



No Proof Yet in Pooja Naik Job Scam?

Enquiry under Section 173(3) BNSS continues; SP Rahul Gupta says charges require deeper verification as several claims don't match official records.



Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Crime Branch has found no corroborative evidence so far in the sensational job scam allegations made by accused-turned-whistleblower Pooja Naik, who claimed to have paid a total of ₹17.68 crore to two government officials between 2019



and 2022 in exchange for securing government jobs in various agencies. The enquiry, being conducted under Section 173(3) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), is still underway. Senior officers said Naik, who faces five criminal cases across Goa and was released on bail on November 21, 2024, has

KEY POINTS :

- ▶ Crime branch finds no supporting evidence so far in pooja naik's ₹17.68 crore job scam allegations.
- ▶ Enquiry underway under section 173(3) bnss; naik interrogated twice, including a 5-hour session.
- ▶ Flat in pda colony cleared — records show only hotel management students stayed there since 2019.
- ▶ Many of naik's claims don't match official records, say investigators.
- ▶ SP crime rahul gupta: allegations cannot be taken at face value; probe continues.

been interrogated twice by the Crime Branch, including a recent five-hour questioning session. According to SP Crime Rahul Gupta (IPS), while Naik has made several

sweeping claims, many of her allegations are not supported by existing records. "The enquiry is ongoing. The allegations made by Pooja Naik cannot

Pooja Naik has not accused any minister: SP

SP Crime Rahul Gupta (IPS) said the enquiry into Naik's allegations of a ₹17.68 crore job scam is still underway but no corroborative evidence has been found so far.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Police clarified that jobs-for-

cash accused Pooja Naik has not named any minister in her statement to the Crime Branch.

be taken at face value. A few of her statements prima facie do not corroborate with other available evidence and hence require detailed examination," Gupta

stated. Among the allegations under scrutiny is a claim that large cash transactions took place in a flat at the PDA Colony. **CONTD TO PAGE 06...**

Rama Attack Case: Court Extends Custody of Zenito Cardozo

Directs Police to File Chargesheet by November 18.

MERCES: The Mercedes Judicial Magistrate's Court has extended the judicial custody of Zenito Cardozo and seven others linked to the Rama attack case for another 14 days. The matter will come up for the next hearing on November 26, with the court instructing the police



to submit the chargesheet by November 18. Cardozo, who was arrested on September

CONTD TO PAGE 06...

SIT Files Multiple Chargesheets Against Mohammad Suhail Gang; 83 Arrests Made

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Special Investigation Team (Land Grabbing), Ribander, has been actively pursuing cases against the notorious Mohammad Suhail gang, filing four chargesheets in just two weeks. These cases have been presented before the appropriate courts for trial. Presently, the SIT is investigating 28 active cases, of which 17 have

been chargesheeted and are under trial, 3 finalized, and 3 FIRs quashed. A total of 83 arrests have been made in these cases, including 11 repeat offenders. The cases involve a series of forged property documents, fraudulent succession deeds, and cheating



incidents across Bardez, Siolim, Anjuna, and surrounding areas. Mohammad Suhail, identified as the mastermind and chief conspirator, allegedly orchestrated the preparation of forged sale deeds and manipulated bank accounts to defraud property owners. His associates include

Royson Rodrigues, Raju Methi, and Denver Shaun D'Souza, who assisted in executing the schemes. The first case, involves forged succession deeds related to property in Parra, Bardez. Suhail was arrested on July 1, 2025, and remains in judicial custody, while other associates are either on conditional bail or absconding. The matter is listed for hearing on November 17, 2025.

Major Crackdown in Kashmir as Agencies Uncover 'Doctor Module' Linked to Delhi Blast

Raids target radicalised medical professionals allegedly tied to Jaish-e-Mohammed network behind Red Fort explosion.

New Delhi: Security agencies have launched an extensive counter-terror operation across Jammu and Kashmir to dismantle what investigators describe as a "Doctor Module" a radicalised network of medical professionals allegedly linked to the Red Fort bombing. According to intelligence officials, the State Investigation Agency conducted coordinated



searches at 14 locations on Wednesday across Srinagar, Pulwama, and Anantnag in a major bid to disrupt the emerging nexus. Authorities said the operation aims to trace

ideological handlers, digital collaborators, and funding channels that facilitated the recruitment of educated professionals into extremist ranks. **CONTD TO PAGE 06...**

Red Fort Explosion Part Of Wider 32-Car 'Revenge' Plot, Probe Reveals

Investigators trace explosives-laden vehicles to Faridabad hub linked with Jaish-e-Mohammed network.

New Delhi: The investigation into the deadly car blast near Delhi's Red Fort has uncovered a massive terror conspiracy involving at least 32 vehicles that were being prepared to carry explosives for coordinated attacks across multiple cities. Sources revealed that the vehicles, including a Maruti Brezza, Swift Dzire, Ford EcoSport, and the



Hyundai i20 that exploded on Monday evening, were part of a larger "revenge" operation planned for December 6 the anniversary of the Babri Masjid demolition.

The four identified cars were deliberately chosen for their age and multiple ownership records, making them difficult to trace. The **CONTD TO PAGE 06...**

Touts Are Choking the Life Out of Goa's Beach Tourism

Goa's beaches have always been the heart of its tourism story. The shacks, the music, the food, and the relaxed charm have drawn millions over the years. But that charm is fast fading. Local shack owners are warning that aggressive touts, unlicensed hawkers, and unregulated beach activity are driving tourists away. This isn't just a seasonal complaint—it's a crisis that threatens one of Goa's biggest sources of livelihood and its global reputation as a safe, welcoming destination.

Visitors who once described Goan beaches as calm and carefree now talk about being constantly approached and pestered by touts offering everything from fake tours to overcharged water sports. Many tourists, especially families and foreigners, find this relentless harassment exhausting. It ruins what should be a peaceful experience and makes them less likely to return. When a beach meant for relaxation turns into a marketplace of pushy sellers, the spirit of Goa is lost.

