



HC Issues Notice to Govt on PILs against Mhaje Ghar Regularisation

State Given Time to File Affidavit; Matter Adjourned to 3 February 2026. Govt Questions Maintainability; Flags Conflict of Interest of Petitioner Kashinath Shetye.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The High Court of Bombay at Goa on Monday issued notices to the state government in three Public Interest Litigations (PILs) filed by activist Kashinath Shetye challenging the legality of the Majhe Ghar scheme, under which the government has proposed to regularise thousands of illegal structures across Comunidade, government and private lands. Granting the state time to file its affidavit



in reply, the Bench adjourned the matter for further hearing on 3 February 2026. During the hearing, the Goa government raised strong preliminary objections on the maintainability of the three PILs, arguing that six other Comunidades have already filed PILs



before the same court with identical issues and prayers. The government questioned why an additional PIL by an individual should be entertained when similar petitions are already being adjudicated. The Advocate General further submitted that petitioner Kashinath

HC Notices Goa Govt on Majhe Ghar PILs.

- ▶ 3 PILs filed by activist Kashinath Shetye challenge regularisation of illegal structures.
- ▶ Court grants time for govt affidavit; next hearing on 3 February 2026.
- ▶ State raises preliminary objection on maintainability of Shetye's PILs.
- ▶ Govt says six Comunidade PILs already pending with similar prayers.
- ▶ Argues individual PIL not necessary when identical matters before court.
- ▶ Govt claims Shetye is a government servant, flags possible conflict of interest.
- ▶ PILs allege Majhe Ghar scheme unconstitutional and promotes illegal constructions

Shetye is a serving government employee, which, according to the state, creates a conflict of interest while challenging state policies and administrative decisions. Shetye's PILs contend that the Majhe Ghar scheme is unconstitutional, violates land ownership rights of Comunidades, and encourages illegal constructions by attempting to legitimise them without due scrutiny. The matter will now be taken up after the

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CM says he never called editors or channels over negative news

■ Hails role of free press on National Press Day .

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant today reaffirmed his commitment to press freedom, declaring that he has never contacted any editor or news channel to influence or suppress negative news about him. He said such interference goes against the principles



of democracy and the independence of the media. "I have never called any editor or media house asking them not to publish

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Hasina Sentenced To Death By Dhaka Tribunal Over Alleged Atrocities During Student Uprising

■ Court Holds Former Bangladesh Prime Minister Responsible For Deadly Crackdown In 2024

New Delhi: Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal has handed former prime minister Sheikh Hasina a death sentence after finding her guilty of committing crimes against humanity during the student-led uprising that swept the country last year and eventually brought down her Awami League government. The



verdict follows months of proceedings that examined allegations of a state-directed assault on protesters demanding reforms and

accountability. The tribunal determined that Hasina was responsible for ordering violent actions against students across multiple districts after tensions escalated in response to her remarks dismissing the agitation. According to the judgement, the former leader instructed security forces and allied

political groups to target demonstrators, leading to widespread casualties during the peak of unrest between July and August 2024. Two of her former aides, ex-home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal and former police chief Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun, were also convicted on related charges.

HC Issues Notice to Goa Govt on PIL Challenging Regularisation of Encroachments

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The High Court of Bombay at Goa has issued a notice to the State government in response to a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by Diksha Vaigankar, a resident of Sankhali, challenging the recently introduced Section 38A of the Goa Land Revenue Code. The contentious provision



allows the regularisation of encroachments on government land. In her petition, Vaigankar has argued that the amendment is designed to benefit politicians by securing the votes of families who have encroached upon government property.

Saudi Road Disaster: 42 Indians Feared Dead After Bus Burst Into Flames

■ Umrah Pilgrims From Hyderabad Among Victims As Bus Catches Fire After Collision Near Medina

New Delhi: A devastating road accident in Saudi Arabia has left at least 42 Indian Umrah pilgrims feared dead after their bus collided with a diesel tanker and went up in flames early Monday. The vehicle was travelling from Mecca to Medina when the crash took place near Mufrihat around 1.30 am IST, catching most passengers asleep. Early

reports indicate that a large number of those on board were from Hyderabad, including women and children. The bus was reportedly returning from Mecca after the group had completed their religious rituals. The impact of the collision caused a massive fire, leaving the vehicle completely charred and making identification of victims extremely difficult.

Local media reported that only one passenger, identified as Mohd Abdul Shoiab, may have survived and is currently hospitalised. Rescue teams worked through the night with support from local residents. While preliminary information suggests more than 40 fatalities, an official count is still awaited as authorities continue verification.

Several passengers are believed to have died instantly due to the intensity of the fire. Indian officials in Saudi Arabia have set up emergency support systems in response. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has directed officials to work closely with central authorities to assist families and expedite relief efforts.



Goa's Cooperative Crackdown Signals the End of a Culture of Loot

Goa's decision to crack down on fraud in cooperative credit societies is not just timely. It is essential. For years, these institutions have drifted away from their original purpose of supporting small savers and strengthening local communities. Instead, many of them became convenient shelters for black money, manipulation, and insider dealings. Complaints piled up. Depositors lost faith. Politicians talked about reform but rarely followed through. It had reached a point where action was no longer optional. It was a necessity.

Cooperative societies were meant to be the backbone of financial inclusion in Goa. They offered a space where ordinary people could save, borrow, and participate directly in managing their financial ecosystem. In principle, this model empowers individuals who may not have access to traditional banking. In practice, however, weak oversight and outdated rules created an environment ripe for abuse. Over time, a select few gained control of these societies and used them for personal gain. Deposits were siphoned off through dubious loans. Books were manipulated. Fake accounts appeared. Ordinary people who had placed their faith and savings in these institutions were left helpless when fraud surfaced.

This pattern did not emerge overnight. It was the result of years of lax auditing, poor governance, and a tendency to overlook early warnings. Whenever a scandal erupted, the response was usually confined to outrage and temporary fixes. The deeper structural issues remained untouched. Meanwhile, money continued to vanish into networks that operated with impunity. The cooperative sector had effectively become a stock route for black money, defeating the very idea on which it was built.

