



HC issues notice to SEC over ZP Reservation Row

■ Petition challenges OBC reservation of Anjuna seat; Court to review State's Nov 6 notification ahead of Dec 13 polls

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The High Court of Bombay at Goa has issued notice to the Goa State Election Commission (SEC) after a petition challenged the State government's decision to reserve the Anjuna Zilla Panchayat (ZP) constituency in North Goa for the Other Backward Classes (OBC). The notice seeks the SEC's response on the legality and rationale of the reservation notified on November 6.



The petition argues that Anjuna was reserved for women in the 2020 ZP elections and that the shift to OBC reservation in the new cycle lacks justification. The High Court will hear the matter on Saturday, placing the reservation roster under judicial scrutiny just weeks



before the December 13 polls. The challenged notification outlines the reservation framework for all 50 ZP constituencies across the State, with 20 seats earmarked for OBC, Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Scheduled Caste (SC) categories, and 18 seats

— nine in each district — reserved for women, including those from OBC and ST communities. ZP elections will be held on party lines, with 25 seats each in North and South Goa. The State Election Commission is expected to release the formal poll schedule later this week, after which the Model Code of Conduct will come into force. Under the current reservation pattern, 13 constituencies are reserved for OBC

CONTD TO PAGE 06...



Deadly Blast at Nowgam Police Station in J&K Kills Nine, Injures 32

■ Accidental Explosion During Forensic Examination of Seized High-Grade Explosives Kills Nine, Injures 32; Authorities Say Major Terror Strike Was Narrowly Averted

J&K: A massive explosion ripped through the Nowgam Police Station late Friday night, killing nine people and injuring 32 others, in what authorities have described as an accidental detonation of volatile materials linked to an ongoing terror investigation.

A newly surfaced CCTV video captures the moment of the blast, showing a sudden flash of light followed by a powerful explosion that sent debris flying and caused widespread

chaos in the vicinity. The explosion occurred around 11:20 PM while officials were handling a large cache of chemically unstable ammonium nitrate, recently recovered during a high-profile terror probe.

Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police, Nalin Prabhat, confirmed that the explosion happened during the forensic examination of explosives seized in connection with FIR 162 of 2025. "A huge quantity of explosive substances,

CONTD TO PAGE 06...

St Cruz: Electricity Dept Cuts ISP Cables Over Unpaid Dues

Team Goemkarponn

ST CRUZ: The Electricity Department today conducted a cable-cutting drive in St Cruz, removing internet service provider (ISP) cables attached to its poles after the companies allegedly failed to clear long-pending dues. EE Kashinath Shetye said the action was intensified following a complaint

from a local parent who reported that his son had sustained a leg injury after tripping over hanging cables. The department stated that such loosely suspended lines pose a safety hazard to residents, especially children. The drive is expected to continue in other areas where ISP cables remain unpaid for or are improperly installed, the department said.



SOGAC objects to new police station plan

Team Goemkarponn

OLD GOA: The Save Old Goa Action Committee has strongly opposed the proposal to construct a new police station in Old Goa, arguing that the project falls within the UNESCO Buffer Zone surrounding the Basilica of Bom Jesus and could jeopardise its World Heritage Site status.

In a letter submitted to the Village Panchayat of Se Old Goa and signed by local residents, the committee called for

an immediate halt to all permissions linked to the project.

They stressed that no new construction should be allowed until a comprehensive Master Plan for Old Goa is drafted with inputs from the Church authorities, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), the Town and Country Planning (TCP) Department, the Panchayat, and historians.

Raising serious concerns, the committee warned that the proposed

CONTD TO PAGE 06...



Education Dept Seeks Report on Stray Dogs in School Vicinity

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Acting in compliance with Supreme Court directives, Director of Education Shailesh Zingde has asked all school managements across Goa to submit a detailed report on the measures taken to address the presence of stray dogs in and around their institutions.

The Directorate has instructed schools to outline the current status of response actions, including safety steps implemented for students, coordination with local authorities, and any pending requirements to manage the issue effectively.

India, Russia Aim for \$100 Billion Trade by 2030; Marine and Pharma Sectors in Focus

■ India and Russia target \$100 billion bilateral trade by 2030, focusing on marine, pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, and I T-BPM services, while exploring investment and payment solutions

New Delhi: India and Russia have set an ambitious target of achieving US\$100 billion in bilateral trade by 2030, with a special focus on the marine and pharmaceutical sectors. The announcement came during the 26th India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission (IRIGC) meeting, where both sides reviewed progress in trade and signed a forward-looking cooperation protocol.

The meeting, attended by India's Commerce Ministry officials and Russia's Deputy Minister of Economic Development Vladimir Ilyichev, highlighted the need to expedite approvals for Indian



establishments in Russia. Areas of discussion included a systems-based approach with Russia's FSVPS in agriculture, time-bound pathways for pharmaceutical registrations, regulatory reliance, and predictable timelines.

Bilateral trade has already more than doubled since the 2014 benchmark of US\$25 billion. Both sides

explored opportunities across engineering goods, chemicals, plastics, electronics, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, leather, and textiles. Indian strengths in smartphones, motor vehicles, gems and jewellery, organic chemicals, textiles, and leather were identified as key enablers to support Russia's trade

CONTD TO PAGE 06...

Goa's Cash-for-Jobs Scandal Demands an Investigation That Spares No One

The cash-for-jobs controversy in Goa has grown into something far larger than a dispute between an accused middlewoman and the police. It has become a mirror held up to the state's recruitment machinery and, by extension, to the political establishment that oversees it. What began as a complaint of cheating has spiralled into allegations of high-ranking officials accepting hefty sums to secure government posts. The claims are sensational, but they are not merely the product of an imaginative mind. They reflect what many young aspirants whisper privately about public sector recruitment: the playing field is rarely level, and those with the right contacts rarely lose.

The police say the claims made by the accused cannot be accepted at face value. That is true, and any responsible investigation should test every statement against records, witnesses, and evidence. But caution must not become an excuse to narrow the scope of the inquiry. When an accused names serving officials and links those names to a multi-crore racket, the job of the state is not to react defensively but to pursue the facts with courage. The state's credibility is damaged far more by a timid probe than by the allegations themselves.