The problem isn't new, but it has reached alarming levels. Shack owners and local businesses claim that tourist numbers have dropped sharply in some areas because of this nuisance. Many licensed operators who pay taxes, follow regulations, and maintain safety standards are losing business to unregulated competitors. The touts, often backed by informal networks, operate without oversight. They use beaches meant for public enjoyment to run illegal activities and pocket money that should rightfully go to licensed Goan establishments.

The bigger concern is how little enforcement seems to be happening. There is no shortage of rules—what's missing is the will to enforce them. The beach police and tourism officials appear to act only after repeated complaints. But by then, the damage is done. Tourists have already been cheated or scared off. Each such experience chips away at the trust Goa has built over decades. A single unpleasant encounter on a

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Goan beach can travel across social media and discourage hundreds of potential visitors.

Equally troubling is the lack of coordination between the different authorities managing the coast. Beach shack licences, hawker permits, tourism policing, and local panchayat responsibilities all overlap. This confusion creates loopholes that illegal operators exploit. A beach that looks vibrant from a distance may, in fact, be functioning in chaos—with no single agency accountable for maintaining order. Until this fragmentation ends, no real solution will last.

For shack owners who

depend on a few months of good business, this situation is unbearable. Many have already reduced operations or shut down early, unable to cope with poor tourist turnout and competition from illegal setups. These are small, family-run establishments that form the backbone of Goa's coastal economy. They provide local employment, maintain cleanliness, and represent the authentic hospitality that made Goa famous. When such operators struggle, it's not just an economic loss—it's a cultural one.

What's at stake here is more than a business issue. It's Goa's identity as a destination. The state's brand is built on warmth, simplicity, and safety. If tourists begin to associate Goan beaches with harassment, scams, and disorder, the fallout will last far beyond one season. Charter operators will move their flights elsewhere. Families will choose calmer, better-managed destinations. Even domestic visitors, once considered a dependable market, may shift to other coastal states that offer a more peaceful experience.

The government can no longer afford to look away. Goa needs a coordinated and visible crackdown on touts and unlicensed hawkers. Tourism police should patrol beaches regularly, not occasionally. Offenders must face strict penalties, and their networks must be dismantled. Licensed shack operators should be protected and supported, not left to fend for themselves. At the same time, tourists need to be made aware—through clear signage and digital campaigns—about approved services and complaint mechanisms.

Goa's beach economy is fragile but recoverable. It only requires political will, local cooperation, and accountability. If the state acts decisively, it can restore confidence among tourists and locals alike. If it doesn't, the very soul of its tourism industry—the carefree joy of a Goan beach day—will disappear under the noise of touts and the silence of empty shores.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Security in Goa Needs Substance, Not Show

The recent alert announced by the police following the blast in Delhi is understandable, but the execution in Goa seems to reflect more show than substance. Increased patrols and roadside checks are only useful if backed by clear intelligence, targeted action, and transparency. Without these, the measures risk being superficial gestures that may breed false comfort rather than genuine safety.

Alerts should not translate into random scrutiny of citizens or arbitrary stops that erode public trust. Instead, the focus must be on profiling credible threats, strengthening coordination between intelligence units, and ensuring visible readiness at key public spaces such as transit hubs and beaches—especially given Goa's heavy tourist inflow. Simply placing more personnel on the roads without a clear operational plan will exhaust resources and frustrate both residents and visitors. Moreover, communication is critical. The public needs accurate updates on what is being done, and how they can contribute—reporting suspicious behaviour, knowing who to call, and understanding when to expect follow-up. If the alert remains a vague "high visibility" exercise, it may do more to unsettle people than to reassure them.

Finally, we cannot ignore the economic and social dimensions. Goa depends heavily on tourism, and an overbearing security presence, without context, may unintentionally deter visitors. The authorities must strike a balance between maintaining vigilance and preserving the state's welcoming atmosphere.

In short, this alert needs substance, not just symbolism. The police must back up the rhetoric with actionable intelligence, meaningful public engagement, and the kind of preparedness that makes a difference. Anything less risks being a missed opportunity—and a blow to public confidence.

—Cynthia Rodrigues, Cortalim.

Alarm Bells in Fatorda: Action Needed, Not Just Patrols

The recent wave of thefts and burglaries in Fatorda has left residents deeply unsettled, and rightly so. The fact that homes are being broken into and valuables stolen under the noses of local patrols shows that the response from the authorities is simply not cutting it.

Night-patrolling has been stepped up, but the repeated incidents suggest something more troubling: these are not random acts of opportunity. They point to organised groups operating with confidence, exploiting predictable patterns and weak enforcement. When burglary racks continue despite increased visibility, it raises questions about intelligence, accountability and follow-through. For residents, the stakes are real. Beyond the loss of property is the loss of the sense of security that underpins everyday life. When we no longer feel safe in our homes, especially at night—and particularly in areas that should be well-monitored—the effect is corrosive. Trust is eroded. Businesses and families may rethink staying put or investing, and that hits the neighbourhood's social fabric.

Equally worrying is how this affects Fatorda's reputation. We live in a state that thrives on tourism and investment. A neighbourhood seen as vulnerable to crime sends the wrong message. It is not enough to promise more cops on the beat. What matters is whether they are equipped, informed, trusted and accountable. My appeal to the police and local administration is simple: move beyond reactive patrolling. Launch a targeted crackdown, analyse patterns of these crimes, engage the community as eyes and ears, and publish plain-spoken updates showing progress. Without visible results, patrols will feel like empty gestures—and the gains of safety will be lost.

—Sandesh Naik, Fatorda

Rent-A-Cab Operators Demand Crackdown On Illegal Taxis

■ Seek Fair Play From RTO.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: In a strong push for regulatory enforcement, the North Goa Rent-a-Cab Association, along with All Goa Rent-a-Cab licence holders, met officials from the Enforcement North and RTO Department, Panjim, to press for urgent action against illegal private vehicles operating as taxis. The association also raised concerns over



pending permit renewals, vehicle replacements, and the need to convert regular taxi number plates to Rent-a-Cab plates for vehicles legally operating on hire.