That is why the Chief Minister's firm stand marks a turning point. By publicly acknowledging that fraud has hollowed out many cooperatives and insisting on a systematic clean-up, the government is finally addressing the scale of the problem. The decision to phase out or reform traditional societies, introduce technology, strengthen audits, and hold office-bearers accountable signals a long-awaited shift in attitude. The

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success of this effort, however, will depend entirely on execution. Announcements alone will not rebuild trust. What Goa needs is a transparent and sustained reform plan that goes beyond headline-grabbing punitive action.

A starting point is modernising the cooperative laws. Many of the existing provisions were framed in an era where financial systems operated slowly and locally. Today's reality is different.

Money moves quickly. Fraud moves even faster. The legal framework must keep up. Clearer accountability, stronger penalties for mismanagement, and independent audits are essential. Without them, old patterns will continue under new names.

Technology can also play a decisive role. Computerising societies, tracking loans digitally, and creating automated alerts for irregularities can limit human interference. Digital systems create trails, and trails make fraud harder to hide. But technology is not enough. It needs to be paired with trained personnel and a governance structure that values transparency over convenience.

Another critical element is public awareness. Many depositors join cooperatives without understanding how they function or what safeguards they should expect. When irregularities occur, people often realise too late that they have no recourse. The government should invest in financial literacy campaigns so that citizens can question, demand clarity, and report suspicious activity. A cooperative system is only as strong as the vigilance of its members. It is equally important to ensure that the sector does not become over-centralised in the name of reform. The answer is not to destroy cooperatives but to revive them. Goa's cooperative movement has a rich history of community ownership and local empowerment. That spirit must not be lost. What needs to be eliminated is the culture of patronage and opacity that crept in over time.

The current crackdown is a necessary corrective step. It signals that the era of unchecked misuse is ending. But it should also spark a broader reflection on how to rebuild trust. The people who saved diligently, hoping their money would be safe, deserve more than temporary fixes. They deserve a cooperative sector that works as intended: transparent, community-driven, and accountable.

Goa now stands at a crossroads. If this clean-up is carried out with integrity, consistency, and courage, the state can transform a broken system into one worthy of public confidence. This is not just an administrative reform. It is a chance to restore fairness and protect the savings of thousands who believed in the promise of cooperatives.

OpED

Goa's Airports Are Stuck Playing Musical Chairs While Tourism Stagnates

By Konrad Rodrigues

The tussle between Mopa and Dabolim has turned into a spectacle that does little for Goa's long-term interests. Instead of expanding the state's global reach, both airports seem content to shuffle the same limited set of carriers back and forth. The result is a strange version of musical chairs where the chairs never increase and the music never changes. Qatar Airways and Air Arabia have become the default faces of "international connectivity," while the bigger question goes unanswered. Why are the major players in the region still missing from Goa's skies?

Airlines do not make decisions on sentiment. They look for predictable demand, competitive costs, solid infrastructure, efficient ground handling and above all a clear strategy from the state they operate in. If Etihad, Emirates, FlyDubai, Malaysian Airlines, Gulf Air, AirAsia, Scoot, Singapore Airlines or TAP have not shown interest, it is worth asking whether the problem lies with the airports or with the way Goa presents itself to them.

Both Mopa and Dabolim boast solid runways and basic facilities, yet Goa has never truly marketed itself as a year-round destination with steady high-yield demand. That weakens the business case for long-haul or premium carriers. Tourism here is highly seasonal and heavily dependent on two markets: Britain and Russia. When those markets slow down or shift preferences, flights naturally follow. Goa has not invested enough in cultivating a broader mix of travellers from Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Europe or even within India.

Mopa was projected as a game-changing hub that would open new international corridors. Instead, the airport has relied on diverting existing foreign carriers from Dabolim rather than adding new ones. That is not expansion. It is redistribution. The state made grand promises about global connectivity but never pursued the harder work of airline negotiations, route incentives or cooperative marketing. No airline will commit to new routes without strong, sustained support from the state.

The tourism ministry has also been slow to adapt to shifting global trends. In the 1990s Scandinavian tourists flocked to Goa because the destination was fresh, affordable and easy to access through charter operators.

Over the years those travellers moved to newer spots that offered better value, more direct connections and cleaner, more organised beaches. Goa did not evolve quickly enough. The charter ecosystem collapsed, infrastructure lagged and the state failed to replace those routes with scheduled flights. If Goa wants airlines from Europe or Southeast Asia, it must give them something stronger than nostalgia. It needs market studies, partnerships with tour operators, incentives for seasonal routes and a clear message that Goa is more than a winter beach stop for Britons and Russians. The airports cannot keep trading the same carriers and calling it progress. Real growth will come when the state recognises that aviation is not a passive affair. Airlines do not arrive because runways exist.

They arrive because there is a plan. Goa has the potential to be far better connected than it is today. What stops it is not the absence of opportunity but the absence of ambition.

CM Calls Pooja Naik's Claims A Big Lie, Urges Victims To File Complaints

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI:Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant rejected claims made by Pooja Naik, the prime accused in the high-profile jobs-for-cash scam, calling them a “big lie.” He urged individuals who were allegedly defrauded by Naik to lodge fresh complaints at their local police stations to ensure proper investigation. Naik recently appeared in a public video alleging that she had paid large sums in cash to a state minister, a senior IAS officer, and a PWD engineer, claiming their involvement in the



scam. Sawant, however, firmly dismissed these assertions and cautioned victims not to be misled. On Sunday, a group of victims of the scam met Sawant at Ravindra Bhavan, Sanquelim, recounting how they had paid substantial amounts

to Naik in exchange for promised government jobs that never materialized. Many of them explained that they had trusted Naik's assurances and handed over their hard-earned money, only to be left without employment or reimbursement. After

hearing their accounts, Sawant advised the victims to gather all available evidence and file formal complaints at their respective police stations. He noted that because most payments were made in cash, there is limited documentary proof, making police complaints essential for the case to move forward. “Whatever she (Naik) is saying now is a big lie,” Sawant told reporters. “Since the money was paid in cash, there is no evidence. Therefore, everyone needs to file fresh complaints in their local police stations.

