell Of Radicalised Doctors Uncovered After Massive Explosives Seized Near Delhi.

New Delhi: A routine investigation in Srinagar has uncovered a radicalised network of medical professionals operating across multiple states, culminating in the recovery of assault rifles and nearly 350 kilograms of ammonium nitrate from Faridabad. The case unfolded



after a poster surfaced in Nowgam

warning local traders against engaging with central authorities. CCTV tracking identified the person behind the act as Dr Adeel, a Kashmiri-origin doctor working in Saharanpur. Once detained, Dr Adeel revealed

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270 Indians Repatriated From Myanmar Scam Hub Questioned By Central Agencies

The 270 Indian nationals, including 26 women, were brought back from Thailand in two C-130J Super Hercules transport IAF aircraft.

New Delhi: Indian authorities have begun questioning 270 nationals who were flown back from Thailand after fleeing a large cyber scam operation in Myanmar's Myawaddy region. The group, which included 26

women, returned to India on Thursday aboard two C-130J Super Hercules aircraft operated by the Indian Air Force. According to official sources, the Indian nationals had crossed illegally into Thailand's

Mae Sot town after escaping the KK Park cyber scam centre, where thousands of foreign citizens were reportedly being forced into online fraud. Thai authorities imposed fines on the group for illegal entry

and confiscated several electronic devices, mobile phones and multiple passports recovered during immigration checks. The items had allegedly been hidden before boarding the

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Goa's Coal Curse - A State Betrayed by Its Own Guardians

The sight of thousands of Goans gathering at Margao's Lohia Maidan on Sunday evening was more than a protest. It was a collective cry of betrayal, a demand for accountability from Goa's very own leaders who have chosen industrial greed over public good. The message was unambiguous: Goa will not be a coal corridor.

This was not just another environmental protest. It was an assertion of identity and ownership - of land, rivers, and livelihoods. The people's resolutions at the meeting were sweeping, from halting coal handling at Mormugao Port Trust (MPT) to rejecting the Sagarmala Master Plan and scrapping the double-tracking of the South Western Railway. Every demand was rooted in one conviction - that Goa's fragile ecosystem and its community fabric cannot bear the weight of coal capitalism.

For years, successive governments have peddled the illusion of "development" as justification for policies that serve corporate interests while imperiling local communities. The coal expansion plans in Goa are the latest and perhaps most dangerous manifestation of this pattern. Under the Sagarmala project, coal handling at MPT is projected to rise to an astronomical 137 million tonnes per year - a figure that would transform Goa's coastline into a conveyor belt of black dust and toxic air.

Environmental activist Abhijit Prabhudesai's warning that the state is bending to pressure from the Centre is not hyperbole. Goa's ports, rivers, and highways are being redesigned to fit into a logistical blueprint dictated by Delhi and corporate powerhouses. National highways are being widened to accommodate 100-ton coal trucks. Rivers have been placed under central control, stripping Goans of their right to manage local waterways. The pattern is clear: the state's natural assets are being nationalized, not for the public good but for private profit.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant's administration has consistently downplayed these threats. When the government first faced public backlash over coal handling, it promised to cap and gradually reduce operations at MPT. Instead, the limit was quietly raised from seven to fourteen million tonnes. Such duplicity exposes

The consequences of these policies are visible and measurable. Fishermen along the Baina and Kharewaddo coasts have complained of declining catches, siltation, and pollution since dredging began at MPT. The dust from coal handling coats homes, roads, and lungs. The health implications are devastating respiratory diseases, skin ailments, and contamination of coastal waters are already on the rise. Yet, environmental clearances are being granted at record speed. What makes this betrayal even more glaring is Goa's unique vulnerability. Unlike industrial states with large hinterlands, Goa's small size and ecological sensitivity leave no room for error. Every hill cut, every river dredged, every truckload of coal rolling down a national highway eats into the state's long-term sustainability

the government's unwillingness to uphold even its own commitments, let alone the public interest.

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unique vulnerability. Unlike industrial states with large hinterlands, Goa's small size and ecological sensitivity leave no room for error. Every hill cut, every river dredged, every truckload of coal rolling down a national highway eats into the state's long-term sustainability. The tourism industry - still the backbone of Goa's economy - cannot coexist with a coal conveyor. No traveler dreams of a beach fringed by black dust.

The government's justification that these projects will bring jobs and revenue is hollow. The benefits of such mega-projects are rarely local. The profits go to mining and logistics companies headquartered elsewhere, while Goans bear the cost - in health, displacement, and environmental degradation. True economic planning for Goa would focus on renewable energy, sustainable tourism, small-scale manufacturing, and fisheries - sectors that strengthen communities rather than erode them.

The public meeting at Lohia Maidan is a reminder that Goa's citizens are not passive spectators. They have seen what unchecked industrialization has done to rivers like the Zuari and Mandovi, to forests in the Western Ghats, to villages uprooted by dubious land acquisitions. They understand that once lost, these cannot be reclaimed. The people's movement is not just environmental; it is existential.

What the government faces now is not just opposition but a deep moral indictment. The demand to halt coal handling is not a plea - it is a constitutional assertion of people's rights to clean air, water, and self-determination. If the state continues to act as a facilitator for corporate interests at the expense of its citizens, it will lose not just legitimacy but also the moral right to govern.

Goa's story has always been one of resistance - from colonial occupation to reckless development. The battle over coal is the latest chapter in that history. Whether the state remains a haven of natural beauty and cultural resilience or becomes another industrial wasteland depends on choices made now. The people have spoken clearly.

The question is: will the government listen?