Association president Nitesh Chodankar said the sector is losing business due to unlicensed vehicles flouting the rules. "We want a level playing field for genuine operators who

follow the law," he said. RTO officials assured the delegation that the issues would be addressed promptly and that strict action would be taken against vehicles violating transport norms. The meeting reflects growing frustration among licensed Rent-a-Cab operators who say unchecked illegal operations are hurting livelihoods and undermining the tourism-driven taxi sector in Goa.

MLA Lobo Urges Measures To Attract Foreign Tourists

■ Seeks Responsible Visitors In Goa

Team Goemkarponn

CALANGUTE: Expressing concern over changing tourist trends, Calangute MLA Michael Lobo has said that Goa needs to focus on attracting more foreign visitors while discouraging tourists who create nuisance in local areas. "We don't want tourists who cause trouble to locals and in the locality. We want the return of foreign visitors to boost the State's tourism like it was before," Lobo said, highlighting that the



number of international tourists visiting Goa has seen a significant decline in recent years. The former Tourism Minister urged the government to implement strategic measures to revive international tourism, which once formed the backbone of Goa's hospitality economy.

Utpal Parrikar Slams Panaji Mla, Questions Spas & 'Commercial' Projects

■ Seeks Action In Job Scam.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Utpal Parrikar has hit out at the growing number of spas in the capital city, criticising the Panaji MLA for failing to take responsibility for the trend. "The MLA of the constituency cannot run away from responsibility," Parrikar said, while also questioning whether certain ongoing projects in the city were being executed to serve "commercial interests" rather than public welfare. Announcing his plans for the upcoming Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP)



elections, Parrikar said he intends to field candidates in all 30 wards, signalling a strong political move ahead of the polls. Commenting on the cash-for-job scam controversy involving Pooja Naik, Parrikar termed the situation a "joke," recalling that similar cases in the past had failed to deliver any tangible results.

Girish Chodankar Slams Kavlekar Over Altone Remarks, Calls Him 'GADDAR'

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: A fresh political row erupted within Goa's Congress circles after former Quepem MLA Babu Kavlekar questioned the loyalty of sitting Quepem MLA Altone D'Costa, suggesting that D'Costa had "misguided" Congress leaders and Goans while inaugurating projects sanctioned during his tenure. Reacting sharply, Congress Working Committee (CWC) member Girish Chodankar hit back at Kavlekar, branding him a "Gaddar" (traitor) for having defected to the BJP. "A man who forgets



his roots and ideology, and who sold himself to the BJP while sitting as Leader of Opposition, has no moral right to question the loyalty of our MLA Altone D'Costa," Chodankar said. He lauded Altone D'Costa's steadfastness, stating that the MLA has remained

loyal to the Congress since his Youth Congress days and had resisted "massive offers" and "crores in inducements" to defect. "Altone refused money because his politics is driven by commitment, not greed. Loyalty is proven through consistent actions, and

Altone has shown that at every step," Chodankar asserted. Kavlekar, who joined the BJP in 2021 after serving as Leader of Opposition in the Congress, had earlier remarked that D'Costa had "missed the bus" to join the BJP and was misleading the public by taking credit for projects sanctioned during his tenure.

The exchange marks another round of verbal sparring between Congress loyalists and defectors, underscoring the continuing rift between the old guard and those who switched allegiance to the ruling BJP.

Goa Police Warn of Fake Traffic Challan Scam Circulating on WhatsApp

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Police have issued a public advisory warning citizens about fake traffic challan messages being circulated on WhatsApp by scammers using police logos and photographs. The department cautioned people not to click on any suspicious links, share personal details, or download attachments, especially files ending with ".apk," as these could contain malware designed to steal personal information. In a post on X, the police



said, "Fake challan alert! Scammers are sending fake traffic challans via WhatsApp using police logos/photos. Don't click any links or share details or download any .apk file. Verify challan only on echallan.parivahan.gov.in. Report at 1930 / cybercrime.gov.in @Goa_Police

cybercrime.gov.in." The alert follows a complaint from a social media user who tagged both the Goa and Maharashtra Police, reporting that he had received two fake challan notices within ten days from different phone numbers.

CEO Questions Feasibility of ZP Polls, Cites Ongoing Electoral Roll Revision

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Sanjay Goel, IAS, has expressed uncertainty over the feasibility of holding the Zilla Panchayat (ZP) elections on December 13, revealing that his office had earlier formally urged the State government to defer the polls until the completion of the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Addressing the media after an all-party meeting on the SIR process, Goel stated that the final electoral rolls are



scheduled to be published only on February 7, 2026, indicating that conducting elections before that date may lead to discrepancies in voter data. "We had advised the government to consider postponing the elections to ensure updated rolls are used," Goel said. Although the government has announced December 13 as the tentative

polling date, the official notification outlining the detailed election schedule is yet to be released. Goel's statement comes amid rising objections from several political parties. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) delegation, comprising national general secretary Pankaj Gupta, Goa in-charge and Delhi minister Atishi, and Goa unit president Amit Palekar, had recently met the Election Commission of India in New Delhi to submit a memorandum opposing the overlap between the ongoing roll revision and the ZP election process.

Group assaults youths, harasses woman near Vagator helipad

Team Goemkarponn

Anjuna: Police have registered a case after a group of unidentified men allegedly harassed a woman and assaulted two youths near the Vagator helipad early on Tuesday morning. As per the complaint filed by Rohan Palyekar (29), resident of Guirim, the incident occurred around



6 am on November 11, 2025, when one of the accused, wearing a white shirt, passed sexually coloured remarks and used abusive language towards his female friend,

outraging her modesty. Soon after, four other men joined in, allegedly hurling abuses and physically attacking the complainant and his friends. One of the victims, Shubham, was hit on the head with a glass bottle and later pelted with stones, while Palyekar was punched and struck with a stone, sustaining head injuries. During the scuffle, one of the accused

allegedly snatched a gold chain worth ₹1.3 lakh from Shubham and damaged their Alto car (GA-03-P-3987), causing losses estimated at ₹20,000. Anjuna Police have registered Crime No. 147/2025 under Sections 75(3), 352, 118(2), 125(a), 134, and 324(5) read with 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023.



