



GOA SHOCKED BY BRUTAL BAINA ARMED DACOITY

Family Terrorised in Midnight Attack; Political Leaders Slam Rising Crime, Police Inaction.



Baina MLA Visits Nayak Family After Dacoity, Seeks CM's Intervention



“**MLA Sankalp Amonkar, along with local councillors, visited the Nayak family in Baina following the late-night dacoity at their residence. Calling the incident “very unfortunate,” Amonkar said such a gang robbery had never occurred in the area before. He noted that the masked assailants appeared to have conducted a prior survey, identified CCTV blind spots, latched neighbours’ doors from outside, and entered the house through the kitchen. Amonkar said he would meet the Chief Minister to discuss the matter and expressed confidence that police would soon arrest the culprits and deliver justice to the Nayak family.**

DIG Assures Breakthrough Soon in Baina Dacoity Case, Calls It a “Challenge”

Team Goemkarponn

BAINA: Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Virsha Sharma assured that the police are actively working on the Baina armed dacoity case and will soon identify the suspects involved in the violent attack on the Nayak family. “We are working on the Baina dacoity case; give us some time, the suspect will be identified,” Sharma said, adding that the police had successfully cracked the previous two dacoity cases as well. “We are doing our best to solve this case, and we will do it. I am taking this as a challenge,” she asserted. The shocking incident,



in which 7–8 masked assailants broke into a flat in the early hours, assaulted family members and escaped with cash, gold and silver, has triggered widespread concern over security in the area. Police teams are currently scanning CCTV footage, analysing leads, and coordinating with intelligence units as part of the investigation.

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BAINA/VASCO: In a chilling incident that has sent shockwaves across Goa, a family in Baina was brutally attacked during a midnight armed dacoity. Seven masked assailants, armed with iron and

aluminium rods, stormed the seventh-floor flat of the Nayak family at Chamundi Arcade, violently assaulting the occupants before fleeing with cash, gold ornaments and silver utensils. The attackers broke open the backside window grills around 2:30

am, forced their way into the bedroom and began assaulting the family members. Owner Sagar Nayak, already recovering from injuries in a previous incident, suffered severe head injuries after being repeatedly struck with rods. His wife and

daughter were slapped, kicked and beaten, while his elderly mother was pushed off the bed and assaulted. A traumatised family member recounted: “Seven to eight assailants broke the backside grills, entered the flat and began

CONTD TO PAGE 06...

Goa Govt Gets Time Till Nov 25 in ZP Reservation Case

■ No Poll Dates Before That, Assures AG

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PANAJI: The Goa government today sought additional time to file its reply in the ongoing petition challenging the reservation process for the upcoming Zilla Panchayat (ZP) elections. The High

Court granted the state time until November 25 to submit its affidavit. During the hearing, the petitioners urged the Court to restrain the State Election Commission (SEC) from announcing the ZP election schedule

CONTD TO PAGE 06...

GSBB Approves Goa State Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan

■ CM Sawant Calls for Stronger Community-Led Conservation.

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: The Goa State Biodiversity Board (GSBB) held its 45th Board Meeting at Porvorim, focusing on key initiatives aimed at strengthening biodiversity conservation

across the state. The meeting reviewed progress on Biodiversity Heritage Sites, strengthening of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs), and preparations for the Goa State Biodiversity Conservation Awards

2025. A major outcome of the meeting was the approval of the Goa State Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan, which will now be taken forward through consultations with MLAs and Heads of Departments to ensure

effective implementation at all levels. The Board also approved the onboarding of specialised agencies for wetland ground-truthing, a crucial step toward scientific mapping and conservation of Goa’s vulnerable wetland ecosystems.



India Reaffirms Commitment To Bangladesh After Tribunal Sentences Sheikh Hasina To Death

■ New Delhi Notes Verdict, Stresses Support for Peace, Stability and Democratic Processes.

New Delhi: India has responded to the death sentence handed to former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina by the country’s International Crimes Tribunal, stating that it remains committed to the welfare and stability of the Bangladeshi people. The tribunal found Hasina guilty on three charges related to alleged



crimes against humanity, including incitement, ordering killings and failing to prevent violence during last year’s student-led

uprising that led to the fall of her government. In its official statement, India acknowledged the ruling and underlined its continued engagement with Bangladesh. The Ministry of External Affairs emphasised that New Delhi will work constructively with all stakeholders in support

CONTD TO PAGE 06...

Top Maoist Commander Madvi Hidma Killed In Major Encounter In Andhra Pradesh

■ Security Forces Score Major Breakthrough Against Insurgency Near AP–Chhattisgarh–Telangana Border.

New Delhi: Top Maoist commander Madvi Hidma, long considered one of the most dangerous leaders of the CPI Maoist and linked to more than two dozen deadly attacks, has been killed in an encounter in Andhra Pradesh’s Alluri Sitharamaraju district. The operation unfolded early in the morning at the Mareduhilli forest



area, a region known for Maoist hideouts near the tri-junction of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh



and Telangana. Security personnel have so far spotted at least six bodies,

CONTD TO PAGE 06...

A Brutal Wake-Up Call for Goa's Fading Sense of Safety

A violent robbery in the heart of Baina has shaken Goa's sense of security. Seven armed men stormed a seventh-floor apartment, assaulted the residents, and fled with valuables. The brutality of the attack and the coordination behind it have raised a question many are now asking in frustration. Is this really Goa?

It is easy to fall back on clichés when a crime feels out of character for a place. Goa has long carried the image of a peaceful coastal state where violent crime is rare and life moves at a gentle pace. When something as brazen as this dacoity breaks through that image, the instinct is to compare Goa with places that are often stereotyped as crime-prone. But this reflex is not just unhelpful. It is misleading, and it distracts from the real issues that demand scrutiny.