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Cabral's Remarks on Migrants Show a Troubling Disconnect

Power Minister Nilesh Cabral's statement that people living in Goa for 25 years should not be called migrants is deeply troubling. His attempt to redefine the term is not only misleading but also dismissive of Goans' genuine concerns about rapid demographic and cultural changes.

Migration is not merely about the number of years one has stayed in a place. It is about the larger social, cultural, and economic impact that unplanned migration brings. Goa has witnessed immense pressure on its land, infrastructure, and employment due to unchecked influx, often facilitated by the same political class now asking people to stop using the word "migrant." Cabral's comment ignores the fact that integration is not automatic. It requires mutual respect, understanding, and contribution to the local way of life - something that can't be measured in years alone.

By trivialising the issue, Cabral reveals a lack of sensitivity to the anxieties of Goans who fear losing their identity in their own land. Instead of downplaying the problem, he should be addressing the reasons why Goans feel alienated - from the dilution of local employment to the erosion of Goan culture.

Leaders must bridge communities, not lecture citizens for expressing legitimate concerns. Goa's identity is worth protecting, and dismissing those who raise alarms about its slow erosion only deepens mistrust.

-Denzil Ferrao, Azossim

Arrest All Accused in the Cash-for-Jobs Scam

The unfolding cash-for-jobs scam has once again exposed how corruption seeps deep into Goa's governance. When the accused has openly named senior officials and even a minister as beneficiaries of this shameful racket, there is no room for hesitation. Every accused person, regardless of status or position, must be arrested and investigated thoroughly.

This is not just a case of bribery - it is an attack on the hopes of hundreds of educated Goan youth who trusted the system to provide fair opportunities. While young people struggle for employment on merit, powerful individuals are accused of turning government jobs into a marketplace. Such crimes cannot be brushed aside through committee reports or slow-moving inquiries.

The fact that the accused has identified those allegedly involved should be reason enough for the police to act swiftly. Any delay in arresting the accused and co-conspirators will only raise doubts about political interference. Justice must be equal for all. If common citizens are arrested for minor offences, why should ministers or officers get special treatment when accused of looting public faith?

The government cannot claim to fight corruption while shielding its own. Immediate arrests, transparent investigation, and public accountability are the only acceptable steps. Goa's youth deserve justice, not excuses. The state must prove that no one is above the law.

-Shruti Naik, Cuchelim

Pooja Naik Questioned by Goa Police Over Jobs-for-Cash Scam Allegations

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Pooja Naik, a key accused in the ongoing jobs-for-cash scam, was summoned and questioned for several hours on Sunday by the Goa Police Crime Branch, following her explosive claims implicating a minister, a senior IAS officer, and a PWD engineer in a Rs 17 crore recruitment racket. Superintendent of Police (Crime) Rahul Gupta confirmed that Naik's statement was recorded and is currently under examination, with the next steps in the investigation



yet to be decided. Naik's allegations, made during a televised interview on Friday, claimed that the officials received money from job aspirants via her, and she demanded repayment within three days, threatening to publicly name them and approach the Chief Minister if they failed to comply. In response, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant

directed the police to summon Naik for a formal inquiry. He emphasized that any investigation would follow proper legal procedures, and that Naik should record her statement before the police and magistrate rather than making public declarations through the media. "She may name anyone before the investigating officer; there is no need to approach

me personally. Action will be taken based on established facts," Sawant stated, reaffirming that no individual, regardless of rank or position, would be shielded if found guilty.

The job-for-money scam, which had previously shaken Goa's recruitment system and led to multiple arrests, has gained renewed urgency with Naik's latest claims. The Chief Minister reiterated the government's commitment to transparency and accountability, assuring the public that strict action would follow once the investigation concludes.



Karwar Navy Espionage Case: Two More Convicted, Sentenced to Jail

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJ: In the ongoing Karwar Navy espionage case, two more accused have been sentenced by the NIA Special Court to prison terms of five years and ten months each, along with fines of ₹5,000. One of the convicts had been arrested from the INS Kadamba Naval Base. The convicted individuals, Kalavalapalli Konda Babu

from Visakhapatnam and Avinash Somal from Himachal Pradesh, were found guilty of sharing sensitive naval information with Pakistani intelligence operatives. Investigations revealed that the accused communicated with the foreign agents through WhatsApp and Facebook, leaking critical details about naval movements and deployments in Karwar.

AI-Generated Leopard Photo in Fatorda Exposed as Fake, Forest Dept Seizes Mobile

Team Goemkarponn

FATORDA: Fatorda witnessed a brief scare yesterday evening when a photo claiming to show a leopard near Chovot, close to SGDH, went viral on social media. The image was circulated by Gautam Kumar, a tender coconut seller in the area, along with another person named Ali. Forest officials, led by officer Gaurish, promptly visited the site to verify the sighting. Upon investigation and examination of the mobile



device used to share the photo, authorities determined that the image was not real but generated using an artificial intelligence application. Gautam Kumar admitted to spreading the fake

photo, acknowledging the mistake. The Forest Department has seized his mobile and confirmed that appropriate action would be taken against those responsible for creating and disseminating false information that caused public panic. Authorities have urged the public to verify wildlife sightings with official sources before sharing them on social media, emphasizing that spreading unverified content can lead to unnecessary fear and confusion.

Girish Chodankar Seeks Early SC Hearing on Disqualification of 8 BJP-Joined MLAs

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Congress leader Girish Chodankar has approached the Supreme Court, urging an expedited hearing on his petition seeking the disqualification of eight MLAs who defected to the BJP after being elected on Congress tickets. In his plea, Chodankar highlighted that over six months have passed without the respondents filing their replies, describing the delay as a "deliberate and calculated" attempt to



stall the judicial process. He stressed that the case involves significant legal questions with broader public implications and therefore warrants immediate attention. The petition, originally filed as a special leave petition in March, challenges the orders of the Speaker of the Goa Legislative Assembly and the High

Court that allowed the eight MLAs who switched allegiance in 2022 to retain their positions. Chodankar's latest application notes that with the term of the 8th Goa Legislative Assembly ending in 2027, there are less than 16 months left for resolution. "More than three years have passed since the alleged defection, which should have triggered immediate disqualification under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution," the plea states.