Two injured after bike hits stray dog in Canacona

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: Two persons sustained injuries after their motorcycle hit a stray dog near Tubki General Store at Patnem on October 4, 2025, around 1:30 pm.

According to the state complaint lodged by LHC Riya Khandekar of Canacona Police Station, the accused rider Sayaji Jadhav, resident of Canacona and native of Maharashtra, was riding a Hero Splendor motorcycle with Hemant Kakade as the pillion rider. While proceeding

from Colomb towards Patnem, the rider allegedly drove the motorcycle rashly and negligently, endangering human life.

On reaching near Tubki General Store, the motorcycle collided with a street dog, causing both the rider and pillion to fall on the road and sustain injuries.

Canacona Police have registered Crime No. 57/2025 under Sections 281 and 125(a) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023.

The investigation is being conducted by LHC Riya Khandekar.

Tanker driver booked for rash driving, injures youth

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: Police have registered an offence against a tanker driver for allegedly driving rashly and injuring a 21-year-old youth in a road mishap that occurred below the under-construction flyover bridge at Porvorim. As per the complaint filed by Krish Sharma (21), resident of Porvorim, the incident took place on November 7, 2025, around 4:43 pm near the

Adora Building, opposite the petrol pump at Porvorim.

The accused, identified as Vivek Yadav (24), driver of a Tata water tanker (RJ-14-GR-3399) and resident of RRSMT Pvt. Ltd staff accommodation, Girim, was proceeding towards Mapusa when he allegedly took a left turn in a rash and negligent manner below the flyover without exercising proper caution.

At that time, the complainant,

who was riding a two-wheeler (GA-09-J-9732) parallel to the tanker on its left side, was hit when the rear wheel of the tanker crushed his right leg, causing simple injuries.

Following the incident, Porvorim Police registered an offence against the tanker driver under relevant provisions for rash and negligent driving.

The investigation is being conducted by HC Vikram Naik of Porvorim Police Station.



Scooter stolen from outside residence in Aldona

Team Goemkarponn

ALDONA: Police have registered a case after a woman from Aldona reported the theft of her father's scooter from outside their residence early on Tuesday morning. According to the complaint lodged by the woman, the incident occurred on November 11, 2025,



around 6:17 am, when an unknown person stole a grey Honda Activa 6G (Reg. No. GA-03-AQ-8100) that had been parked in an open space

in front of her house at Aldona, Bardez. The scooter, belonging to her father Devendra Krishnanath Volvoikar, is valued at approximately ₹70,000.

An offence has been registered at the Aldona Police Station under theft provisions, and ASI Ajay Gaonkar is investigating the case.

Woman found dead near guest house in Candolim; no foul play suspected

Team Goemkarponn

CANDOLIM: A 39-year-old woman was found lying unconscious near Chavan Guest House at Aradi, Candolim, on November 11, 2025, following which police initiated an inquiry into the incident. According to the police, a PCR call was received around 4:04 pm reporting that a woman



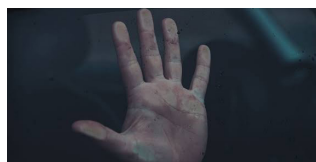
was lying unconscious near the guest house. On arrival, police identified the deceased as Soni Sanjay Rathod, resident of Aradi, Candolim, and

native of Kailash Giri Nagar, Jeevan Baug, Old Post Office Road, Thane, Maharashtra. Preliminary enquiry revealed that the woman was found lying on the staircase of the premises. Police stated that no foul play is suspected at this stage, and further investigation is being conducted by PSI Saieel Vaigankar of Calangute Police Station.

Minor boy kidnapped from Talwada, Cuncolim

Team Goemkarponn

CUNCOLIM: Police have launched an investigation after a complaint was filed by a man from Cuncolim, originally from Odisha, alleging that his minor son was kidnapped by unknown person/s from Talwada Ghonkar, Cuncolim. According to the complaint, the incident occurred on November 11, 2024, around 5:00 pm,



when the minor boy was taken away from his lawful guardianship without the father's consent. An offence of kidnapping has been registered at the Cuncolim Police Station, and PSI Sahil Pagui is conducting further investigation.

Worker dies of electrocution at shipbuilding unit

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: A 35-year-old worker died after being electrocuted while on duty at Chowgule & Company Pvt. Ltd.'s Shipbuilding Division in Goa on November 11, 2025. Police received a call from the casualty ward of South Goa District Hospital (SGDH), Margao at 2:45 pm, informing that Jiyalal Missal, resident of Loutolim and native of Uttar Pradesh,



had been brought in dead from the worksite. During inquiry, police recorded the statement

of the deceased's uncle, Ram Asre Navik, who confirmed that Jiyalal had suffered electrocution

while working at the shipbuilding yard and was rushed to the hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead. An inquest panchanama was conducted, and the body was sent for autopsy, which confirmed that the cause of death was electrocution. The body has since been handed over to the family for final rites. Further inquiry is being conducted by PSI Praful Giri of Margao Town Police Station.