The larger worry is the atmosphere of distrust that now hangs over the entire recruitment process. Hundreds of young men and women spend years preparing for government posts. Their parents pour in savings and often take loans in the hope that a secure job will lift the family into stability. When a scandal suggests that merit might play a smaller role than money, the damage to public morale is immediate and severe. It is not only the

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victims who suffer. Every honest candidate begins to wonder whether hard work is enough, and every honest official finds their work overshadowed by suspicion.

The state government's instinct has been to contain the situation rather than confront it. That approach underestimates the anger building among ordinary Goans. People know how recruitment has operated for years. They know that middlemen exist because they are allowed to exist, and that networks of influence survive because they are profitable for someone. The accused in this case may very well be guilty

of duping desperate aspirants. But her guilt does not erase the possibility that she was part of a larger arrangement, nor does it automatically invalidate her claims. If anything, it raises the stakes even higher. When someone admits to being a conduit, the next question is obvious: a conduit for whom.

The only way the public will trust any conclusion is if the investigation is allowed to move without interference and without deference. The moment an inquiry seems designed to protect powerful interests, the findings lose legitimacy. Goa does not need another closed-door report or an internal review that quietly absolves everyone. It needs a process capable of questioning those in positions of authority and collecting evidence without fear of where it leads. History shows that recruitment scams rarely involve isolated individuals. They thrive when everyone looks the other way.

A thorough probe is also important for justice. Hundreds of families have been forced into despair after learning they were tricked with false promises of jobs. Many of them scraped together money in the belief that this was their ticket to a better life. The least the state owes them is clarity about how this racket operated, who enabled it, and how such exploitation will be prevented in the future. Without that, any talk of reform will ring hollow.

Goa's youth deserve a recruitment system they can trust. They deserve to know that success is earned rather than purchased. The government can restore that trust only by allowing an investigation that is transparent, unflinching, and immune to political calculations. Anything less would confirm the very cynicism this scandal has exposed.

OPINION

Pooja Naik's H Bomb. All Eyes on Goa CM Dr Pramod Sawant

by Irfan Iqbal Gheta

Two types of fireworks went off on Friday morning. NDA in the Bihar State Assembly Election 2025 emerged victorious with a sweeping majority, and that set off fireworks in Goa.

While the celebrations were in full swing, Pooja Naik of cash-for-jobs scam fame emerged, accompanied by Shri Bab Amit Palekar, the Aam Aadmi Party's state chief.

Under the tutelage of Shri Amit Bab, Pooja went ahead and publicly named a powerful minister whose involvement in the alleged scam had until now been whispered only in hushed tones.

Soon after the allegations became public, the said minister put on a brave face and played down the development with a poker face.

He said, "Listen. Everybody knows who I am. Nobody can malign my name. You know. Once the crime branch completes its investigation, I will issue a statement. Until then, a self-imposed gag order."

Oh really. How sweet. What is going to happen now? It is the question on everybody's lips. That said, it is over to Goa CM Dr Pramod Sawant now. The Opposition is unanimously asking for the said minister's scalp, coupled with a fair and impartial investigation by a retired High Court Judge or the central agencies. Will the CM budge?

The said minister's grandstanding notwithstanding, what is expected is a voluntary resignation until the investigating agencies give a clean chit.

"I would like to tender my resignation in the light of certain politically motivated allegations made against me. I have full faith in the investigating agencies. I am sure that the truth will prevail in the end. Until then, see you later." If this happens, it will be a moral victory for both Goa CM Dr Pramod Sawant and his party. The minister under the cloud of suspicion can be rehabilitated later once the dust settles. This is par for the course.

If this does not happen, Dr Pramod Sawant will have a tough time. His cabinet colleague, in a well orchestrated charade, will be made to sing eulogies in favour of the said minister, stating someone like him can never be corrupt, with PR machinery working overtime to turn the tide around. Interestingly, the party bosses from New Delhi will be watching the rapidly unfolding developments with a keen eye in the days leading to ZP elections, said to be a semi final to the Goa Assembly Elections 2027. A period of two years is a long time in politics, especially in Goa, where the ever-changing political scenario keeps all stakeholders on tenterhooks. There is never a status quo in Goa as far as political activities are concerned. This H Bomb has indeed come at a critical juncture for the ruling party.

Dr Pramod Sawant Ji has made it clear time and again that the investigation in the cash for jobs scam is underway, and the guilty, no matter who they are, will not be spared. It is time to walk the talk now. Or else, the damage will be irreparable.

PM's Visit to Partagal: Administration Reviews Security & Arrangements at Shree Gokarn Partagali Jeevottam Math

■ CM Chairs High-Level Meeting on Grounds; Helipad, Security Tightened Ahead of PM Modi's Arrival

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: With Prime Minister Narendra Modi scheduled to visit Shree Samsthan Gokarn Partagali Jeevottam Math this Friday evening, the Goa administration has intensified preparations and undertaken multiple rounds of reviews at the Math premises. The visit coincides with the historic Sardha Panchashatamanotsava, marking 550 years of the Math's spiritual legacy.

Earlier in the day, Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant chaired



a crucial high-powered meeting inside the Math premises, focusing on security, logistics, and event management. The meeting followed a comprehensive inspection led by Chief Secretary Dr. V. Candavelou, IAS,

who reviewed all ongoing developmental works reaching their completion stage for the 11-day celebration beginning November 27.

The Chief Secretary, along with DGP Alok Kumar, Collector (South)

Ms. Eгна Cleetus, IAS, SP (South) Tikam Singh Verma, Fire Services Director Nitin Raikar, and heads of various related departments, conducted a detailed assessment of arrangements. This included security protocols, crowd management plans, emergency services, and infrastructure readiness.

A key focus was the newly constructed helipad located just half a kilometre from the Math, where the Prime Minister's helicopter is expected to land. Officials examined its safety feasibility and access routes.