Massive Public Meeting at Lohia Maidan Demands Halt to Coal Handling in Goa

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Thousands of Goans gathered at the historic Lohia Maidan on Sunday evening, pledging not to rest until the government stops coal handling at Mormugao Port and ceases coal transportation across the state. Participants raised their hands in unity as a series of resolutions were adopted at the large public awareness meeting, vowing to continue protests, raise public awareness, and pursue the cause through all possible channels until their demands are met. Key demands included scrapping the double-tracking project on the



South Western Railway and returning acquired land to Goans, halting all port expansion at Mormugao, and using the port exclusively for green cargo. Attendees also called for the cancellation of the controversial Sagarmala Master Plan, retaining local community control over the state's rivers, coasts, and lands, and removing Goa's rivers and coasts from the National Waterways Act, 2016, and port limits. Additional resolutions demanded the scrapping

of the proposed High-Level Borim Bridge, stopping all highway expansion projects for coal transport on NH-17N and NH-4A, and shutting down all steel plants and associated Bandharas and dam proposals in the state. During a presentation, environmental activist and Goyant Kollso Naka co-convenor Abhijit Prabhudesai warned that the Coal Master Plan aims to increase coal handling to 137 million tonnes annually.

Loliem-Polem Gramsabha Resolves to Hand Over Stray Cattle to Karnataka Farmer

Team Goemkarponn

Canacona: In a landmark decision aimed at tackling the menace of stray cattle, the Loliem-Polem Gramsabha has resolved to hand over unclaimed cattle loitering on village and highway roads to the care of a farmer from Anshi in Karnataka's Karwar district. The issue of stray cattle causing frequent mishaps, especially along NH-66 and internal village roads, was intensely debated at the Gramsabha meeting. Members expressed concern that the animals not only endanger motorists and pedestrians but also often become victims of accidents



themselves. During the discussion, a villager proposed handing over the unclaimed cattle to a farmer from across the border who had reportedly expressed willingness to take them under his care. The farmer from Anshi assured the villagers that he would look after the animals responsibly. Following deliberations, the Gramsabha resolved to issue a 15-day ultimatum to cattle owners

whose animals are regularly found straying on roads to reclaim them. Failing this, the Village Panchayat (VP) of Loliem-Polem will complete the necessary formalities and issue authorization to transfer the stray cattle to the farmer in Anshi. Members noted that the move would not only help reduce road accidents but also protect both human lives and the cattle themselves.

Cybercrime police bust Rs 2.8 cr digital arrest fraud, one held

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Cyber Crime Police Station, Goa, has arrested a Maharashtra resident in connection with a high-value "digital arrest" fraud case involving ₹2.8 crore. The offence, registered on October 16, 2025, under Crime No. 40/2025, pertains to a complaint filed by a resident of Cansaulim, South Goa. The complainant was duped between September 4 and October 9, 2025, by fraudsters impersonating Enforcement Directorate (ED) officers through WhatsApp numbers. The accused falsely claimed that the victim's Aadhaar card was linked to a money laundering case and coerced him into transferring ₹2.8 crore in four RTGS transactions to different bank accounts. Following a detailed



technical and financial investigation, a police team traced and arrested Diwakar Varun Jha (30), resident of Taloje Majkur, Raigarh, Maharashtra. The arrest was executed by a team led by PSI Manesh Dabhale and PCs Devendra Kunkolikar and Siddesh Palni, under the supervision of SP Rahul Gupta, IPS, ASP Smt. B.V. Shridevi, IPS, and PI Deepak Pednekar. Investigations revealed that ₹50 lakh was first received in the accused's bank account and then routed to

multiple accounts of his associates. The same account was found linked to 11 other cyber fraud cases across several states, including Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Mizoram, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Gujarat, and Goa, collectively amounting to ₹7.47 crore. The accused has been remanded to police custody, while further investigation is being carried out under the supervision of PI Deepak Pednekar, Cyber Crime Police Station, Goa.

Calangute police crack bag theft case; stolen mobiles recovered

Team Goemkarponn

CALANGUTE: Swift action by Calangute Police led to the arrest of two men from Sangli, Maharashtra, in connection with a theft reported at Baga Beach earlier this month.

The case was registered on November 4, 2025, under Cr. No. 153/2025 U/s 303(2) BNS 2023, based on a complaint filed by Madhavi Namjibhai Patel, a resident of Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The complainant reported that between 6:00 pm and 7:30 pm, her backpack was stolen at Baga Beach. The stolen bag contained mobile phones — an iPhone 14, Samsung Galaxy S25, and Samsung Galaxy A50s — along with her ID card, wallet with ₹5,000 cash, clothes, and a key of a rented bike, all valued at



approximately ₹1.85 lakh. Acting on technical leads, police traced the location of the stolen phones to Sangli, Maharashtra, and dispatched a team to the area.

The team apprehended Kishor Raju Kore (27) and Parshram Satish Bansode (25), both residents of Miraj, Sangli. Three stolen mobile phones

were recovered from their possession.

The accused have been brought to Goa for further investigation. The case is being investigated under the supervision of PI Paresh Naik of Calangute Police Station, with overall supervision of SDPO Porvorim Vishwesh Karpe and SP North Rahul Gupta, IPS.