New Goa Airport director aims to bring back international flights to Dabolim

Team Goemkarponn

DABOLIM: Newly appointed Goa Airport director Lt Akash Deep on Wednesday morning said he plans to make efforts to bring back international flights that had shifted operations from Dabolim to Manohar International Airport at Mopa. Speaking to reporters during a press conference, Deep said it was good that there was a sense of completion now that Goa has two functioning airports catering to passengers. "We will rise



to the occasion, and being in the government sector, we have our own ways while they have theirs," said Deep. "Let the best qualities of both airports be available to passengers because, in the end, it is the traveller who benefits from better services and options." He said that while

incentives had already been extended to international airlines such as Qatar Airways, Air Arabia and other flight operators that had shifted their bases to Mopa, he intends to personally reach out to them in the coming days. "I have something in mind for these airlines, but it's too early for me to commit anything because I am new and want to first understand the ground reality," Deep said. Highlighting Dabolim's advantages, Deep noted that its geographical

location offers an edge for flight operations and passenger convenience. "In fact, Dabolim has a better geographical position that gives it a natural advantage for flight operations," he said. "We are confident that with more facilities coming up at Dabolim, these international flights that moved to Mopa will once again find it attractive to operate from here. I plan to reach out to the operators and work out a plan to step in efforts to bring them back to Dabolim."

Goa Airport on high alert after Delhi blast, says director Lt Akash Deep

“We convened a special security meeting and sensitised all stakeholders and agencies working at the airport to not only upgrade their systems but also be more vigilant in following procedures,” said Deep. “We have instructed everyone on duty that this is a sensitive installation and there cannot be a ‘chalta hai’ attitude. One must keep their eyes and ears open and report anything unusual immediately to airport and security agencies.”

DABOLIM: Goa Airport director Lt Akash Deep on Wednesday said that a red alert has been issued at the Goa Airport following the recent bomb blast in Delhi, with heightened security measures now in place across the premises. Addressing reporters during a press conference, Deep said a special security

meeting was convened immediately after the alert to review preparedness and strengthen surveillance. Deep said he has personally addressed the CISF personnel, who hold the primary responsibility for airport security, and instructed for enhanced vigilance and manpower deployment.



Akash Deep takes charge as Goa airport director, unveils expansion plans at Dabolim

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: Flight Lieutenant Akash Deep has taken charge as the new Airport Director of Goa International Airport, Dabolim. A seasoned aviation professional with 33 years of experience, Deep aims to enhance the airport's capacity and passenger experience through a series of expansion and development initiatives. A certified International Airport Professional (IAP), Deep began his career with the Indian Air Force as a Flight Lieutenant before joining the Airports Authority of India (AAI) in 1998. Over the years, he has served as Airport Director at Srinagar, Bhopal, and Varanasi airports, and also as General Manager (RCS) with the UDAAN scheme — a flagship PM project. He has also held senior security roles in both northern and southern regions of AAI. Speaking to reporters Deep said that presently, Goa International Airport handles around 11.30 million passengers

per annum (MPPA), with 110 to 120 daily flight movements, both domestic and international." The Major domestic operators include Air India, IndiGo, Air India Express, and Alliance Air, while Gulf Air, Scats Airlines, and Air India Express connect Goa internationally with Bahrain, Almaty, Kazakhstan, and Dubai. The airport recorded an average footfall of 15,127 passengers per day in October 2025. In all we have 19 sectors connected with Goa Airport and the new sectors connected to Goa in recent times is Hindon and Bhubaneswar. In addition we have got a new international connection to Almaty, Kazakhstan operated by Scat airlines. We have a total 51 arrivals and 51 departures on a daily basis and around 15,000 passengers per day." said Deep. Deep added that, to meet the growing passenger demand, AAI has undertaken an expansion of the existing terminal building.

Ex-Colva Sarpanch Anthony Leo Fernandes joins AAP ahead of ZP polls

Team Goemkarponn

COLVA: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has intensified its preparations for the upcoming Zilla Panchayat elections with former Colva Sarpanch Anthony Leo Fernandes joining the party on Tuesday. Fernandes was welcomed into the party fold by AAP MLA Capt. Venzy Viegas, who placed the party scarf around his neck during a joining ceremony held in Colva. The event was attended by Colva Sarpanch Bai Treza, Deputy Sarpanch Bab Dalan, former sarpanchas Johnson and Bai Suzie, former deputy Tendrila, Panch members Menino and Domrod, and several local supporters. Speaking at the function, Capt. Viegas commended Fernandes for his dedicated public



service and community involvement, noting that he had also served three consecutive terms as Executive Committee Member of the Goa Football Association. The MLA said Fernandes' entry would further strengthen AAP's organisational presence in the Colva Zilla Panchayat block. In his remarks, Fernandes recalled his early years in public life, saying, "When I became Sarpanch for the first time in 2008, I was new to politics. Capt. Venzy Viegas guided me through Panchayat matters and helped me build confidence."

Merciana Vas urges women to join politics, highlights 35 development works worth Rs 2.3 crore in three-year tenure

Team Goemkarponn

CORTALIM: Cortalim Zilla Panchayat (ZP) member Merciana Vas on Wednesday called upon women across Goa to step forward and take an active role in politics, while highlighting the developmental initiatives she has undertaken during her tenure. Speaking to reporters after inaugurating two new development projects in different parts of the Quelosim panchayat, Vas said she had completed around 35 projects worth ₹2.3 crore in just three years. "I have completed around 35 different development works for the benefit of the people at an estimated cost of ₹2.3 crore," said Vas. "Unfortunately, I got only a three-year term since



I was elected in a by-election after my husband, Cortalim MLA Anton Vas, won the Assembly elections. I have the hunger and spirit to work for the people, and had I got more time, I would have cleared many more files and executed more works. In the future, if I get another opportunity, I will surely prove my worth. During these three years, I have already exhausted all the ZP funds allocated to me." Vas said she felt grateful to the people for electing her in the by-election and giving her an opportunity to serve.

Foundation laid for 7-seater Sulabh toilet at Vasco market after five decades of demand

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: In a major step towards improving sanitation facilities and addressing a long-pending demand of local traders, Vasco MLA Krishna Salkar on Wednesday laid the foundation stone for a seven-seater Sulabh Shauchalaya behind the Vasco vegetable market. The foundation stone-



laying ceremony was held in the presence of Mormugao Municipal Council (MMC) Chairperson Girish Borker, ward councillor Shami Salkar, market shopkeepers, and several

senior citizens who had been associated with the market for decades. Speaking at the function, Salkar said that public toilets are vital not only for maintaining hygiene but also for ensuring dignity

and convenience for vendors and visitors. "This was one of the biggest and longest-pending demands ever since my time as a municipal councillor," said Salkar. "The demand of the shopkeepers was completely justified because this is one of the biggest markets in Vasco, with hundreds of people visiting every day."