Goa Forward Suspends Amit Sawant Amid Allegations of Land Mafia Links

■ Congress Entry Sparks Political Tussle

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Forward Party (GFP) has suspended Advocate Amit Sawant following complaints that he was allegedly involved with land mafia networks and individuals connected to the state BJP government. The party cited concerns over land dealings and conversion activities in Mandrem constituency

and Pernem taluka, calling the allegations a violation of its core principles ahead of the Zilla Panchayat elections.

Deepak Kalangutkar, President of North Goa District GFP, said that repeated warnings from local residents prompted the party's decision, emphasizing that the protection of land remains central to GFP's ideology.

Goa-SEIAA Grants Environmental Clearance to Controversial Bambolim Project

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (Goa-SEIAA) has approved environmental clearance (EC) for the contentious commercial project by M/s



Worldwide Resorts and Entertainment Private Limited at Bambolim, which had previously faced a stop-work order for commencing

construction without prior clearance.

The clearance was granted during a SEIAA meeting held on October 10, following recommendations from the Goa State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC).

MLA Jit Denies Dynastic Politics, Confirms Wife Will Not Contest ZP Elections

Team Goemkarponn

MANDREM: Putting an end to ongoing speculation, Mandrem MLA Jit Arolkar has clarified that his wife, Adv. Siddi Arolkar, will not contest the upcoming Zilla Panchayat (ZP)



elections. Arolkar said that

although news had spread earlier and several karyakartas were enthusiastic about her potential candidature, he chose not to react immediately. Instead, he first held detailed discussions with his supporters.

Goa High Court Rejects PIL Against Bhutani Real-Estate Project in Sancoale

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Bombay High Court in Goa has dismissed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by residents opposing a major real-estate project by Bhutani Infra in Sancoale, dealing a blow to local opposition.

The petitioners, led by social activist Peter D'Souza along with four others from Vasco and Sancoale, had sought to annul approvals granted for the project, including its technical clearance, construction license, and conversion sanad. They also requested the court to prevent Parmesh Constructions Company Ltd (Bhutani Infra) from commencing construction work. The petition raised



environmental and community concerns, arguing that the development would damage green cover, threaten local biodiversity, and strain natural resources, particularly affecting the groundwater table. The petitioners warned that the project could pose a direct threat to the well-being of villagers. They also claimed that the approvals allowed construction of multi-family villas and swimming pools without providing the mandatory road access required under the Goa Building Regulations 2010.

Mapusa Municipal Council Seizes Over 1,000 Tobacco Packets in Anti-Smuggling Drive

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: The Mapusa Municipal Council has confiscated a total of 1,015 packets of tobacco products during a crackdown on illegal sales in and around the Mapusa bus stand and market area. The operation

targeted 20 vendors caught selling gutkha and other tobacco items. Of the seized stock, 900 packets were gutkha, while 115 comprised other tobacco products, collectively valued at several thousand rupees.

The drive was conducted under the State-

wide "Tobacco-Free Bus Stand" initiative organized by GOACAN. The enforcement team was led by Municipal Inspector Prajwal Dhargalkar, along with supervisor Anand Talwar, municipal workers Prakash Pujari and Amit Shetye, and GOACAN representatives.



Goa University Student Moves High Court Against Alleged Staged NDPS Arrest

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: A 22-year-old postgraduate student from Goa University has approached the Bombay High Court at Goa seeking to quash an FIR filed against him under the NDPS Act, alleging unlawful detention and a staged anti-

narcotics operation by the Mapusa Police.

The petitioner, Leonardo Deva, an MA English Literature student, has challenged FIR No. 72/2025 registered at Mapusa Police Station under Section 20(b) (ii)(A) of the NDPS Act. In his writ petition filed under Articles 226 and 227 of the

Constitution, Deva claimed he was forcibly taken into custody on May 4, 2025, at around 3:56 pm from outside a parcel service shop opposite the Mapusa Police Station. Deva has produced 29 CCTV clips to support his claim, asserting that the footage shows him being confronted by two



men, one later identified as Police Constable Anand Rathod, and being forced into a black Maruti Swift, hours before the time listed in the police record.

Illicit Liquor Racket: Crime Branch Arrests Three More Accused

Seeks Transfer Warrant in Linked Case

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: In a major development, the Goa Crime Branch has arrested three more individuals suspected to be part of an illicit liquor network operating across states.

The arrests were made on 10 November following technical surveillance and interrogation of four accused earlier taken into custody.

The three arrested

have been identified as Kursingh Rajput (42), resident of Rajasthan; Munaf Pirsabh Shaikh (42), resident of Sawantwadi, Maharashtra; and Bharat Singh Rathore (25), resident of Rajasthan.

All three were produced before the JMFC, Ponda, where they were remanded to three days of police custody.

The investigation is being led by PI Laxi Amonkar, under the

supervision of DySP Rajesh Kumar and SP Crime Rahul Gupta, IPS.

Authorities revealed that the same trio is highly suspected to be involved in another illicit liquor case registered as Crime No. 75/2024 under multiple IPC sections—284, 420, 465, 468, 471—along with Sections 5, 8, 9, and 33 of the Goa Excise Act.

The earlier case was registered based on a complaint filed by the Deputy Commissioner of



Excise.

In light of these suspicions, DySP Hiru Kavlekar has issued a request to JMFC Ponda for a transfer warrant. If approved, the accused will be taken into custody in connection with Crime No. 75/2024 as well.

The Crime Branch stated that further investigation is ongoing.

XUV Towed Out and Damaged: Two Booked for Trespass and Theft in Oxel

Team Goemkarponn

ANJUNA: Anjuna Police have registered a case under Sections 329(3), 324(5), and 303(2) of the BNS Act, 2023 in connection with the alleged illegal towing and theft involving a Mahindra XUV500 at Oxel.

The offence was registered on 13 November 2025 at 20:18 hrs following a complaint by Captain Brian Fernandes, resident of Avida De Oxel, Siolim.