Police crackdown on touts ahead of festive season; 13 held

Team Goemkarponn

CALANGUTE: In a major drive to ensure the safety and comfort of tourists ahead of the festive season, the Calangute Police Station has intensified its campaign against touts and illegal agents operating in the coastal belt.

As part of the operation, police booked two accused persons under Section 34 of the Indian Police Act and apprehended 13 touts/illegal agents engaged in harassing or misleading tourists for monetary gain. According to police, those arrested have been

identified as Ganesh Laxman Rathod (24), Parshuram Allappa Kharbare (27), Bharish Assamuddin Shah (18), Gaurab Rakesh Shakya (23), Mohamed Younis Khan (18), Amir Istiger Hussain (25), Aman Nafish Ahmad (19), Sultan Alam Firoz Ali (34), Shadali Fadul Ali (24), Shan Alam Sahayak Ali (32), Tapan Kumar Duryadhan Samal (32), Asish Rameshchandra Kumar (27), and Ranjeet Kumar Ramashankar Kumar (30). All 13 accused were produced before the SDM Mapusa and have been remanded to three days' judicial custody.

Sex racket busted at Dabolim Spa; 6 women rescued, 1 held

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: Vasco Police on Saturday night busted a sex racket operating from a spa in Dabolim and rescued six women who were allegedly forced into prostitution. According to police, the raid was conducted between 7:57 pm on November 8 and 12:40 am on November 9, 2025, at Lotus Spa, Dabolim. The accused, identified as



Nagesh Kumar, a resident of Dabolim and native of Chhattisgarh, along with

another accused Bhimsing Kabeer Naik of Dabolim, had allegedly procured

and hired six women for commercial sexual activities for monetary gain. The victims were induced into the trade and provided to customers within the premises. All six women have been rescued and placed in the Protective Home at Mercedes. Accused Nagesh Kumar has been arrested, while further investigation is being conducted by PI Vaibhav Naik of Vasco Police Station

Motorcycle stolen from basement parking in Margao

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: A complaint has been lodged by Iona Almeida, resident of Aquem, Margao, reporting the theft of a motorcycle from the basement parking of Raghunath City Centre, Aquem.

According to police, the incident occurred sometime



between May 29 and November 5, 2025, when unidentified person(s) allegedly stole a Yamaha RX135 motorcycle belonging to her friend, Royston S. C. Paes.

Margao Town Police have registered a case of theft and further investigation has been handed over to ASI Sandeep Khajankar.

Rare case of Naru (Guinea Worm) reported in Ponda

Team Goemkarponn

PONDA: The Health Department has reported a rare case of the Naru worm (Guinea worm) infection in the Nagzar area of Ponda, prompting swift preventive measures to curb any possible spread.

Health officials have begun collecting samples for laboratory testing and disinfecting the surrounding areas as part of containment efforts.

Residents in the locality have been urged to drink only boiled water, maintain strict cleanliness, and avoid open defecation.

People experiencing symptoms such as stomach pain, fever, or loose motions have been advised to immediately visit the Ponda Sub-District Hospital or the



nearest Community Health Centre or hospital for examination and treatment.

Health Minister Vishwajit Rane confirmed the report, stating, "The Health Department is fully alert and has taken all precautionary measures to ensure there is no spread of infection."

Surveillance and awareness drives are being carried out in and around the affected area to protect public health."

Rane further appealed to the public to remain calm but vigilant and to strictly follow hygiene and water safety measures.

The Health Department continues to monitor the situation closely while conducting awareness campaigns to educate residents on preventive steps.

Injured Leopard Cub Rescued After Straying into Khandepar Home

Team Goemkarponn

KHANDEPAR: A frightened and injured leopard cub caused a scare in the residential area of Panchme, Khandepar, Goa, on Friday evening when it wandered into a local home. The family, returning around 7 pm, initially mistook the animal for a dog but soon realized it was a leopard cub. Concerned for the safety of both the cub and nearby residents, they immediately informed the Forest Department. Forest officials responded promptly, safely capturing the cub and placing it in a



secure cage. The animal was then transported for medical attention to ensure its health and recovery. Local environmentalist Sandeep Parkar observed that the cub appeared weak and frightened, likely having strayed from its natural habitat.

Unidentified body found floating in Sal river at Carmona

Team Goemkarponn

CARMONA: A decomposed body of an unidentified male, aged around 35 to 40 years, was found floating in the Sal River behind Carmona Church, Xiro Carmona, on Saturday morning. Police received a phone call around 9:11 am informing them of the body. Upon visiting the site, Colva Police, assisted by the Cuncolim Fire Force, retrieved the body from the river, which emitted a strong foul smell due to



decomposition. A scene of unnatural death (UD) and inquest panchanama were conducted at the site. The body has been preserved at the South Goa District Hospital, Margao, for medico-legal examination and identification. Further investigation into the case is being carried out by LPSI Varshda Naik Dessai of Colva Police Station.

State Steering Committee reviews measures for accessible & inclusive elections

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The third meeting of the State Steering Committee on Accessible Elections was held recently under the chairpersonship of Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Sanjay Goel, IAS, at the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Altinho, Panaji. The meeting reviewed the implementation of previous initiatives and discussed strategies to ensure that future elections in Goa are accessible, inclusive, and participative. Members were also briefed on



the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Chief Electoral Officer Sanjay Goel emphasized the importance of strengthening electoral inclusion under the theme "Accessible Elections", ensuring that every eligible voter, including

Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), senior citizens, and marginalized groups, can take part in the electoral process with ease and dignity.

He also informed the Committee that the Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls is being conducted with reference

to January 1, 2026 as the qualifying date.

The exercise aims to maintain electoral rolls that are accurate, updated, and truly representative, enabling every eligible citizen of Goa to participate meaningfully in the democratic process.