IFFI 2025 Set to Dazzle Goa with a Global Celebration of Cinema

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The stage is ready for the 56th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), which will unfold in Goa from November 20 to 28, 2025. The festival promises a spectacular celebration of world cinema, creativity, and storytelling, transforming Goa into a vibrant hub of artistic exchange and cinematic excellence. This year's edition will feature over 240 films from 81 countries, including 13 World Premieres, 4 International Premieres, and 44 Asian Premieres, offering audiences a rich tapestry of global narratives and visual artistry. IFFI 2025 will host three major international competitions representing films from five continents, bringing together 32 outstanding entries that

have already made their mark at some of the world's most prestigious festivals. These films will compete for top honours, reaffirming IFFI's position as one of Asia's most significant cinematic platforms. The Country Focus this year is Japan, showcasing the elegance and depth of Japanese cinema. The section will highlight the nation's timeless storytelling and creative collaborations that continue to inspire filmmakers across the globe. The festival will also feature special curated packages, with Spain as the Partner Country and Australia in the Spotlight section, reflecting IFFI's commitment to promoting cross-cultural understanding through the language of cinema. As IFFI 2025 celebrates several cinematic centenaries, it will pay

tribute to legendary filmmakers and artists who have shaped the history of cinema. Restored classics will be screened as a homage to their enduring legacy, allowing



audiences to relive timeless masterpieces on the big screen. With its blend of heritage, artistry, and innovation, IFFI 2025 promises to be a grand confluence of stories and cultures a space where cinema speaks a universal language that unites audiences and creators alike.

ESG Announces Statewide Aakash Kandil Competition for IFFI 2025

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Goa Honoured as Top Achiever in Business Reforms Action Plan 2024

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa has earned national recognition as a Top Achiever in the Services Sector under the Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP) 2024, an initiative spearheaded by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Government of India. The award was received by Mauvin Godinho, Minister for Transport, Industries, Trade & Commerce, Panchayati Raj, Protocol & Hospitality,

and Legislative Affairs, during the Udyog Samagam 2025 – Conference of Industries & Commerce Ministers held at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan in New Delhi. This recognition highlights Goa's commitment to advancing the ease of doing business through efficient governance, simplified regulatory systems, and investor-friendly service delivery. The state has been actively working to streamline industrial procedures and promote transparency to attract new enterprises and



investments. Expressing his gratitude, Mauvin Godinho said that the honour validates Goa's ongoing efforts to strengthen

its business ecosystem and ensure inclusive, sustainable growth. He noted that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is experiencing an era of reform-driven transformation that is empowering industries and fostering economic confidence nationwide. The Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP) serves as a benchmark for evaluating and encouraging states and union territories to implement effective reforms that make it easier to start

and operate businesses. The initiative is central to India's vision of improving its global competitiveness and investment climate. With this achievement, Goa reaffirms its reputation as a progressive and investment-ready state, offering a conducive environment for entrepreneurship. The state continues to strengthen its presence in key sectors including tourism, services, and manufacturing, positioning itself as a hub for innovation and sustainable development.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

No Proof Yet in Pooja Naik Job Scam?

However, the Crime Branch has verified ownership and tenancy records, which reveal that only hotel management students have occupied the flat since 2019. Investigators are also looking into claims

of hundreds of victims who allegedly paid large sums under the promise of government jobs. "We are carefully scrutinizing each aspect of the statements recorded and will decide the future course of action

based on findings," the SP added. For now, officials maintain that while the inquiry remains active, no concrete or corroborative material has emerged to substantiate Naik's explosive allegations.

Major Crackdown in Kashmir as Agencies Uncover 'Doctor Module' Linked to Delhi Blast

The module, reportedly influenced by Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) operatives, used doctors' credibility and low public suspicion to

build covert cells capable of executing high-impact attacks. Investigators highlighted a growing trend of radical clerics and JeM-linked influencers

exploiting social and professional isolation among young doctors to spread extremist narratives.

Rama Attack Case: Court Extends Custody of Zenito Cardozo

22, faces charges under Sections 126(2), 109, and 351(3) read with Section 61 of

the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, along with relevant provisions of the Scheduled Castes

and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

Red Fort Explosion Part Of Wider 32-Car 'Revenge' Plot

Brezza was found on the premises of Al-Falah School of Medical Sciences in Faridabad, which

investigators now describe as the central hub of the terror network. The EcoSport, discovered abandoned in

Faridabad on Wednesday night, had an unidentified man asleep in the backseat who has since been detained.

Nyoma Airbase Near LAC Becomes Operational, Boosts India's Air Power In Ladakh

■ Air Chief Lands In C-130J As Strategic High-Altitude Airbase Near China Border Goes Live.

New Delhi: The Indian Air Force operationalised the Mudh-Nyoma airbase in Ladakh on Wednesday, marking a major step in strengthening India's air capabilities near the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China. Air Chief Marshal AP Singh landed at the newly completed airbase aboard a C-130J Super Hercules aircraft, officially commissioning the high-altitude facility. Situated at an altitude of around 13,000 feet and approximately 25 km from the LAC, the Nyoma airbase is now equipped to handle fighter jets, transport aircraft, and helicopters. The project, implemented



by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) at a cost of Rs 218 crore, enhances the Indian military's ability to respond swiftly in this strategically sensitive region. Air Chief Marshal Singh was accompanied by Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra, head of the Western Air Command, during the

inaugural flight.