Palekar Slams Dhavalikar for ‘Misusing Holy Shrine’ Amid Cash-for-Jobs Row

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: AAP Goa President Adv. Amit Palekar strongly criticised Minister Sudin Dhavalikar after his supporters reportedly gathered at the Holy Shrine of Katamgal Dada and Navdurga Devasthan, allegedly seeking divine retribution against those exposing the ongoing cash-for-jobs scam. Calling the act an “insult to faith,” Palekar accused Dhavalikar of misusing sacred religious spaces to shield himself politically. “If Sudin Dhavalikar



is truly innocent, he should take a narco test along with Pooja Naik,” Palekar said, challenging the minister to prove his claims. Palekar further alleged that BJP leaders have repeatedly disrespected Goan deities for political gain. “A genuinely innocent man would swear before God along with his entire family. Let Sudin Dhavalikar do that if he has nothing to hide,” he added.



Goa Becomes First State in India to Achieve 100% Cyber Fraud Response Rate

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Police has emerged as the top-performing police force in the country for cyber fraud response, achieving a 100% response rate to all calls made to the dedicated cybercrime helpline 1930. The cybercrime call centre, launched only last month, has already handled over

5,000 calls, returned around 1,500 missed calls, and officially registered 581 complaints, ensuring swift assistance and full accessibility for citizens facing online fraud. According to Cyber Crime SP Rahul Gupta, every call received at the centre is recorded and monitored for quality, helping streamline services and speed up investigations.

Goa Govt to End Traditional Credit Societies, Pushes for Modern, Transparent Co-operatives

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Sunday announced that the state government will stop granting permissions to traditional credit co-operative societies, citing widespread misuse and



financial irregularities. The announcement came during the 72nd All India Co-operative

Week 2025 celebrations. Sawant remarked that many of these societies have become “a system of loot” and are no longer aligned with the principles of accountability and transparency. He emphasized that the government will gradually phase out such entities,

promoting instead modern, professionally managed co-operatives with digital oversight to prevent financial mismanagement. “Traditional co-operative societies have served their time. We will not allow new permissions for these societies.

GCZMA Rules Existing Structures in Mangrove Zones Won't Face Retrospective CRZ Restrictions

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: In a relief to property owners in mangrove buffer zones, the Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) has clarified that Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) norms will not be applied retrospectively to structures that were



already in existence before lands were declared mangrove zones under the Coastal

Zone Management Plan (CZMP) 2011. The decision came during a GCZMA meeting held on October 28, addressing a complaint filed by Trajano D'Mello regarding alleged illegal construction in the No Development Zone (NDZ) of Aldona village. Following the complaint, GCZMA's expert

members conducted a site inspection and found sluice gates on both sides of the property and bundhs on two sides, noting that the authority's jurisdiction extends only up to the sluice gates. The property itself was determined to fall outside the purview of CRZ restrictions.

Calangute Police Order Businesses to Employ Only Registered Security Agencies

Team Goemkarponn

CALANGUTE: The Calangute Police have instructed all establishments along the Calangute–Candolim coastal stretch to appoint security staff exclusively through officially registered security agencies as the tourist season intensifies. In a meeting attended by DySP Vishwesh Karpe, SDPO Porvorim, Calangute Police officials, security agency representatives, and tourism stakeholders, authorities outlined key safety guidelines and

operational do's and don'ts for the 2025–26 season. Businesses were reminded to coordinate closely with the police to ensure a secure and hassle-free environment for both visitors and residents. Officials said the directive is part of efforts to bolster law and order during the busy months and uphold Calangute's standing as a top tourist hub. Around 150 hotel owners, lodging operators, and other tourism-sector representatives participated in the briefing, with an additional session held for shack owners.

Partagali Math to Become Spiritual Pilgrimage Hub: Goa CM

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant reviewed the preparations for the Sardha Panchashatamanostsava, marking 550 years of Shree Gokarn Partagali Jeevottam Math, and said the Math is poised to become a major spiritual pilgrimage centre in Goa. Dr. Sawant met Shrimad Vidhyadhish Teerth



Swamiji during his visit to the Math and sought his blessings while also inspecting the ongoing works ahead of the 11-day celebrations beginning November 27. A highlight of the festival will be the unveiling of a 77-ft bronze

idol of Lord Rama by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 28. The Chief Minister said that the Math has already spent over ₹170 crore on preparations, with the intention of creating facilities that will serve

devotees for the next 500 years. He added that lakhs of devotees and Mahajans are expected to attend the festivities being held under the guidance of Shrimad Vidhyadhish Teerth Swamiji. He assured full support from the Goa government for the grand celebrations. Elaborate arrangements have been made by the Math in coordination with the State administration to receive Prime Minister Modi.

Guest House Raid: CB Rescues Two Girls, Arrests Two Accused

Team Goemkarponn

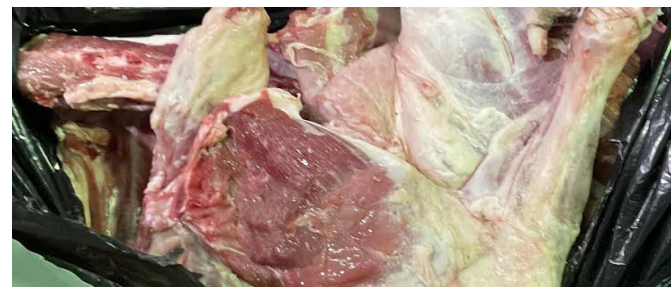
MAPUSA: The Crime Branch conducted a late-night raid at Rhythm Guest House located above Kolhapuri Misal at Abbaswada, Canca, Bardez. As per the complaint filed by PI Vikas Deykar of Crime Branch, Ribandar, the raid was carried out on November 15, 2025 between 7:45 pm and 11:00 pm, during which two victim girls were rescued. The investigation



revealed that the victims had been procured by two accused persons for the purpose of supplying them to prospective male customers for sexual activities in exchange for

illegal financial gain. The accused were identified as David Chettiar, 57, residing at Rhythm Guest House, Abbaswada, Canca, and originally from Mira Road East,

Thane, Maharashtra, and Mahesh Kundlik More, 39, resident of Joma Paradise, Abbaswada, Canca, and native of Kolhapur, Maharashtra. Both accused were allegedly living on the earnings of prostitution. They were placed under arrest at 4:04 am on November 16, 2025, with all Supreme Court guidelines observed. The case is currently under further investigation by PI Vikas Deykar.