MPA to restart container operations after 7 years

MORMUGAO: In a significant development for Goa's maritime sector, Mormugao Port is set to restart its container handling operations after a gap of seven years. The first container vessel, SCI Mumbai, is expected to dock at the port on November 20, announced Vishnu Prasad, Senior Business Development Manager at Delta Ports' Mormugao Terminal. The revival of container services marks an important step in enhancing the port's trade efficiency and



competitiveness. Officials believe the move will attract new business opportunities, improve cargo movement, and strengthen Mormugao's position as a key logistics hub within India's maritime

network. With upgraded facilities and a renewed focus on modernization, the port aims to provide seamless connectivity for both domestic and international trade. Industry stakeholders

expressed optimism that the resumption will spur economic growth, benefiting regional commerce and contributing to the broader national trade ecosystem.

Man found dead at Sanvordem railway station

Team Goemkarponn

SANVORDEM: An unidentified male, aged around 40 years, was found lying dead on the platform of Sanvordem Railway Station shortly after midnight on Sunday

Police were alerted at around 12:08 am by the Deputy Station Manager of Vasco-da-Gama. Upon receiving the information, officers from the Vasco Railway Police visited the site and

conducted the scene of unnatural death (UD) panchanama.

The deceased, suspected to be a beggar or rag picker, is believed to have died due to illness.

The body has been preserved at the South Goa District Hospital, Margao, for medico-legal examination and identification.

Further investigation into the case is being carried out by PSI Krishna Talpi of Vasco Railway Police Station.



Rohan Khaunte highlights Government's collaborative efforts with academia and industry at GIST 2025

■ GIST 2025 explores the power of innovation for social impact and inclusive growth.

PANAJI: Fostering innovation and entrepreneurship, the third edition of the Goa Innovation and Startup Times (GIST 2025) was held on Friday, October 31, 2025 at Vivanta Goa, Panjim. The event brought together a diverse group of entrepreneurs, government officials, academicians, industry experts, startups and students. Organised by BITS Pilani's BITS BioCyTiH Foundation, GIST 2025 took place in collaboration with the Department of Information Technology, Electronics and Communications (DITE&C), Goa Technology Association (GTA), Goa Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCl) and the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical Systems (NM-ICPS). In his address, Chief Guest, Rohan Khaunte, Minister for Information Technology, Tourism and Printing & Stationary said, "Goa is committed to nurturing its startup ecosystem by providing mentorship, infrastructure and financial support to emerging entrepreneurs. With 703 startups already registered under DPIIT, the State is positioning itself as a hub for innovation, where creativity and technology converge." Highlighting the inclusive approach being adopted in the policy-making process, the Minister further emphasised

that the Government is open to taking inputs and has been working collaboratively with academia and industry to shape policies for the State. "The Goa AI Mission 2027 is a prime example of this vision, aiming to make the State a leader in emerging technologies and AI, fostering not only a thriving business environment but also empowering Goa's youth to be job creators, not just job seekers," he added. The event featured insightful talks on emerging technology trends, alongside powerful panel discussions. One of the key panels titled, 'Innovation by the Seaside-Technology drivers', brought together industry leaders, including Mr. K Bhattacharyya, MD, Putzmeister, Dr. P Kamat, Co-founder, Suzega, Mr. S Chittore, Founder and CEO, Quantum AI Global and Mr. M Tiwari, CEO, Ethernet Xpress. The panel, moderated by Dr A. Pethe, Sr. Technologist, Texas Instruments, highlighted the transformative potential of AI and Quantum technologies in reshaping innovation paths for startups and established industries, stressing the importance of strategic adoption. The panelists also shared valuable insights and tips with the youngsters. Another engaging panel, 'Science, Policy and Sustainability,' explored real-world

applications and challenges in communities and industries, while also discussing the vast opportunities available to tackle key Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) issues. The session was moderated by Dr Jennifer Lewis, President, ISHRAE and included Prof. A Parulekar, Director, GIM, Dr. B Manjunath, ED, Syngenta, Mr. M K Patil, Former Chairman, Goa State Pollution Control Board and Ms Tripti Somani, Founder of Womeninnovator, as panelists. Speaking on the occasion, Guest of Honour, Ms. Revathi Kamath, Entrepreneur, Environmentalist, Educationist and Philanthropist, emphasised the urgent need to make education and technology more accessible to rural and underprivileged children. She urged entrepreneurs to take responsibility for social change and contribute towards national development and inclusive growth. The event prominently spotlighted women entrepreneurs through a dedicated Women Entrepreneurship Camp. In addition, it highlighted innovation through an interesting exposition by startups and translation research projects. A closed-door Startup Investing Pitching session provided valuable opportunities for emerging businesses to secure funding and partnerships.

Blenders Pride Fashion Tour Sets Fashion's Next Move

Goa: Blenders Pride Fashion Tour, India's most definitive voice in fashion, returns in 2025 with yet another spectacular edition where fashion, creativity and culture converge, and create 'The One and Only' stage that will set the tone for what's next in fashion. In a world where trends are often fleeting, the Fashion Tour takes it boldest stride yet and reimagines what it means to lead fashion forward and define 'Fashion's Next Move'. This isn't just a theme it's a declaration, a definitive statement that fashion's next chapter doesn't begin on just any runway; it begins on the stages of Blenders Pride Fashion Tour. Joining forces once again with Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI), the Fashion Tour brings together the India's leading designers and celebrated style icons to present experiences that breakthrough the realms of fashion, like never before. The tour will set the course in Gurugram with 'The Futureverse of Fashion' featuring designers Falguni and Shane Peacock, with Shahid Kapoor and Tamannaah Bhatia, unlocking the future of fashion experiences. It'll redefine what a runway can be – an immersive, visual spectacle blurring lines between technology and couture, transforming