The new airbase is expected to play a vital role in improving air operations, logistics, and rapid troop movement along the northern frontier. The foundation stone for the Mudh-Nyoma airbase was laid in September 2023 by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. With its

completion, it becomes the fourth major airbase in Ladakh, joining existing facilities in Leh, Kargil, and Thoise. The Kargil airstrip, for comparison, lies at an altitude of around 10,500 feet. The Ministry of Defence has been steadily upgrading airfield infrastructure along the LAC to bolster readiness for both combat and humanitarian operations. This includes improving Advanced Landing Grounds (ALGs) and other high-altitude bases. Work is also underway to enhance the Daulat Beg Oldi ALG, located at 16,700 feet, making it the highest operational airfield in the world.

Ukraine Conflict A Testing Ground For Future Warfare, Says Army Chief

■ General Upendra Dwivedi highlights rapid technological shifts shaping modern battlefields at Delhi Defence Dialogue 2025

New Delhi: Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi described the ongoing war in Ukraine as a "living laboratory" for modern warfare, underscoring its relevance to India's own border dynamics. Speaking at the Delhi Defence Dialogue 2025, he said the evolving nature of warfare demands constant adaptation as technology, geopolitics, and competition reshape global security. General Dwivedi noted that the world is witnessing the decline of prolonged peace and the rise of complex, technology-driven conflicts. With over 50 active wars across more than 100 nations, he said the Ukraine battlefield offers critical lessons, particularly in the use of



advanced systems such as drones, electronic warfare, and precision weaponry that now reach far beyond traditional combat ranges. He highlighted that drones track armored movements, electronic warfare disrupts communication networks, and information campaigns can shape outcomes even before fighting begins. According to him, these shifts reflect the "three Ds" transforming warfare: democratisation, diffusion, and demography.

"Clearly A Terror Attack": Rubio Lauds India's Swift and Professional Inquiry

■ Secretary of State Marco Rubio Commends New Delhi's Measured Response, Offers Support If Needed.

New Delhi: The United States has described the recent car explosion near Delhi's Red Fort, which killed at least nine people, as a "clear act of terrorism." US Secretary of State Marco Rubio lauded India's measured and professional approach in handling the investigation, saying New Delhi's response has been "responsible and restrained." Rubio noted that India was doing an "excellent job" leading the probe and expressed confidence that the facts would be made public once the investigation concludes. "It clearly was a terrorist attack. The car was packed with high explosives that detonated and caused heavy casualties. The Indians deserve credit for the professional way they are conducting this investigation," he said while addressing reporters. He added that while the United States had offered assistance, India was "fully capable"



of managing the probe independently. "We have offered to help, but they don't need our help. They are doing a good job. We'll wait for the investigation's findings," Rubio stated. The comments came after Rubio met with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on the sidelines of the G7 Foreign Ministers' meeting in Canada. During their talks, Rubio conveyed condolences for the victims of the Delhi blast and discussed ongoing global and bilateral developments. India formally confirmed on Wednesday that the explosion was a terrorist act. A government statement described it as a "heinous attack

perpetrated by anti-national forces." The incident marks the most serious security breach in the capital since the April shooting in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, which left 26 civilians dead. Security agencies have since arrested several suspects and seized nearly 3,000 kilograms of explosives along with assault rifles. Investigators believe the group has links to Pakistan-based terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammed. Following a high-level security meeting, Home Minister Amit Shah directed authorities to identify and bring all those involved to justice, assuring that "every perpetrator will face the full force of the law."

Sheikh Hasina's Trial Set for Nov 17 as Bangladesh Erupts in Unrest

■ Former PM's media interviews draw diplomatic protest from Dhaka amid escalating violence.

New Delhi: Bangladesh remains on edge as former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina prepares to face trial on November 17 over charges of crimes against humanity linked to last year's student-led protests that ended her 15-year rule. The proceedings come amid nationwide turmoil and a diplomatic row between Dhaka and New Delhi. The interim administration led by Muhammad Yunus has expressed strong disapproval of India allowing Hasina to speak publicly while living in exile. Bangladesh's Foreign Ministry summoned India's Deputy High Commissioner in Dhaka to object to Hasina being "granted a platform to spread hatred and incite unrest," according to state media reports. The ministry reportedly urged India to restrict her access to the press, claiming such actions undermine bilateral



relations. Hasina, who has lived in India since fleeing Dhaka in August 2024, recently gave interviews to several international and Indian outlets. She denied accusations that the United States or other foreign powers played a role in her ouster and stressed that she had maintained "good relations" with successive American administrations. In her interviews, Hasina acknowledged her government's responsibility for the deaths of citizens during last year's mass protests but insisted her party, the now-banned Awami

League, would participate in future elections if they were "free and fair." She thanked India for granting her refuge and reaffirmed her belief that the historic friendship between Dhaka and New Delhi would endure despite current tensions. Meanwhile, Bangladesh has witnessed renewed violence ahead of the trial. The Awami League has called for a nationwide "lockdown" on Thursday, paralysing transport and daily activities. Crude bomb explosions, arson attacks, and vehicle burnings have been reported in Dhaka and other major cities. Schools have shifted to online classes as security forces tighten control in anticipation of further unrest. As tensions rise, Bangladesh faces a volatile mix of political strife, public anger, and uncertainty surrounding one of the most consequential trials in its modern history.

Shubman Gill Reflects on Mohammed Shami's Absence Ahead of South Africa Test Series

■ India's Test captain acknowledges the void left by Mohammed Shami but backs emerging pacers to step up in the South Africa series.

Kolkata: India's Test captain Shubman Gill has spoken about the absence of senior fast bowler Mohammed Shami ahead of the upcoming two-match Test series against South Africa, which begins on November 14 at Eden Gardens. India will be without one of their most experienced pacers, with Shami ruled out of the series. Gill acknowledged the void left by the veteran seamer but emphasized the importance of adaptability and forward planning as the team prepares to face the reigning World Test Champions. "There aren't many bowlers of Shami bhai's calibre," Gill remarked, praising the veteran's



skill and consistency. "But when you look at the depth in our squad — players like Akash Deep, Prasidh Krishna, and what Siraj and Bumrah

have delivered — it becomes a very competitive selection." Gill noted that while it is difficult to miss a bowler of Shami's experience, the team remains focused on maintaining balance and readiness. "It's never easy when someone like Shami bhai has to sit out, but we must think ahead and plan accordingly," he said. Addressing questions about the pacer's fitness and availability, Gill stated that the selectors would be best placed to provide clarity on those aspects. With a mix of youth and experience in the pace attack, India will aim to make a strong start to the home Test season against a formidable South African side.