According to the

complaint, on 24 October 2025 at around 1:00 pm, the accused — Tyrir Machado and Tomas Machado, both residents of Arrady, Oxel, Siolim — allegedly criminally trespassed into the complainant's property using a mobile crane. The duo reportedly towed the complainant's Mahindra XUV500 (MH-04-GJ-2197) from within the premises and abandoned it on the main road in a damaged condition, causing an estimated loss of ₹2,80,000.

BOOKED

ATM operators booked for misappropriating ₹13.97 lakh from ICICI machine at Vasco

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: A routine audit of cash loading at an ICICI Bank ATM in Vasco has uncovered a major case of misappropriation, prompting Vasco police to register an offence against five employees of Hitachi Cash Management Service Pvt Ltd, Goa Branch, Porvorim. The case was initiated following a complaint by Branch Manager Parmeshwar Umrakar. As per the complaint, the incident occurred between 13 August 2025 and 6 September 2025, when ATM operators — Gopinath Harmalkar, Sameer Kadam, Arjun Dhainje, Ketan Kharat — along with Sanket Shrishna Ghogale,



who were entrusted with job of loading cash bundles in bank ATMs, allegedly acted with common intention and dishonestly misappropriated the funds while loading cash into the Vasco ICICI Bank ATM. The complainant stated that the accused, who were custodians of the cash bundles, dishonestly misappropriated ₹13,97,500 during the loading process.

Police said the accused allegedly diverted the cash while performing their official duties, amounting to cheating and criminal breach of trust.

Old Goa Police Launch Intensive Drive to Clear Roadside Blockages, 10 Hawkers Booked in Two Days

Team Goemkarponn

OLD GOA: The Old Goa Police Station has launched an intensive traffic-clearance drive to remove roadside obstructions and ensure smooth vehicular movement along the Kadamba Highway. The drive began on 13 November 2025, continued on 14 November, and will remain active through the coming weekend.

According to police, the operation aims to facilitate uninterrupted traffic flow for the convenience and safety of the general public. On 13 November 2025, police detained five unauthorised hawkers for obstructing traffic at Kadamba Plateau, Old



Goa, where they were selling plastic chairs and fish along the roadside.

On 14 November 2025, another five unauthorised vendors were booked at Dhulpae, Corlim, for selling plastic chairs and other items on the road.

All unauthorised

vendors and hawkers—except local vegetable sellers—are being acted upon as part of the ongoing crackdown along the Kadamba Highway stretch from Merces to Banastari. The ten individuals apprehended over the two days have

been placed under arrest under Section 34(iv) of the IP Act for causing obstruction and disturbing vehicular movement.

Old Goa Police confirmed that the drive will continue over the weekend to maintain smooth traffic flow.

Woman Booked for Pledging Fake Gold to Secure ₹9 Lakh Loan at Finance Firm

Team Goemkarponn

CURCHOREM: Curchorem Police have registered a case under Section 318(4) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023 after a woman allegedly pledged fake gold ornaments to obtain a high-value loan from a finance company.

The complaint, filed by Praveen Kudarihala, Area Head of M/s Manappuram Finance Ltd., Vasco, states that on 7 April 2025 at 2:51 pm, at the Manappuram



Finance Ltd., Curchorem Branch, the accused Avani Shet Mayenkar, resident of Bandol, Kirlapal-Curchorem, pledged eight heavily gold-metal-coated bangles, presenting them as genuine gold.

Believing the items to be real, the branch sanctioned a gold loan

of ₹9,05,000. It was later discovered that the ornaments were fake, resulting in a financial loss of ₹5,79,371 to the company.

Police stated that the accused had knowingly deceived the branch and dishonestly induced the company into disbursing the loan.

Based on the complaint, Curchorem Police registered FIR No. 79/2025 under Section 318(4) of the BNS Act, 2023.

Panaji Police Book LPG Delivery Staff and Manager for Illegal Gas Decanting in Public Place

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Panaji Police have registered a case in connection with illegal and unsafe LPG gas decanting performed in an open public area on 13 November 2025.

The offence was registered following a complaint received under SDE No. 84/2025 from Mr. Castilho Hipolito Noronha, a 44-year-old businessman residing at Campal, Panaji.

According to the complaint, at around 11:30 am behind Mom's Kitchen



at La Campala Colony, near the Bank of Baroda ATM, two occupants of an LPG cylinder delivery vehicle bearing registration GA-01-T-4284, along with Francis Martin, the manager of Goa Gas Service, allegedly engaged in illegal decanting of LPG.

Police stated that the

accused persons, acting with common intention, were found decanting LPG from a pressurised cylinder into an empty cylinder in a public space without safety measures, thereby endangering human life. The act also constituted theft of LPG gas, as per the complaint.

The case has been registered at Panaji Police Station as Cr. No. 157/2025 under Sections 125, 303(2), read with Section 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023.

Salkar announces five-day road closure for railway underpass work from Nov 17

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: Traffic movement near Tanya Hotel is set for a brief but crucial disruption, with Mormugao Dy Collector Bhagwant Karmali on Friday convening a joint meeting of all major Government departments to finalise arrangements for the proposed railway underpass project. Officials from the PWD, Traffic Cell, Police, Railways, Electricity Department and the Municipality attended the coordination meet along with Vasco MLA Krishna Salkar. The authorities confirmed that approach roads to the project site will remain completely closed for five days once work begins on 17th November.

Speaking after the meeting, Vasco MLA



Krishna Salkar said the long-awaited project would commence as scheduled and that multiple works would be taken up simultaneously.

"We will undertake widening of the road along with the railway underpass project, and this will require a five-day road closure. There are utilities like light poles and we plan to lay ducts for underground cabling while widening the road so that we don't have to dig it again," Salkar

said, adding that sewage pipelines would also be shifted and provisions made for a pumping station. He said the joint coordination meeting with the contractor and all Government departments, held in the presence of Railways officials, was meant to ensure smooth execution. "The road will be closed totally for five days as we begin the bridge work. Other components may take about a month, but the road will reopen with

proper signages and diversions. The Traffic PI will also release a video explaining the diversion plan so that people are not confused. This five-day closure is only a temporary inconvenience for the greater good of Vasco," he added.

Salkar said the project would offer long-term benefits once completed.