the dimensions in which fashion is experienced. The tour then will shift gears to Jaipur with 'High Octane Couture' where designers Abhishek Patni and Namrata Joshipura will bring speed, power, and precision from the world of motorsports to the fashion runway, defining a new language of global style. Featuring the panache of Harnaaz Sandhu, Miss Universe (2021), and the unmistakable energy of rapper Raftaar, this chapter promises fashion at full throttle exhilarating, fearless, and impossibly glamorous. The finale in Kolkata will witness 'Breaking the moulds of Fashion Craft' with the return of iconic designer Anamika Khanna, joined by Ishaan Khatter. This chapter will shine the spotlight on the sublime power of craftsmanship and bridge a connection where it meets contemporary vision, giving audiences not just fashion to admire, but craft to revere. Debasree Dasgupta, CMO, Pernod Ricard India, said, "Blenders Pride Fashion

Tour has been Indian fashion's most iconic stage. Guided by our 'The One and Only' ambition, we continue to set new benchmarks shaping the evolution of fashion & style in collaboration with India's finest designers & FDCI. With 'Fashion's Next Move', we're making a bold foray into showcasing the future of fashion and what it means to lead with style and curate a future where creativity, culture and innovation converge. We believe in shaping a future-forward narrative that will inspire the next generation of consumers and invite them into our iconic and progressive world." Sunil Sethi, Chairman, FDCI, expressed, "FDCI is thrilled with its collaboration with Blenders Pride Fashion Tour, bringing together the two powerhouses of fashion, that amplifies our commitment to shaping its future. This edition brings together diverse design perspectives that celebrates creativity, culture, and sets the pace for the future of fashion in India."

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Probe Uncovers 350 Kg Explosive Stockpile In Faridabad After Srinagar Lead

the existence of a wider circle of associates in Srinagar who had been undergoing radicalisation since 2021. Investigators found that the group initially operated under the guidance of an individual named Hashim and later revived its activities under

another coordinator, referred to as Dr Omar. Leads from Adeel's interrogation pointed officers to a colleague, Dr Muzzamil, whose Faridabad premises soon became the site of a major seizure. Search teams recovered an AK-47 rifle, a pistol, magazines, and large

quantities of explosive precursors from a vehicle linked to the suspects. Follow-up searches uncovered four suitcases filled with ammonium nitrate and other essential components for assembling improvised explosive devices.

270 Indians Repatriated From Myanmar Scam Hub Questioned By Central Agencies

evacuation flights. The individuals are being questioned to determine whether they were victims of trafficking or knowingly participated in online scam operations carried out from Myawaddy. Investigators are examining their

travel routes, recruitment channels and possible links to transnational cyber networks active across Southeast Asia. Officials said India is preparing to bring back around 200 more nationals currently in Mae Sot, and

they too will undergo detailed questioning upon return. Between October 23 and 30, nearly 465 Indians are believed to have crossed into Thailand from Myanmar as the scam centre came under heavy security pressure.

Delhi Pollution Protest Ends In Detentions As Citizens Call For Urgent Clean-Air Action

■ "This is a health emergency, not a blame game. Trial-and-error has failed our children. The government must deliver a clean-air policy now," said a protester.

New Delhi: A peaceful demonstration at India Gate on Sunday turned tense when police detained several protesters, including children, as Delhi's air quality index climbed to 370 in the "very poor" category. Residents, parents, students and environmental groups had gathered with placards demanding decisive action on the city's recurring winter pollution crisis. Protesters said the worsening air quality had become a public health emergency and criticised what they saw as years of ineffective policy responses. Many participants voiced frustration that vulnerable groups such as street



vendors, auto drivers and children bear the brunt of the pollution. They argued that long-term solutions like cleaner public transport and stronger monitoring systems were essential to breaking the annual cycle. Some attendees questioned the credibility of official pollution readings after social media videos circulated showing water being sprayed

near monitoring stations on days when the AQI spiked. Others raised concerns about unchecked construction, shrinking green spaces and the lack of measures to protect senior citizens and school-going children. Doctors at the protest highlighted the severe health impact of prolonged exposure to toxic air, pointing to lung damage in children, rising

cases of asthma and long-term risks such as heart disease and stroke. They said these effects begin early in life and can reduce life expectancy significantly. Organisers claimed they faced pressure in the days leading up to the protest, including repeated calls and alleged warnings from local police. Authorities, however, maintained that gatherings were restricted under Section 163 and that the detentions were precautionary because the demonstration lacked permission.

Officials said India Gate is not a designated protest site and directed participants toward Jantar Mantar.

Omar Abdullah Rejects Claims Of Seeking BJP Alliance, Says Accusations Baseless

■ Sunil Sharma has earlier claimed that Omar Abdullah had approached the BJP in 2014 as well to form an alliance government in Jammu and Kashmir after the polls had thrown up a hung verdict.

New Delhi: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has firmly denied allegations that he attempted to form an alliance with the BJP in exchange for the restoration of statehood. His response came after opposition leader Sunil Sharma repeated accusations that Abdullah approached BJP leaders in Delhi earlier this year with an offer to partner for government formation. In a social media post, Abdullah dismissed the claims and insisted he had never approached the ruling party at the Centre for any political arrangement. He criticised Sharma for spreading what he described as deliberate falsehoods and said the allegations were designed to mislead the



public during the ongoing political campaign. Sharma, speaking at an election meeting in Budgam, had stated that Abdullah held discussions in Delhi in 2024 and expressed willingness to join hands with the BJP if statehood was restored. He challenged the chief minister to publicly swear that no such meeting took place. Sharma has also maintained that Abdullah attempted a similar approach in 2014 after a fragmented assembly verdict left Jammu and Kashmir facing a hung house.