Lakshya Sen Storms Into Quarterfinals Of Japan Masters

■ Indian ace dominates Singapore's Jia Heng Jason Teh to set up clash with Loh Kean Yew.

New Delhi: India's top shuttler Lakshya Sen continued his fine run at the Kumamoto Masters Japan, advancing to the quarterfinals of the men's singles event with a commanding straight-game victory over Singapore's Jia Heng Jason Teh on Thursday. Seeded seventh in the tournament, Sen displayed excellent control and precision to defeat the world No. 20 Teh 21-13, 21-11 in a brisk 39-minute encounter. The 2021 World Championship



bronze medallist, currently ranked 15th in the world, will now face former world champion Loh Kean Yew of Singapore in the quarterfinals. Sen started strongly, taking an early 8-5 lead in the opening game. Although Teh briefly edged ahead 10-9, the Indian regained momentum to lead 11-10 at the mid-game interval.

Praggnanandhaa, Erigaisi and Harikrishna Advance to Tie-Breaks in Chess World Cup Round 4 Championships 2025

■ Three Indian Grandmasters keep medal hopes alive as they head into crucial tie-breaks at the Chess World Cup.

New Delhi: Indian Grandmasters R Praggnanandhaa, Arjun Erigaisi, and P Harikrishna will battle it out in tie-breaks after their Round 4 matches ended in draws at the ongoing Chess World Cup on Wednesday. The trio remain India's only contenders in the knockout event, each still in the running for one of the three coveted qualification spots for the Candidates Tournament. Arjun Erigaisi maintained his composure against Hungarian veteran Peter Leko, while Praggnanandhaa settled for a draw against



Daniil Dubov of FIDE. Harikrishna, meanwhile, had to work harder to secure a half-point against Nils Grandelius of Sweden, ensuring his place in the next day's rapid tie-break stage. It was a quieter day overall in the tournament, with several players opting for safety-first strategies. Levon Aronian of the United States and Jose Martinez Alcantara

of Mexico confirmed their spots in the pre-quarterfinals after drawing their games against Radoslaw Wojtaszek and Alexey Sarana respectively, securing aggregate victories. Elsewhere, India's young hopes V Pranav and V Karthik bowed out after losing to Nodirbek Yakubboev of Uzbekistan and Le Quang Liem of Vietnam.

Don Bosco Academy A, Knights Veterans and YMCA Knights Enter Quarterfinals of State Senior Basketball Championships

Panjim: The State Senior Basketball Championships for Men and Women tipped off in exciting fashion at the Don Bosco Oratory, Panjim, with Don Bosco Academy A, Knights Veterans, and YMCA Knights booking their berths in the quarterfinals after dominant performances on the opening day. The tournament, co-sponsored by Priority Constructions and organised by the Lourdes Basketball Club under the aegis of the Goa Basketball Association (GBA) and the Sports Authority of Goa (SAG), drew an enthusiastic crowd who witnessed a fine display of skill and teamwork.



In the first match, Don Bosco Academy Fatorda proved far too strong for Kamikaze, cruising to a 55-16 victory. Tanish (13 points) and Bradley Barreto (11 points) led the scoring for Fatorda, while Afzal was the standout for Kamikaze with 6 points. The Knights Veterans showcased their class and experience in the next encounter, defeating Don Bosco Academy B with a 42-12 win. Daley Fernandes (10 points) led from the front, supported by seasoned campaigners

Spencer Viegas, Bosco, and Charles D'Souza. The young Don Bosco B side, featuring several U-17 Goa squad members, displayed promise and determination despite the heavy defeat. YMCA Knights capped off the day with a commanding 46-5 triumph over St Thomas Aldona. Rahul D'Souza (11 points) starred for YMCA, with strong all-round contributions from Shaun Arango and Jaedan Vaz, sealing their spot in the last eight.

Vinod Phadke Charts Roadmap to Boost Veterans' Cricket in Goa

■ Goa to host 3rd GVCA Veterans Tournament from November 13 to 15

Panaji: The Goa Veterans Cricket Association (GVCA) is set to host the third edition of the GVCA Veterans Cricket Tournament from November 13 to 15 at the SAG Chicalim and GCA Porvorim grounds. Ahead of the event, GVCA President and Secretary of the Board of Veteran Cricket in India (BVCI),

Vinod Phadke, shared his vision for strengthening the structure and visibility of veterans' cricket in the state. Phadke outlined plans to create a more organized and sustainable framework for senior players through regular tournaments, improved facilities, and wider participation. "We want to ensure that those who have contributed to

the sport continue to enjoy competitive cricket with proper infrastructure and encouragement," he said. Established to provide opportunities for players who, despite their dedication, couldn't make it to the state's Ranji squad, the GVCA has become a valuable platform for keeping their passion for cricket alive. Through

initiatives such as the Indian Veterans Premier League (IVPL), local players have even shared the field with renowned international stars like Chris Gayle, Virender Sehwag, and Suresh Raina. "Seeing our players compete alongside such legends is a moment of great pride," Phadke remarked, noting that three Goan veterans

featured in various IVPL franchises last year. Under Phadke's leadership, GVCA has worked closely with the BVCI to host several interstate and zonal tournaments, including a successful national event in Goa in 2023. He acknowledged the support of the Goa Cricket Association (GCA) and its president Mahesh

Dessai for their continued assistance in overcoming logistical challenges and ensuring the smooth conduct of tournaments. Looking ahead, Phadke confirmed plans to bring more national-level veterans' cricket tournaments to Goa, integrating sports development with tourism promotion.