"When the bridge is ready, the approach roads will also be widened and the sewerage issues resolved. This is a major development taken up in a coordinated manner so that people face minimum disruption. Dy Collector Bhagwant Karmali will monitor the entire project, and by 25th November the new underpass will be in place for people to see the vision we had for them, along with an improved approach road," he said.



Sardar @150 – Unity March Successfully Held in Canacona

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: The Sardar @150 – Unity March, organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, along with the Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs, Government of Goa, in collaboration with MY BHARAT, was successfully held in Canacona on Friday.

Aimed at promoting national unity and encouraging youth participation in nation-building, the march saw an enthusiastic turnout from students and young

citizens across the taluka.

Chief Guest and Minister for Tribal Welfare, Sports, Youth Affairs and Art & Culture, Ramesh Tawadkar, emphasized the pivotal role of youth in shaping a developed nation. "The role of youth is extremely important in realizing the vision of a developed country. Through such initiatives, we aim to motivate and encourage young people and involve them actively in nation-building. The contributions of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in uniting the nation can never be forgotten.



Steel bars crash onto moving bus on Dabolim airport road; no injuries reported

Team Goemkarponn

DABOLIM: A moving Kadamba Transport Corporation passenger bus had a narrow escape on Thursday evening after steel TMT bars from the bridge-pillar construction site suddenly fell onto its roof along the Dabolim road.

The incident occurred when the bus was passing directly near the ongoing construction work and a bundle of TMT bars fell from the structure. The bars landed heavily on the bus, denting the roof and causing minor damage, triggering panic among passengers for a brief moment.

According to sources, the bus was en route from Vasco to Verna side along the Dabolim stretch when the material fell without warning from the worksite.



SGDMF Launches Key Disaster Management and Community Welfare Initiatives in South Goa

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: The South Goa District Mineral Foundation (SGDMF) has rolled out a series of major initiatives aimed at strengthening disaster response mechanisms and improving community welfare across the mining-affected talukas of Sanguem, Quepem, Dharbandora, and Ponda.

The programmes were officially inaugurated and flagged off today in Margao by Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant.

As part of its upgraded disaster management support, SGDMF has deployed two Tata Yodha 4x4 vehicles dedicated to emergency response across the region. In

addition, two hearse vans have been provided to address a longstanding necessity for reliable and dignified transport of deceased persons in rural and remote belts.

In a significant step towards inclusion, SGDMF also distributed Assistive Adaptive Non-Gearred Scooters to three persons with disabilities — Ms. Geeta Masurkar, Shri Birappa Kagi, and Shri Pandurang Tate — enabling improved mobility, independence, and overall quality of life for the beneficiaries.

These initiatives reinforce SGDMF's commitment to supporting vulnerable communities and strengthening essential services in mining-affected areas.

Divyang Rath Reaches Canacona After Media Report

■ Youth Diagnosed With Spastic Cerebral Palsy Receives Immediate Home-Based Therapy

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: The Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, along with the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Goa), initiated swift action after media reports highlighted the condition of a young person in Canacona

requiring urgent intervention.

Within 24 hours, the mobile outreach unit Divyang Rath—launched during the International Purple Fest Goa 2025—was deployed to the individual's residence on 12 November 2025. A home-based assessment and clinical evaluation revealed a diagnosis of



spastic cerebral palsy (CP).

Therapeutic intervention began immediately at the residence. A customised physiotherapy regimen focusing on strengthening the upper and lower body, improving flexibility, reducing spasticity, and enhancing mobility has been put into place.

Shobha Yatra Held in Canacona to Mark 150th Birth Anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda

■ Former Union Minister Dr. Bharati Pawar Calls for Honouring Unsung Freedom Fighters During "Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh"

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: A grand Shobha Yatra was organised at Ravindra Bhavan, Canacona to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda as part of the nationwide "Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh" celebrations. Former Union Minister Dr. Bharati Pawar, addressing the gathering, emphasised the need to remember



and honour countless unsung freedom fighters who contributed to India's independence.

"Even decades after independence, many freedom fighters and tribal heroes remain forgotten.

Bhagwan Birsa Munda was one such visionary who sacrificed his life for the motherland. Through Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh, we aim to pay tribute to these heroes," said Dr. Pawar.

Sound of Celebrations: IFFIESTA 2025 Promises Music, Culture, and Live Magic in Goa

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: This November, the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) is going beyond the silver screen with the launch of IFFIESTA 2025, a vibrant celebration of music, culture, and live performances. Organisers are transforming the festival into a cultural carnival, blending cinema with India's rich musical heritage and contemporary creativity.

Running from 21st to 24th November 2025 at the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Auditorium, IFFIESTA is curated under WAVES Culturals & Concerts and presented in association with Doordarshan, Saregama, MJ Films, and Dilli

Gharana. The festival promises an immersive experience, bringing together musicians, artists, and audiences to celebrate India's timeless connection with art.

Each evening of IFFIESTA will have its own unique flavour from soulful classical ragas evoking nostalgia to pulsating contemporary beats delivered by young artists redefining creativity. Celebrity hosts will anchor each night, alongside special guest performances presented by Saregama, creating an unbroken arc of energy, rhythm, and spectacle.

Beyond performances, IFFIESTA is about connection the crowd singing together, families enjoying post-sunset

festivities, and strangers uniting through the universal language of music. The festival also highlights India's growing "creative and live economy," a space where art, innovation, and enterprise intersect to create not just performances, but possibilities.

IFFIESTA 2025 is poised to be a celebration of India's diversity, creativity, and spirit of togetherness a four-day musical journey where stories, sound, and

performance converge to leave every visitor inspired and connected.



India in Talks for Free Trade Agreements With US, Europe: Piyush Goyal

■ India negotiates free trade agreements with US, EU, and other nations; Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal highlights ease of doing business, global cooperation, and new initiatives like Drone City in Andhra Pradesh

New Delhi:

Visakhapatnam: India is currently negotiating free trade agreements (FTAs) with several key global partners, including the United States, European Union, New Zealand, Oman, Peru, and Chile, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Friday. The announcement came at the CII Partnership Summit 2025 in Visakhapatnam.