Afghan Taliban Blame Pakistan's "Unrealistic" Conditions For Collapse Of Bilateral Talks

■ Muttaqi said Pakistan's internal security issues were of its own making, adding "TTP has been active in Pakistan for the past 25 years."

New Delhi: Afghanistan's acting foreign minister Amir Khan Muttaqi has accused Pakistan of putting forward demands that were neither workable nor grounded in reality, leading to the failure of the recent negotiations held between the two sides in Istanbul. Addressing reporters in Kabul, he said the talks stalled because Islamabad insisted on commitments that the Taliban administration could not meet. According to Muttaqi, Pakistan wanted Kabul to guarantee internal security within Pakistani territory and take direct action against the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan.

He said such expectations were impractical, arguing that Afghanistan had no authority over armed groups operating inside Pakistan. He added that Islamabad had even urged the Taliban to move TTP members into Afghanistan, which he said was impossible and beyond Afghanistan's responsibility. Muttaqi stated that the Afghan delegation concluded its visit to Istanbul only after it became clear that the discussions would not progress, countering suggestions from Pakistan that the Taliban withdrew prematurely.

PM Modi Unveils Commemorative Stamp, Launches Rs 8,140 Crore Development Push In Uttarakhand

■ The projects that the Prime Minister inaugurated also include Dehradun water supply coverage for 23 zones under the AMRUT scheme.

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked Uttarakhand's 25th foundation year by unveiling a commemorative postal stamp and launching a wide range of development projects worth over Rs 8,140 crore. The announcements were made during the state's Silver Jubilee celebrations held at the Forest Research Institute in Dehradun. The Prime Minister inaugurated projects valued at more than Rs 930 crore and laid the foundation



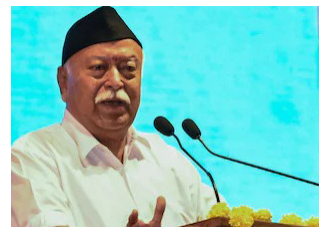
stones for works exceeding Rs 7,210 crore. The initiatives span essential sectors such as water supply, irrigation, energy, urban infrastructure, technical education, sports facilities, and skill development. A key highlight

was the release of Rs 62 crore in support under the PM Fasal Bima Yojana, transferred directly to the bank accounts of more than 28,000 farmers across the state. Among the inaugurated projects were the expansion of Dehradun's water supply network covering 23 zones under the AMRUT scheme, a new electrical substation in Pithoragarh, solar installations across government buildings, and a new AstroTurf hockey ground at Haldwani Stadium in Nainital.

Mohan Bhagwat Reasserts RSS Stand On Identity, Says Organisation Open To All Who Share Cultural Roots

■ RSS Welcomes All Communities, Focuses On Cultural Unity, Says Mohan Bhagwat.

New Delhi: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat said the organisation is open to people from every community, including Muslims and Christians, as long as they see themselves as part of the country's shared cultural heritage. Speaking at a centenary lecture series in



Bengaluru, he explained that the RSS does not classify participants by caste or religion and

accepts anyone who identifies with what he described as the broader Hindu civilisational identity. Bhagwat said individuals from different backgrounds often take part in shakhas, and the organisation does not maintain records of their religious identities. According to him, the RSS

expects those who join to set aside separate identities and consider themselves sons of Bharat Mata. Outlining the role of the organisation, Bhagwat said the RSS seeks to organise Hindu society to build a confident and united India capable of contributing to global peace.

Gautam Gambhir Urges Higher Standards, Says Indian Team Still Short Of T20 World Cup Readiness

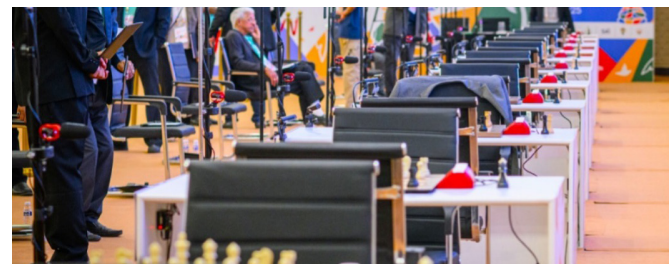
■ He reiterated his philosophy of handing out tough assignments to individuals to understand the depth of their character.

New Delhi: India head coach Gautam Gambhir has delivered a pointed assessment of the national side's T20 World Cup preparations, saying the team has not yet reached the level he expects. Speaking in a teaser released ahead of his full interview on the cricket board's digital platform, Gambhir said the group has been functioning with honesty and clarity but must raise its standards in the coming months. He said the team environment has been open and straightforward since he took charge, yet he remains firm that there is significant work ahead. According to him, players must understand the weight of fitness requirements, especially with a major tournament approaching. He noted that the next three months will be crucial for the squad to reach optimal readiness. The T20 World Cup, scheduled in



India and Sri Lanka early next year, will see India attempt to defend their title. Gambhir said he wants every player to be prepared for demanding situations and reiterated his approach of placing individuals under challenging conditions to gauge their temperament. He recalled adopting the same strategy with Shubman Gill when the young opener was named Test captain for the England series. Gill responded with a composed

leadership style and a consistent run with the bat, guiding the team through a tightly contested four-match series that ended in a 2-2 draw. Each game extended to the final day, highlighting the pressure and unpredictability that the players had to navigate. Gambhir said such experiences are essential for building long-term resilience. He believes exposing players to unfamiliar scenarios forces them to discover their strengths and adapt quickly, which is vital for any side looking to compete at the highest level. While acknowledging the progress made, the coach made it clear that the team still has a long path ahead. He emphasised that disciplined preparation, sharper fitness, and embracing tough situations will determine whether India enters the World Cup as a fully ready and formidable unit.