Two Held at Mollem for Illegally Transporting 1,000 kg of Beef

Team Goemkarponn

COLLEM: Collem Police have registered an offence against two individuals after they were allegedly caught transporting 1,000 kilograms of beef without valid documentation. The case was filed based on a written complaint by Dr. Krishna S. Gaonkar, Veterinary Officer at the Veterinary Dispensary, Mollem. According to the complaint, the incident occurred on the intervening night of November 15, 2025, before 8:30 pm at the Mollem Border Check Post (BCP).

The accused, identified as Rizwan Noorhamed

Maldar, a resident of Vidyanagar, Khanapur, Belgaum, Karnataka, and Shahid Gudusab Shindodi, a resident of Remnugalli, Nangad, Belgaum, Karnataka, were allegedly transporting the meat in a Mahindra Xylo vehicle for the purpose of sale.

Police stated that the beef was brought from Kittur, Karnataka, and was being transported without any valid permits or documents issued by competent authorities, in violation of the Goa Animal Preservation Act. Further investigation is being carried out by PSI Vaibhav Jalmi of Collem Police Station.

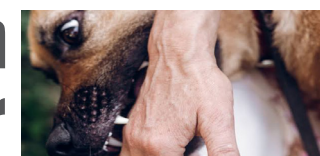
Dog Bite Case Registered in Candolim After Pet Allegedly Let Loose by Owner

Team Goemkarponn

CALANGUTE: Calangute Police have registered Crime No. 160/2025 under Sections 125(a) and 291 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, following a complaint filed by 23-year-old

Girish Dasanastti, a resident of Baman Waddo, Candolim. The offence was registered on November 15, 2025, at 7:15 pm. According to the complaint, the incident occurred earlier the same day at around 8:30 am at Baman Waddo,

when accused Eshita Katyal, 52, a resident of Agyada Holiday Homes, Candolim, and employed as a Dog Squad Manager with Drishti Life Saving, allegedly allowed her pet dog to roam freely. The complainant stated that due to this negligent act,



the dog ran toward his mother and bit her on the calf, causing injuries and endangering her safety. Police have issued a notice to the accused under Section 35 of the BNSS. Further investigation is currently underway.

Woman, Daughter Assaulted in Property Dispute



Team Goemkarponn

CALANGUTE: Calangute Police have registered Crime No. 159/2025 under Sections 131, 352, and 118(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, following a complaint filed by Maria Fatima Rosita Pereira, 54, a resident of Naikwaddo, Calangute. The offence was registered on November 15, 2025, at 5:37 pm. According to the complainant, the incident occurred on October 23, 2025, around 10:30 am, when her brother-in-law, Feliciano F. Pereira, allegedly arrived at her residence armed with a cricket wicket. He reportedly charged toward the complainant while abusing her and kicked

a laterite stone kept for fencing measurements. As he attempted to assault her, the complainant's daughter, Milosha Pereira, intervened. The accused then allegedly assaulted Milosha with the cricket wicket, striking her leg and head and causing a simple bleeding injury. The complaint further states that the accused abused the complainant and her husband and attempted to assault her husband with a laterite stone, a crowbar (paray), and a PVC pipe, reportedly over a property-related dispute. Police have issued a notice to the accused under Section 35 of BNSS. Further investigation is underway.

Illegal Slaughter Facility Busted in Cansaulim; 2 Booked for Animal Cruelty

Team Goemkarponn

VERNA: Verna Police have registered an offence against two individuals from Cansaulim after they were allegedly found operating an illegal slaughter house and subjecting animals to cruelty. The case was filed on the basis of a complaint submitted by Raj Pratik, an officer with the District Society for



Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), South Goa. According to the complaint, on November 15, 2025, before 8:00 pm, accused Abdul Bepari

and Shabbir Bepari, both residents of Cansaulim, were reportedly running an illegal slaughter setup at Tontem Morod, Cansaulim. During the

inspection, officials found three buffaloes tied near the shed, kept without adequate food or water, and allegedly intended for slaughter. The SPCA officer stated that the conditions and treatment of the animals amounted to cruelty under relevant provisions of law. Further investigation is being conducted by PSI Mahesh Bhomkar of Verna Police Station.

Minor Girl Reported Kidnapped from Quepem; Police Launch Search for Accused

Team Goemkarponn

QUEPEM: Quepem Police have registered a case after a woman reported that her minor daughter was allegedly kidnapped by an unknown person. The incident occurred on November 15, 2025, at around 8:30 am. According to the complaint filed by the



victim's mother (name

withheld to protect

identity), the minor girl was taken away without consent, amounting to kidnapping from lawful guardianship. Police have initiated a search to trace the child and identify the accused involved in the incident. Further investigation is being conducted by PSI Yogesh Gaonkar of Quepem Police Station.

BJP vs BJP in Sancoale ?

■ Former Cortalim general secretary Achut Naik signals intent to contest Sancoale ZP seat on BJP ticket.

Team Goemkarponn

SANCOALE: President of the Shree Shantadurga Laxmi Narsinva Sankhalyo temple and former BJP general secretary of the Cortalim Mandal, Achut Naik, has formally expressed his intention to contest the upcoming Zilla Panchayat elections from Sancoale. Naik, a well-known businessman and social worker, said he is keen to contest on a BJP ticket and is awaiting the party's decision. Speaking to reporters,



Naik said he had received significant encouragement from residents and party workers in Sancoale. "People have been approaching me consistently and urging me to contest as the BJP candidate," he said, adding that his decision is driven by public demand rather than personal ambition. Naik highlighted his long association with various

institutions, including the Mormugao Planning and Development Authority, and his current role in the BJP Cortalim Mandal. He also noted his experience as former director of the Goa Handicrafts, Textiles and Coir department and his involvement in multiple community initiatives over the years. "I have always tried to serve the people through different platforms, whether through temple administration, civic bodies, or social work," he said. "My intention to contest the ZP elections

is rooted in the belief that I can contribute meaningfully to Sancoale's development." He said his involvement in temple administration, civic bodies and community initiatives has strengthened his understanding of grassroots issues. "I have always tried to serve society through different platforms, and my intention to contest the ZP elections is rooted in the belief that I can contribute meaningfully to Sancoale's development," he said.