India has already implemented FTAs with countries such as the UAE, Australia, and the four-nation European bloc EFTA. Goyal highlighted that lowering trade barriers globally would facilitate the free flow of goods, services, and capital, boosting international business opportunities.

"To promote ease of doing business, the Centre has removed 42,000 compliance requirements and abolished 1,500 outdated laws," he added. Goyal also emphasized India's trust-based diplomacy, which is reflected in its expanding network of FTAs amid rising global

protectionism.

Goyal proposed that the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) collaborate with the Andhra Pradesh government to build a world-class convention centre — Andhra Mandapam — modeled on Delhi's Bharat Mandapam. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu confirmed that land would be provided for the project.

On the sidelines of the summit, Goyal and Naidu also virtually laid the foundation for Drone City and Space City in Andhra Pradesh. Goyal emphasized the need for India to be self-reliant in producing high-quality drones, noting that the upcoming Drone City in Kurnool would play a crucial role in developing indigenous drone capabilities.

The minister outlined steps to expand global collaboration, including two-way investment, technology cooperation, and a predictable policy framework to ensure long-term partnerships between nations.

...CONTD FROM PAGE 01

Deadly Blast at Nowgam Police Station in J&K Kills Nine, Injures 32

chemicals, and reagents were recovered from Faridabad on November 9 and 10, 2025," the DGP said. "These materials were being sampled and examined by the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) team when, unfortunately, an accidental explosion occurred." The deceased include a personnel of the State Investigation Agency (SIA), three FSL officials, two crime scene photographers, two revenue officials, and a tailor associated with the inspection team. Among the injured were 27 police personnel, two revenue officials, and three civilians from nearby areas.

Sources indicate that the explosives recovered were not ordinary fertilizer-grade ammonium nitrate but a chemically altered, highly unstable batch. Experts warn that had the material been deployed in urban areas such as Delhi markets or metro corridors, the resulting blast could have caused casualties five to ten times higher than typical ammonium nitrate devices. Officials now consider the accidental detonation as both a warning and a narrowly averted major terror strike.

The explosives were linked to a sophisticated "white-collar terror module" that had also been involved in a recent

car bomb blast at Delhi's Red Fort, which killed 13 people. Investigations revealed the network included radicalized professionals across several states, involved in procurement, logistics, and IED assembly.

The total explosives recovered from multiple raids across Jammu & Kashmir, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh were estimated at nearly 3,000 kilograms. Key seizures included 2,563 kilograms from the residence of Hafeez Mohammad Ishtiaq in Faridabad and 358 kilograms of additional material, including detonators and timers, from other locations.

The blast caused extensive damage to the police station building and nearby structures. Injured personnel were rushed to the Indian Army's 92 Base Hospital and the Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) for urgent treatment. The Deputy Commissioner of Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, personally visited hospitals to meet the victims. A formal inquiry into the incident has been initiated. DGP Prabhat emphasized that the Jammu and Kashmir Police stand in solidarity with the families of the deceased and urged the public to refrain from speculation regarding the blast.

India, Russia Aim for \$100 Billion Trade by 2030; Marine and Pharma Sectors in Focus

diversification and de-risking strategy. India encouraged Russian entities to increase procurement of IT-BPM, healthcare, education, and creative services from India. Predictable mobility for Indian professionals was highlighted to address labor shortages in the Russian market.

India's Global Capability Centre (GCC) ecosystem, with over 1,700 centres employing nearly 1.9 million professionals, was presented as a platform for Russian companies to strengthen business continuity, cybersecurity, design, analytics, and shared services. The Russian side

expressed interest in concluding a bilateral investment treaty. Both nations also agreed to explore payment solutions to facilitate business transactions, particularly for medium, small, and micro enterprises, further enhancing the resilience of trade and supply chains in goods and services.

SOGAC objects to new police station plan

12.7-metre structure would worsen traffic congestion in the heritage precinct—particularly during the novenas of St. Francis Xavier, when thousands of devotees visit the site. They further cautioned that construction activity and operational vibrations from the new building could damage the fragile heritage monuments in the vicinity.

HC issues notice to SEC over ZP Reservation Row

candidates — seven in North Goa and six in South Goa. Six seats are designated for ST candidates (five in North, one in South), while the Querim constituency in North Goa is the lone seat reserved for the SC category.

The petition contends that the new reservation

matrix may not adhere to legal norms, specifically questioning whether the State followed mandated criteria and rotation principles while reserving seats. The High Court's notice to the SEC sets the stage for a crucial examination of the reservation process ahead of the ZP elections.

TATP-Ammonium Nitrate Mix Behind Delhi Car Blast, May Have Triggered Nowgam Police Explosion: Sources

■ Investigators reveal TATP-ammonium nitrate mix behind Delhi Red Fort car blast may have contributed to accidental Nowgam Police Station explosion, highlighting the extreme volatility of the seized materials

New Delhi: Investigators probing the Delhi Red Fort car blast, which killed 13 people on November 10, have found that the explosive material involved a highly volatile mix of triacetone triperoxide (TATP) and ammonium nitrate. Sources indicate that traces of this unstable mixture may have later contributed to the accidental explosion at Nowgam Police Station in Jammu and Kashmir, which killed nine people.

The Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) confirmed the presence of TATP in the i20 car



used in the Delhi attack. TATP is a primary explosive known for its extreme sensitivity to heat, friction, and shock. Unlike conventional military explosives, it is difficult to detect with standard methods, and even small quantities can

cause. The Jammu and Kashmir Police clarified that the explosion at Nowgam Police Station was accidental, occurring while officials handled the seized ammonium nitrate. Preliminary investigations indicate that the material had

reached a highly unstable stage, capable of self-detonation even without a detonator. The batch, converted into a high-grade explosive by Jaish-e-Mohammed operatives with sensitising agents and fuel, was intended for a large improvised explosive device (IED).

Officials believe the module may have planned attacks in crowded urban locations, including markets, metro corridors, or vehicle-borne explosives, potentially causing far greater casualties than typical ammonium nitrate blasts.