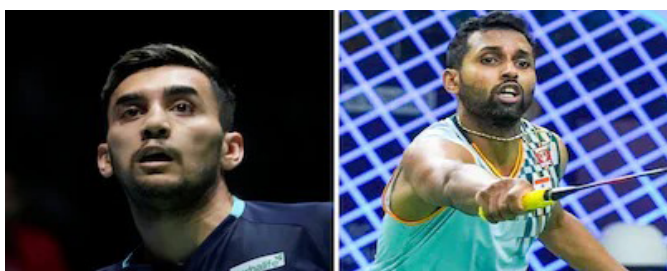


Arjun, Praggnanandhaa And Harikrishna Set For Key Round 4 Battles At World Cup

■ World Cup Enters Crucial Phase With Indians Preparing For Strong International Opponents.

New Delhi: Indian Grandmasters Arjun Erigaisi, R Praggnanandhaa and P Harikrishna are preparing for significant challenges as the fourth round of the FIDE World Cup resumes after the first rest day. All three have advanced with strong performances and now face opponents known for their experience and creativity. Arjun, India's highest-rated player at the event, enters the round as the favourite against veteran

Hungarian Peter Leko. The Indian star has been in commanding form, winning both his earlier matches under classical time control without needing tiebreaks. His victories over Martin Petrov and Shamsiddin Vokhidov showcased his readiness to navigate sharp and complex positions. Leko, who once stood among the world's elite, has also progressed confidently, registering straight wins over Bobby Cheng and Kirill Alekseenko.



HS Prannoy and Lakshya Sen Lead India's Quest To Rebuild Form At Japan Super 500

■ HS Prannoy and Lakshya Sen lead Indian hopes at Kumamoto Masters Japan Super 500, with Ayush Shetty, Tharun Manneppalli, and Kiran George aiming for breakthroughs.

New Delhi: Indian shuttlers HS Prannoy and Lakshya Sen will spearhead the country's campaign at the Kumamoto Masters Japan Super 500 tournament, beginning Tuesday, as both look to rediscover their top form while a promising younger group aims to deliver breakthrough results. Lakshya enters the event with renewed confidence after reversing a dip in form earlier this season. The 24-year-old reached the final of the Hong Kong Open and made quarterfinal runs in Denmark and at the Hylø Open, signalling a steady return to rhythm. Seeded seventh, he opens against Japan's Koki Watanabe, a world No. 25 known for

long rallies and tactical discipline. The match is expected to be a strong early test for the Olympic fourth-place finisher. Prannoy continues his comeback journey after a difficult period marked by illness and injury. The experienced shuttler, a World Championships bronze medallist in 2023, struggled leading into the Paris Olympics due to chikungunya and played through discomfort during the Games. His injury resurfaced at the Korea Open in September, forcing him to retire mid-match. Now back after several weeks of recovery, the 33-year-old starts his campaign against Malaysia's Jun Hao Leong as he tries to regain momentum.

Uzbekistan's Konstantin Belousov and UK's Ellie Garrett claim top honours at IRONMAN 70.3 GOA, INDIA 2025

■ Politicians Tejasvi Surya and K. Annamalai also crossed the finish line, joining global athletes in Goa's premier endurance race.

PANAJI: Uzbekistan's Konstantin Belousov and the United Kingdom's Ellie Garrett claimed the top titles at IRONMAN 70.3 Goa 2025, delivering standout performances in the fifth edition of India's premier endurance race. The event began at sunrise on Miramar Beach, where senior officials, race organisers, and ambassadors set the athletes on their way. More than 1300 participants from 31 countries took on the



challenge, strengthening Goa's growing reputation as a leading destination for long-distance triathlon in Asia. Belousov dominated the men's field with a time of 4:25:47, pulling clear during the bike and holding firm through the closing

run. Garrett delivered an equally commanding effort to secure the women's crown in 5:18:43. The Indian Air Force continued its impressive streak in the relay segment, sweeping the entire podium with highly coordinated team efforts.

Khel Mahotsav Kabaddi Tournament Energises Barcem

PANAJI: The Kabaddi tournament held at Barcem in Quepem under the Khel Mahotsav banner drew strong participation from local players and highlighted the growing push to promote traditional sports across Goa. Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Ramesh Tawadkar addressed the gathering and spoke about the deeper value sports bring to society.



He said sports help build discipline, leadership, and unity, and these qualities become powerful tools for social progress. Tawadkar noted that Kabaddi holds a special place in rural and tribal communities,



where it has long been more than a competitive game. He described it as a sport that mirrors courage, teamwork, and community bonding. He added that sports shape character and influence society in ways that extend beyond physical fitness. According to him, preserving traditional games is essential because they remain an important link to cultural identity.

Anish Bhanwala Claims Brilliant Silver At ISSF World Championships In Cairo



New Delhi: Indian shooter Anish Bhanwala produced one of the finest performances of his young career, securing the silver medal in the 25m rapid-fire pistol event at the ISSF World Championships in Cairo. The 23-year-old from Haryana delivered composure, precision, and grit during a tense final that featured two dramatic shoot-offs. Anish entered the finals after an impressive qualification run. He posted a total of 585, scoring 291 on the opening day and returning with a stronger 294 in Stage 2, which sealed his place in the medal round as the second-best qualifier. France's Clement Bessagnet topped the field with 589 before going on to claim the gold medal with a total of 31 points in the final. Cairo has been a favourable venue for Anish, who earlier won a mixed team silver here in 2022, and he seemed to reconnect with that confidence from the very first shot.