GoaMiles expands fleet under MGTP scheme, adds 50 new CNG taxis in Phase V

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: GoaMiles marked a significant milestone with the launch of Phase V of the Mukhyamantri Goencho Taxi Patrao (MGTP) Scheme at the Goa Hyundai showroom in Verna, pushing its fleet strength to over 300 taxis under the state-backed initiative. The event highlighted the government's continued push toward

sustainable mobility and entrepreneurship for Goan residents. As part of the latest phase, 50 new CNG-powered taxis were handed over to fresh beneficiaries. The vehicles were presented by Transport Minister Mauvin Godinho in the presence of Maharashtra Transport Commissioner Vivek Bhimanvar and GoaMiles CEO Utkarsh Dhabade.

Godinho rules out Ola, Uber entry; warns taxi operators against blocking GoaMiles

Team Goemkarponn

DABOLIM: Transport Minister Mauvin Godinho made it clear that app-based aggregators such as Ola and Uber "will not be welcomed in Goa," citing operational failures, unresolved service issues, and unsustainable payment models observed in other states. Godinho was speaking to reporters at the Goa Hyundai showroom in Verna after handing over 50 new CNG-powered taxis to beneficiaries under Phase V of the Mukhyamantri Goencho Taxi Patrao (MGTP) Scheme. Explaining the government's stance, Godinho said he had personally interacted with drivers from other states and studied the functioning



of leading aggregators. "I have seen Ola and Uber operate elsewhere and even spoken to several drivers. At the moment, these companies are facing all sorts of problems. In Goa, Ola delivered some electric bikes and their dealership had to shut down because they could not service the vehicles. Their issues are in the public domain, and their model of paying very little to drivers simply will not work here," he said.

Congress Accuses Margao MLA and MMC of Violating High Court Orders With Illegal Roadside Structure

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: The Congress Party has strongly criticized Margao MLA and PWD Minister Digambar Kamat, along with the Margao Municipal Council (MMC), accusing them of openly violating High Court directives related to illegal constructions on public roads. The remarks were made during a



media briefing held near a club-like structure located behind Cine Vishant at Malbhat, Margao. Margao Congress Block Convener Savio Coutinho alleged that while the MMC has

been issuing notices to owners of illegal structures on public roads and road-widening areas as per a recent High Court order, the Council itself has constructed a "club-like structure" in the middle of a road under the guise of beautifying a black spot. He claimed the structure contains sofa sets, chairs, a projector screen, a gas burner, a bottle cooler,

empty beer cans, and even an electrical panel board belonging to the electricity department. Coutinho further alleged that electricity was being tapped illegally at the site. Accusing the MLA and MMC of misusing public funds to appease political supporters, he demanded an inquiry into what he termed as "criminal wastage" of public money.

Expired goods worth Rs 1.49 lakh seized; size establishments fined

Team Goemkarponn

QUEPEM: In a continued push to ensure safe, hygienic, and compliant food practices across Goa, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) carried out a routine inspection drive in Quepem

Taluka, uncovering multiple violations. Six establishments—including a chicken centre, a food manufacturing unit, and several restaurants—were found operating without valid FSSAI licences and in unhygienic conditions. The FDA imposed fines

amounting to ₹34,000 on the erring units. A major violation was detected at M/s Classic Enterprises, which was operating without an FSSAI licence and storing a substantial stock of expired food items. The FDA team seized expired beverages, spice

powders, instant noodles, wheat flour, ready mixes, and other consumables collectively valued at ₹1,49,670. All expired goods were destroyed at the Goa Waste Management Corporation facility in Curchorem, in the interest of public health.



Birsa Munda is the Father of Tribal Identity: Tawadkar

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: Minister for Tribal Welfare, Sports & Youth Affairs and Art & Culture, Ramesh Tawadkar, urged the youth to embrace determination, consistency, and good company as guiding principles in their journey of nation-building. He was speaking at a Yuva Sammelan organised on

the occasion of Bhagwan Birsa Munda Jayanti at Adarsh Gram Amone (Poinguinim), jointly hosted by the Directorate of Sports & Youth Affairs and Adarsh Yuva Sangh. Tawadkar said that both Adarsh Yuva Sangh and Lokotsav have emerged as national models of inspiration, and similarly, the spread of Bhagwan Birsa Munda's ideals at



the grassroots in Goa is now being acknowledged across the country. "Youth are the real force of nation-building. Let us join hands to realise the vision of a prosperous Canacona," he said. Highlighting the importance of proper guidance, he stated, "It is crucial to steer the youth in the right direction while instilling self-respect and sensitivity.

'Taal Tandav 2025' Held at Shristhal 17th Ghumat Aarti Sammelan Inaugurated with Cultural Fervour

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: The 17th Ghumat Aarti Sammelan and the cultural festival 'Taal Tandav 2025' were inaugurated at Shree Mallikarjun Devasthan, Shristhal, on Saturday. The event, organised jointly by the Shristhal Ghumat Aarti Mandal and the Directorate of Art & Culture, witnessed enthusiastic participation



from the local community. After inaugurating the festival, Minister for Art & Culture Ramesh Tawadkar addressed the gathering and emphasised the importance of value-based education in shaping capable artists,

athletes, and responsible citizens. "To progress in the fields of art and sports, education is equally important. Only value-based and quality education can build a strong, cultured society," he said. Tawadkar also urged villagers to remain united, stressing that harmony and collective effort are essential for cultural preservation and development.

UNDP Chief Highlights India's Model Of Inclusive Growth And Sustainable Development

■ Says India's Use Of Technology, Climate Action And Social Protection Offers Global Blueprint.