PM Modi Sees Bihar Victory Paving the Way for BJP in Bengal

■ PM Modi links NDA's Bihar triumph to potential BJP success in Bengal, while TMC dismisses Bihar results as irrelevant to its 2026 electoral prospects

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday linked the National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) resounding win in Bihar to potential success in neighbouring West Bengal, saying the political "flow" from Bihar to Bengal mirrors the course of the Ganga.

"The river Ganga flows to Bengal via Bihar. And the victory in Bihar, like the river, has paved the way for our victory in Bengal," PM Modi said during an address at the BJP headquarters in Delhi.

The NDA secured 202 of the 243 seats in Bihar, with the BJP emerging as the single-largest party.



Modi credited the party workers for the decisive mandate, saying, "Your hopes are my pledge and your dreams are my inspiration. For the BJP, the party workers are its strength."

Referring to the decimation of the Mahagathbandhan in Bihar, Modi urged the people of Bengal to "uproot Jungle Raj" from their state as well.

Rahul Gandhi Calls NDA's Bihar Victory 'Surprising', Alleges Election Was "Not Fair from Start"

■ Rahul Gandhi calls NDA's Bihar win 'surprising', alleges polls were unfair; Congress President Kharge raises concerns over misuse of constitutional institutions

New Delhi: In the aftermath of the National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) sweeping victory in Bihar, Congress MP and Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Friday described the Assembly polls as "not fair from the beginning." Gandhi met with Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge following the party's poor performance in the state. Reacting to trends confirming the NDA's decisive win—securing 202 of the 243 seats—Gandhi expressed surprise at the outcome. Posting on X, he thanked voters who supported the opposition bloc but noted that the result raised serious concerns about the fairness of the election. "This result in Bihar is truly surprising. We could not achieve victory in an election that was not fair from the very beginning," he wrote, without directly repeating his previous allegations of vote irregularities highlighted during his



Voter Adhikar Yatra in the state. Gandhi emphasised that the larger struggle is for "the protection of the Constitution and democracy," stating that both Congress and the INDIA alliance would conduct a detailed review of the Bihar setback and strengthen efforts to safeguard democratic institutions.

The Mahagathbandhan faced a severe blow. Congress, contesting 61 seats, won only six, down from 19 in 2020. The Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) secured just 25 of 143 seats allotted to it, a steep decline from its previous tally of 75. The results highlighted the dominance of the NDA's well-organised campaign and left the opposition with limited options to challenge the ruling alliance.

Bihar Poll Results a 'Victory for Every Bihari': Amit Shah

■ Amit Shah hails NDA's Bihar win as people's endorsement of development, women's safety, and good governance; credits Modi, Nitish Kumar, and party workers for the decisive mandate

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday hailed the National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) sweeping victory in the Bihar Assembly elections as a "victory of every Bihari" who believes in development, women's safety, and the welfare of the poor.

In a series of posts on X, Shah said the overwhelming mandate for the NDA, which won 202 out of 243 seats, reflects public endorsement of



the government's work in governance and development. The BJP secured 89 seats, while its ally JD(U) won 85.

Shah said the people of Bihar have sent a

clear message on the importance of clean voter lists and fair elections, signalling that politics against these principles will not be tolerated. "Every vote cast is a symbol of trust in the Modi government's policies against infiltrators who threaten India's security and resources," he noted.

The Home Minister credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for their dedication

to pulling the state out of the era of 'jungle raj' and ensuring development, women's safety, and the welfare of the poor.

Shah also praised the NDA's grassroots workers, from booth-level volunteers to state-level leaders, for their tireless efforts in securing the mandate. He extended a special assurance to the women of Bihar that the NDA government under Modi will fulfil the public's expectations.

CDS Chauhan Urges Defence Industry to Combine Patriotism with Profit

■ CDS Gen Anil Chauhan urges defence manufacturers to balance patriotism with profit, ensure timely delivery, and strengthen India's global competitiveness in defence technology

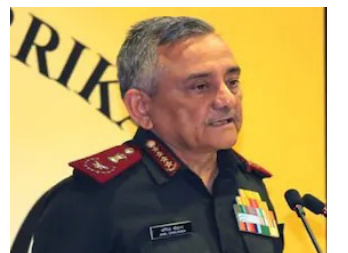
New Delhi: Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan on Saturday called on India's defence manufacturing sector to embed nationalism and responsibility into its profit-driven operations, stressing that national security and industrial growth must go hand in hand.

Speaking at the second edition of the

Brainstorming Session (BSS 2.0) at the Manekshaw Centre, Gen Chauhan highlighted the critical role of both public and private players, including PSUs and MSMEs, in shaping India's future defence capabilities.

Addressing industry leaders, he emphasised the importance of delivering on commitments. "We expect

a bit of nationalism and patriotism in your profit-driven endeavours," he said. "If you sign a contract and fail to deliver on time, it is not merely a delay—it is a capability being lost." Gen Chauhan urged firms to maintain transparency in assessing indigenous capacities and ensure timely delivery of systems crucial to national security.



The CDS also underlined the need for competitive pricing. "You have to be cost-competitive to compete in the foreign market. Overpriced products will hinder India's ambitions as a defence exporter. And you must deliver," he said, stressing that global competitiveness is vital for the long-term health of India's defence ecosystem.

Sanju Samson Joins Chennai Super Kings; Ravindra Jadeja Returns to Rajasthan Royals After 16 Years

■ Sanju Samson joins Chennai Super Kings in blockbuster IPL 2026 trade, while Ravindra Jadeja returns to Rajasthan Royals after 16 years; Sam Curran also switches franchises

New Delhi: Chennai Super Kings (CSK) have confirmed the acquisition of wicketkeeper-batter Sanju Samson from Rajasthan Royals ahead of the IPL 2026 auction, in a blockbuster trade deal that sees all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja return to Rajasthan Royals after 16 years.