New Delhi: India's development trajectory shows that rapid economic expansion and social inclusion can move forward together, offering a model that many countries are now looking to emulate. This assessment comes from Haoliang Xu, Acting Administrator of the UN Development Programme, who said India has successfully combined technology, climate action and people-centric policies to create a balanced and equitable growth path. During a three-day visit to India aimed at strengthening cooperation in digital transformation and climate

initiatives, Xu noted that India's growth story stands out because it relies not only on economic gains but also on participatory governance and targeted social welfare. He said India continues to chart development pathways that are both economically sound and environmentally responsible, especially through commitments such as renewable energy expansion, climate adaptation and digital financial inclusion. Xu pointed to global challenges highlighted in the latest Human Development Index, which shows progress slowing worldwide. Against this



backdrop, he said India has demonstrated that deliberate investments in people can accompany strong economic performance. As a leading voice of the Global South, India is also helping other nations by sharing tools, policy frameworks and technological models through South-South cooperation. He highlighted

flagship schemes such as MGNREGA and Ayushman Bharat, calling them examples of how livelihood support can be paired with social protection. India's digital public infrastructure, including the JAM trinity and UPI, was cited as a global benchmark for transparent and effective delivery of benefits. Xu

said these platforms have shown how digital systems can be designed to solve real-world problems, reduce costs and ensure broad access. He also praised initiatives like the Aspirational Districts Programme, which uses data and community engagement to reduce regional disparities. India's emphasis on green jobs and climate-resilient livelihoods was described as a key step in aligning economic opportunity with sustainability goals. Speaking on climate finance, Xu said developing nations need trillions in investment by 2030, yet access to

funds remains slow and complicated. He stressed that global systems must become faster, simpler and more predictable, and that adaptation should receive far greater support due to its high economic returns. Xu said platforms such as CoWIN and the newly developed U-WIN demonstrate how technology can strengthen public health at scale. He added that UNDP continues to collaborate with India as countries prepare to accelerate climate commitments and expand financing frameworks that support the Sustainable Development Goals.

IFFI 2025 Set to Deliver Global Cinema Showcase With New Collaborations and Cultural Experiences

■ Goa to Host 56th Edition Featuring 240 Films, Expanded Film Bazaar, Restored Classics, Centenary Tributes and Debut IFFIESTA.

New Delhi: The International Film Festival of India is gearing up for its 56th edition, which will take place in Goa from November 20 to 28, bringing together an expansive lineup of films, cultural events and innovative industry platforms. Established in 1952, the festival continues to stand as South Asia's only FIAPF-accredited competitive film festival, drawing filmmakers and audiences from around the world. This year's edition marks an enhanced international presence. Japan leads as the Country of Focus with a curated showcase of six contemporary films. Spain joins as the Partner Country, while Australia features as the Spotlight Country, each contributing exclusive screenings, collaborative programmes and cultural exchanges. The festival will present more than 240 films from 81 countries, including 13 world premieres, 5 international premieres and 44 Asian premieres, selected from a record 2,314 global submissions. The opening film will be *The Blue Trail* by Brazilian filmmaker Gabriel Mascaro, an award-winning title from the Berlinale 2025 lineup. The festival's Gala Premieres section will feature 18 films, with a mix of world, Asian and India premieres, bringing together prominent artists on the red carpet. Three major international competition categories will highlight 32 films, including acclaimed titles from major global festivals such as Cannes, Venice, Berlinale and Busan. A strong set



of curated segments will return this year, including Docu-Montage, Experimental Films, From the Festivals, Rising Stars, Restored Classics, UNICEF and Cinema of the World. Special tributes mark the centenaries of Guru Dutt, Raj Khosla, Ritwik Ghatak, P. Bhanumathi, Bhupen Hazarika and Salil Chowdhury, accompanied by restored screenings of classics such as *Subarnarekha* and *Musafir*. The festival will also honour Rajinikanth's 50-year journey in cinema at the closing ceremony. Indian Panorama 2025 features 25 feature films, 20 non-feature films and five debut works, with *Amaran* selected as the opening feature. Over 50 films directed by women and more than 50 debut directors reflect the festival's ongoing commitment to inclusivity.

Awards for emerging talent include the ₹5 lakh Best Debut Indian Director honour and a ₹10 lakh prize for the Best Web Series. This year also sees a major expansion of the WAVES Film Bazaar, a globally recognised co-production and content development platform. The marketplace will host co-production pitches, screenwriting labs, work-in-progress labs and a growing viewing room, along with country showcases and industry panels. Dedicated international pavilions and industry delegations will contribute to a broader global footprint. Adding to the cultural experience, the inaugural IFFIESTA will bring four evenings of live performances, including concerts, band competitions and theatre-led showcases between November 21 and 24. Meanwhile, the first-ever CinemAI Hackathon will introduce an AI-driven creative challenge, where selected teams produce short films using artificial intelligence tools and compete for awards across multiple categories. Over the decades, the festival has evolved into a cultural institution that bridges Indian and world cinema, drives creative collaboration, and strengthens India's growing presence in global filmmaking. With its combination of heritage tributes, cutting-edge innovation, diverse programming and new cultural layers, IFFI 2025 aims to offer audiences not just a cinematic event but an immersive celebration of creativity, technology and global storytelling.

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HC Issues Notice to Govt on PILs against Mhaje Ghar Regularisation

government files its detailed response. The 'Mhaje Ghar' scheme, introduced by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, allows for formal recognition of houses built before 1972 that do not have occupancy certificates. Under the programme, village panchayats and municipal bodies are required to issue the certificates within seven days upon

payment of a Rs 1,000 fee. The government has stated that the move will help families access legal and financial support and facilitate future construction. The scheme also covers shops built before 1972, while ownership rights for houses constructed before February 28, 2014, will be granted under Section 38A of the Goa Land Revenue Code, 1968.

CM says he never called editors or channels over negative news

or air negative news about me. I have never done it and will never do it," Dr. Sawant asserted, adding that he believes in allowing the press to function without pressure. Reiterating that the media is the fourth pillar of democracy, the Chief Minister stressed that responsible journalism is essential for maintaining transparency. "Bringing the truth before the people is the need of the hour. When this doesn't happen, it creates serious problems. I have suffered and gone through this. That is why journalism must present both sides. Only then can the real

truth emerge," he said. Marking National Press Day, Dr. Sawant paid tribute to the vital role of a free and professional press in nation-building. "National Press Day is a tribute to the vital role of a free and responsible press in strengthening democracy. A vibrant press encourages accountability and helps citizens engage with issues that matter. On National Press Day, let us acknowledge our journalists and uphold the value of an independent press in shaping an informed nation," the Chief Minister said.