Samson, 30, will represent CSK at his existing league fee of INR 18 crore. The move comes as part of a trade agreement in which



Jadeja's fee has been revised from INR 18 crore to INR 14 crore. CSK will also part ways with England all-rounder Sam Curran, who will join



Rajasthan Royals at his existing fee of INR 2.4 crore. Samson is Rajasthan Royals' most capped player and the franchise's

highest run-scorer in IPL history. Appointed captain ahead of IPL 2021, he led RR to 33 wins in 67 matches, including a runners-up finish in IPL 2022. Despite injury setbacks in IPL 2025, he scored 285 runs in nine matches and was retained by RR for INR 18 crore.

Ravindra Jadeja, who debuted in the IPL with Rajasthan Royals in 2008, played 27 matches for the Jaipur-based franchise before moving to Chennai Super Kings in 2012.



North District Badminton: Aloisius-Vansh, Jewel-Sampurna Crowned U17 Champions

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Day Two of the Shuttle Fiesta – North Goa District Badminton Tournament 2025 concluded with high-intensity matches and standout performances, as Aloisius Rodrigues & Vansh Natekar secured the U17 Boys Doubles title, while Jewel Abranches & Sampurna Patra lifted the U17 Girls Doubles crown. The tournament was organised by the North Goa District Badminton Association in association with the Goa Badminton Association and the Sports Authority of Goa.

In the U11 Boys Doubles, Jeet Raikar & Viaan Redkar edged out Ishaan Madgaonkar & Zacharias Gonsalves in a gripping three-setter,

15–6, 11–15, 15–10.

In U13 Boys Doubles, Rushank Kulkarni & Saksham Mhapuskar defeated Adharved Balakrishnan & Rian Soares 15–12, 15–13.

The U13 Mixed Doubles saw a dominant display from Viaan Redkar & Pihoo Redkar, who cruised past Pratyush Suryawanshi & Kia Shenoy 15–3, 15–5.

In the U15 category, Abraham Gonsalves & Samuel Gonsalves clinched the Boys Doubles title with a 15–6, 15–11 win over Adharved Balakrishnan & Ryllan Dsouza. The Girls Doubles U15 final witnessed a spirited comeback from Niharika Baljit & Pihoo Redkar, who beat Arya Kush Poll & Sanvi Shirodkar 13–15, 15–12, 15–6.

IND vs SA, 1st Test Day 2: India All Out for 189, Take 30-Run Lead

■ Simon Harmer shines with four wickets as India bowled out for 189, taking a narrow 30-run lead over South Africa on Day 2 at Eden Gardens

Kolkata: India were bowled out for 189 on Day 2 of the first Test against South Africa at Eden Gardens, taking a slim 30-run lead. South African bowlers made a strong comeback, with Simon Harmer claiming four wickets and Marco Jansen picking up three. KL Rahul top-scored for India with 39 runs off 119 balls, while Shubman Gill retired out due to a neck

spasm and did not return to bat in the innings. South Africa's disciplined bowling performance ensured India could not build a commanding total, setting up an exciting contest as the match heads into the next session. Stay tuned for live updates, commentary, and key moments from Day 2 of India vs South Africa 1st Test at Eden Gardens.



State Basketball Championships: LBC, Don Bosco SA, YMCA Knights & KJs Enter Men's Semifinals; Sonics, Jade Impress in Women's Category

Team Goemkarponn

PANJIM: Lourdes Basketball Club, Don Bosco Sports Academy, YMCA Knights, and KJs stormed into the men's semifinals after an electrifying Day Three of the State Senior Basketball Championships for Men and Women, co-sponsored by Priority Constructions and organised by Lourdes Basketball Club in

association with the Goa Basketball Association and the Sports Authority of Goa. The Don Bosco Oratory witnessed a full day of high-energy clashes, standout performances, and top-tier basketball. In the first men's quarterfinal, Lourdes Basketball Club cruised past DBO Panjim 68–41, with Goa star Jeshua Pinto dominating the court with 27 points and Jordan Xavier adding 15 points.

Goa 7s 2025 to Kick Off at Bambolim on November 15–16

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa is gearing up to host Goa 7s 2025 – Season 2, scheduled for November 15 and 16 at the GMC Athletic Stadium in Bambolim. The two-day tournament, organised in partnership with the Crocotyles Rugby Foundation (CRF), will bring together top rugby talent from across India and abroad, reinforcing Goa's positioning as a rising hub for sports tourism.

This year's edition has seen significant growth, with 24 teams and over 350 players set to participate across Men's 7s, Women's 7s, and Adult Mixed Touch Rugby categories. Matches will be played in the Cup, Plate, and Bowl format. Organisers expect over 300 spectators at the venue and more than 5,000 global viewers through live-streaming.



Addressing the media in Panaji, Brandan Crasto, Founder of Goa 7s and President of CRF, said the tournament has expanded rapidly since last year.

"We had 12 teams last season; this year we have doubled that to 24. We have opened the doors to international teams, and it will only grow from here," Crasto said. "We are excited to host teams not only from across India — including J&K and Tamil Nadu — but also from Australia, Nepal, South Africa, the USA, and the Philippines."

Crasto added that his inspiration comes from the global HSBC 7s series, particularly the

iconic Hong Kong 7s. He urged World Rugby, Asia Rugby, and Rugby India to witness firsthand the progress being made in Goa.

Also present at the briefing were Ryan Gaulstan, Head Manager of Rugby India; Kartik Menda, Tournament Director; Australia's semi-pro player Samaka Issacs; Michael Blatteis, Philippines 7s international from the USA; and Ganesh Baniya, Nepal 7s international.

Gaulstan expressed confidence that the tournament would significantly boost the sport's development in the state. "With Brandan's

vision, Goa 7s will grow bigger each year. The involvement of foreign players and coaches will help raise the standard of rugby in Goa and produce top-quality athletes," he said.

Tournament Director Menda noted that preparations intensified months in advance and acknowledged the support of the Goa Tourism Department and the Department of Art and Culture.

The event will award customised Goa 7s medals and trophies, including special plate- and bowl-shaped trophies for 5th and 7th place. Delhi Hurricanes RC, the defending champions in all three categories, will return to defend their titles. Teams from Colombo, Sri Lanka, as well as players from the UK, France, and other nations, will also feature this season.