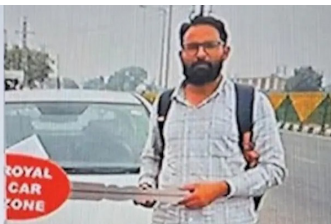
NIA Arrests Key Associate Of Alleged Delhi Suicide Bomber In Ongoing Terror Probe

■ Investigation Expands Across Multiple States As Agencies Track Wider Conspiracy.

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency has arrested a crucial aide of the alleged suicide attacker responsible for the November 10 blast near the Red Fort that killed 13 people. The accused, identified as Amir Rashid Ali from Samboora in Jammu and Kashmir's Pampore area, was detained in Delhi on Sunday as part of the widening investigation into the vehicle-borne explosion. This marks the first time the agency has formally referred to Dr Umar Un Nabi, who died in the blast, as a suicide bomber. Investigators say Amir played a direct role in preparing the attack and had travelled to Delhi



to help acquire the white i20 car that was later used as an improvised explosive device. The vehicle was registered in his name, strengthening suspicions that he was involved in the logistical planning of the operation. The explosion occurred near the Red Fort, and forensic DNA analysis confirmed the driver to be Dr Umar, who had been working at a medical college in Haryana. Police officers reported that his



leg was wedged between the steering wheel and the accelerator, indicating he was driving at the moment of the blast. The NIA, working with police forces from Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, continues to pursue multiple leads across several states. A second vehicle linked to Dr Umar has been seized for forensic examination, and investigators have questioned 73 witnesses so far, including survivors of the incident.

Authorities believe the attack may be linked to a recently exposed "white-collar" radical network involving medical professionals. The case has drawn significant attention due to the technical sophistication of the operation and the professional backgrounds of those allegedly involved. The Union Cabinet earlier condemned the blast as a brutal and calculated act intended to destabilise the country. Officials reiterated that India remains firmly committed to its policy of zero tolerance toward terrorism and will continue to pursue all those responsible for planning and supporting the attack.



Nitish Kumar Set To Take Oath On Nov 20 As NDA Plans Grand Show Of Strength

■ Prime Minister And Senior Leaders To Attend Ceremony At Gandhi Maidan.

New Delhi: Nitish Kumar will be sworn in as Chief Minister of Bihar on November 20, marking his tenth term in office after the National Democratic Alliance secured a decisive mandate in the recent Assembly elections. The ceremony will take place at Gandhi Maidan in Patna, where extensive arrangements are underway for what is expected to be a major political event attended by the Prime Minister, senior Union Ministers, and Chief Ministers from all NDA-governed states. Preparations for the event have begun across the city, with top

administrative and police officials meeting to finalise security and logistical plans. The oath-taking is being positioned as a significant show of unity and confidence by the NDA following its sweeping victory. The coalition recorded an impressive 202-seat tally in the two-phase elections held earlier this month. The BJP emerged as the largest party within the alliance with 89 seats, closely followed by the JDU with 85. The LJP (Ram Vilas) strengthened the bloc with 19 seats, while smaller partners also contributed to the overall result.

Three Maoists Killed In Sukma Encounter As Security Forces Tighten Grip In Bastar

■ Sniper Specialist Among Dead As Operations Expand Across South Bastar.

New Delhi: A major counter-insurgency operation in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district resulted in the deaths of three Maoists, including a sniper specialist, during an encounter on Sunday. The clash unfolded in the Bheiji police station limits, where joint teams of the District Reserve Guard, Bastar Fighters, and the CRPF were deployed following specific intelligence inputs. One of those killed was Janmilitia commander Madvi Deva, known for his marksmanship and long considered a key Maoist asset in the region. He carried a reward of five lakh rupees, as did the two women who were also killed. After the gun battle, security personnel



recovered a .303 rifle, a BGL grenade launcher, and a significant cache of ammunition. The operation began late on November 16 after information surfaced about Maoist movement along the Bheiji-Chintagufa corridor. As forces moved through the dense Tumalpad forest early Sunday, Maoists opened fire, triggering an extended exchange. Intermittent firing continued for several hours, and the bodies were later found during a combing operation.

Amit Shah Responds In Malayalam To Kerala MP In Malayalam Amid 'Hindi Imposition' Debate

■ Home Minister's Unusual Reply Adds Political Weight Ahead Of Kerala Elections.

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah has issued an official response in Malayalam to CPI(M) MP John Brittas, marking a noteworthy departure from the usual practice of using Hindi or English in central communications. The move has drawn attention not only for its rarity but also for its timing, as



Kerala enters an active political phase and the BJP seeks to broaden its presence in the state after securing its first Lok Sabha seat there in 2024.

The choice of language has added significance given Brittas' continued advocacy for linguistic equality in parliamentary proceedings. He has frequently highlighted the challenges faced by members who struggle to follow extended speeches in Hindi and has argued that equal access to translation is

essential for meaningful participation in the legislative process. Shah's letter, dated November 14, responded to Brittas' earlier representation from October 22 concerning the notification that allows cancellation of Overseas Citizen of India registration on the basis of chargesheeting.

India Signals Firm Security Posture as Army and Defence Chiefs Highlight Joint Strength

■ Operation Sindoor Framed as a Preview of India's Counterterror Capabilities, Armed Forces Stress Deepening Integration.

New Delhi: Indian Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi has issued a strong message on national security, describing Operation Sindoor as "just a trailer" and warning that India will not tolerate any attempts by Pakistan to



fuel terrorism. Speaking at a defence forum, he said

India's progress cannot be disrupted by hostile actions and made it clear that the armed forces will respond decisively to terrorists and those guiding them. Operation Sindoor was launched in May 2025 following the deadly attack in Pahalgalam

that killed 26 people. During the operation, Indian forces targeted nine terror training sites across Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Kashmir that were linked to organisations such as Jaish e Mohammed and Lashkar e Taiba.

Shubman Gill Discharged After Neck Injury As India Gain Crucial Boost Before Second Test

■ Team Awaits Final Call On Captain's Availability For Guwahati Clash.

New Delhi: Shubman Gill has been discharged from Woodlands Hospital in Kolkata, offering India a timely boost ahead of the second Test against South Africa. The captain had been admitted after suffering a neck injury during Day 2 of the first Test, a setback that significantly affected India's performance in the series opener, which ended in a 30-run defeat. Cricket Association of Bengal president Sourav Ganguly visited Gill at the hospital on November 16, shortly after India's collapse on a difficult Eden Gardens surface gave South Africa a 1-0 lead in the two-match series. Gill had retired hurt while batting in the first



innings after experiencing sharp neck pain following a sweep shot off Simon Harmer. Despite initial on-field treatment, the discomfort worsened, leading to his evacuation by stretcher later that evening. The following morning, the cricket board confirmed that Gill would not take any further part in the Test. He was

ruled out of India's second innings on a pitch that continued to show uneven bounce, contributing to the team's dismissal for 93. Medical examinations revealed no long-term complications, and Gill was placed under observation before being cleared to leave the hospital. His recovery will continue under the supervision of the board's medical staff. The team management has not yet made a decision regarding his availability for the second Test scheduled to begin on November 22 in Guwahati. India are set to travel to the venue on Tuesday, with Gill's fitness being closely monitored before a final call is made.

Arjun Erigaisi Marches Into Quarterfinals As Harikrishna Exits FIDE World Cup

■ Indian Campaign Narrows To One After Tie-Break Defeat In Panaji

PANAJI: Arjun Erigaisi advanced as the sole Indian contender in the FIDE World Cup quarterfinals after P Harikrishna's run came to an end in the fifth-round tie-breaks in Panaji, Goa. Harikrishna, who had shown impressive form throughout the tournament, was stopped by Jose Martinez Alcantara of Mexico, whose strong performance has been one of the major talking points of the event. Martinez, already known for defeating Nodirbek Yakubboev earlier in the competition, added another major win to his name by outplaying Harikrishna when it mattered most. His



third victory over a higher-rated opponent has placed him among the standout performers of the knockout stage, giving him a strong chance of entering the semifinals, where the top three players will secure places in next year's Candidates tournament. Harikrishna began the tie-breaks with two draws in the 15-minute games and appeared determined to press for a win in the next phase.

Gautam Gambhir Faces Backlash Over "No Pitch Demons" Remark as Cricket Icons Respond

■ India's Spin-Heavy Strategy Faces Scrutiny After Kolkata Test Defeat, Early collapse, pitch debate and selection questions dominate discussion after South Africa's 30-run win.

New Delhi: India's preference for sharply turning pitches came under renewed criticism after a 30-run loss to South Africa in Kolkata, a match that ended inside three days despite the team receiving the surface they had requested. The result has sparked concerns about strategy, preparation and the long-term impact of such pitches on the quality of Test cricket. The Eden Gardens surface offered uneven bounce from the opening day and deteriorated rapidly, leading to 38 wickets



falling in eight sessions. Spinners claimed the bulk of the dismissals, yet India failed to capitalise even with a 30-run first-innings lead. Head coach Gautam Gambhir maintained that the pitch was not to blame, insisting that it tested technique, concentration and resilience rather than being unplayable. He stressed that a score of around 124 was within

reach had the batters shown greater discipline. Despite these claims, the loss has renewed questions about whether India's approach is undermining their own strengths. Their attack features formidable match-winners in Jasprit Bumrah, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Siraj and Ravindra Jadeja, supported by Washington Sundar and Axar Patel. South Africa entered the contest without their leading fast bowler and fielded a comparatively inexperienced lineup, yet adapted better to the surface.

Goa Backs Rugby to Build Global Sports Tourism Identity

■ State initiatives and international participation signal growing momentum for the sport.

PANAJI: Goa is rapidly emerging as a promising centre for rugby, with the state's tourism authorities extending full support to strengthen its international sports presence. The growing popularity of the sport and its ability to attract visitors is placing Goa on course to become a vibrant hub for sports tourism. Brandan Crasto, who leads the Goa 7s tournament and heads the Crocotryles Rugby Foundation, highlighted rugby's ability to contribute significantly to the state's economy. He noted that the tournament's partnership with Goa Tourism reflects a shared belief in the



sport's long-term potential. According to him, the event is drawing increasing interest from around the world, which can translate into substantial gains for local businesses and the broader tourism sector. Crasto explained that teams from countries such as Nepal and South Africa are already part of the competition, and enquiries have come in from several other nations. He

emphasised that greater financial backing would allow Goa to fully harness the sport's capacity to attract international attention and establish the state as a premier destination for sports-focused travellers. Australian semi-professional player Samaka Issacs expressed admiration for Goa's welcoming environment and natural appeal.

Preeti Pawar Clinches Medal On Return As India Dominate Opening Day Of World Boxing Cup Finals

■ Strong Comebacks and Confident Performances Mark India's Impressive Start.

New Delhi: Preeti Pawar announced her return to international boxing with a commanding performance, securing a medal for India on the opening day of the World Boxing Cup Finals. Competing for the first time in a year after battling Hepatitis A, the 22-year-old advanced to the semifinals of the women's 54kg category with a unanimous

win over Uzbekistan's Nigina Uktamova, a fellow Asian Games bronze medallist. Diagnosed with Hepatitis A just a month before the Paris Olympics, Preeti fought through the illness during the Games before being forced into an extended recovery. After three months of complete rest, she gradually worked her



way back into competitive

shape, focusing heavily on endurance and sparring sessions designed to rebuild strength. Her efforts were evident on Sunday as she controlled the tempo throughout, using quick movement, sharp defence and clean combinations to keep Uktamova under constant pressure. India's strong start continued with Minakshi

Hooda, Narender Berwal and Ankush Phangal also progressing to the semifinals. Reigning world champion Minakshi dominated her women's 48kg quarterfinal, outclassing Kazakhstan's Bolat Akbot with superior reach and sustained attacking rhythm. She maintained control from the opening jab, steadily

building momentum with precise combinations. Making his senior international debut, Ankush delivered a mature and composed showing in the men's 80kg category. After absorbing early aggression from Japan's Go Wakaya, he shifted gears with accuracy and timing to claim a unanimous decision victory. In the men's 90kg