What happened in Baina is not a story about which part of India the crime resembles. It is a story about the widening cracks in Goa's policing, urban security, and preparedness. A group of seven men did not appear out of nowhere. They entered a building, reached a high floor, carried weapons, assaulted a family, and escaped before law enforcement could intervene. That points to planning, familiarity with the area, and confidence that an operation of this scale could be carried out without immediate obstruction.

The first critical question is how such a group moved so freely through an apartment block. Many buildings in Goa still operate with outdated or lax security measures. Some do not have functional CCTV. Others allow unrestricted access to visitors without verification. Basic systems that are standard in other urban centres remain optional here. This incident shows that these gaps are not harmless. They create openings that well-organised groups can exploit easily. The second issue is response time. Police rushed to the site after the crime, and multiple teams were deployed to track the suspects. But the fact remains that the attackers had already vanished. Goa's police force has long struggled with limited manpower, stretched jurisdictions, and slow modernisation. When crime becomes more sophisticated and more mobile, these weaknesses become liabilities. The state

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cannot rely on its reputation for low crime to compensate for outdated systems.

A third, and often ignored, aspect is the variation in policing needs across Goa. Places like Mormugao, Vasco, and Baina are densely populated, migrant-heavy, and commercially active. They require stronger surveillance mechanisms than the state's quieter interior regions. Treating all districts with the same enforcement model results

in some areas being far more vulnerable than others. The Baina incident exposes how uneven this preparedness can be. But beyond questioning the machinery, there is a deeper issue that citizens and institutions alike must confront. Crime is no longer shaped by geography alone. It is shaped by opportunity. Economic transitions, rapid urbanisation, fluctuating populations, and gaps in community policing create conditions in which organised groups can operate. Goa is not insulated from these realities simply because its crime statistics were lower in the past.

This is why the habit of blaming "outsiders" or comparing Goa to other regions is not just inaccurate but harmful. It encourages complacency. It paints crime as something that arrives from elsewhere, not something that grows from local vulnerabilities. It allows institutions to avoid accountability by suggesting that the problem lies beyond their borders. Worst of all, it sows suspicion and divides communities at a time when cooperation is essential for safety.

A more constructive approach would involve strengthening building-level security, improving coordination between police stations, upgrading surveillance infrastructure, and ensuring that urban hotspots receive the attention they require. Residents must also recognise that security is a shared responsibility. Vigilance, verification, and reporting suspicious activity cannot be dismissed as paranoia. They are necessities in any expanding urban environment.

Baina's armed dacoity was shocking because it broke the pattern Goa has relied on for years. But that shock should not push the state into denial. It should propel it towards honest assessment and urgent reform. Goa is changing. Its challenges are changing with it. Pretending that such violence belongs elsewhere will do nothing to prevent the next attack.

What will make a difference is recognising that peace is not a permanent gift. It is something that must be protected, strengthened, and updated as the world around us evolves. This incident is a reminder that safety cannot be taken for granted. It must be earned, every day, through vigilance and decisive action.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Protect Sarzora Before It's Too Late

Sarzora's gram sabha has taken a courageous and necessary stand by rejecting the proposed diversion of NH-66 through Dandevaddo. This is not merely a NIMBY reaction the concerns raised by villagers are deeply rooted in ecological preservation, public safety, and long-term community wellbeing.

First and foremost, the rerouted highway threatens to damage Sarzora's rich biodiversity. As the villagers warn, forests, wetlands, and hill ecosystems could be irrevocably disturbed, putting native flora and fauna at risk. For a place whose very identity is tied to its natural beauty, this loss would be far more than environmental it would undermine Sarzora's soul.

Then there is the issue of safety. The gram sabha has flagged not just ecological risk but potential traffic chaos if a major highway cuts through a residential and rural setting. The dangers of increased vehicle load, higher speeds, and inadequate infrastructure in this terrain are very real, especially given the narrow roads and limited escape routes.

Beyond these practical concerns, we must also respect the right of the local community to preserve its way of life. Sarzora is not merely a transit point; it is a living, breathing village with wetlands and rice fields that are a legacy of generations. This proposed highway is not progress dressed as development. It risks turning a biodiverse hamlet into a traffic artery and in doing so, strips Sarzora of its heritage and harmony. I call on the government and infrastructure planners to listen to the voices of the gram sabha, pause the diversion plans, and explore alternatives that do not compromise ecology or safety. A more sensitive, community-driven plan could preserve Sarzora's environment while still improving connectivity. Let us aim for development that protects not destroys.

-Sherwin Rodrigues, Sarzora

Clean the Co-op System, But Start by Holding the Powerful Accountable

The Chief Minister's decision to stop granting permissions to traditional credit co-operative societies is a long overdue step. When a system meant to safeguard people's savings begins to resemble a marketplace for fraud, there is no justification for continuing with business as usual. The repeated scams involving crores of rupees are not isolated blips. They reveal a pattern of weak audits, unchecked interference and a complete erosion of accountability. But if the State is serious about cleaning up the cooperative sector, it must begin by confronting the hardest truth of all. These scams did not flourish on their own. They grew because influential individuals — including those with political access and authority — allowed them to grow. Some turned a blind eye, some benefitted indirectly and some ensured that audits remained a mere formality. Without addressing this political protection, reforms will remain cosmetic.

Instead of only phasing out societies or introducing digital systems, the government must first demonstrate that no one is above scrutiny. If investigations reveal involvement of office-bearers or those in positions of power, then accountability must begin there. People have lost their life savings. Families have been pushed into debt. It is only fair that those who enabled this culture of mismanagement face real consequences.

Technology and transparency are welcome. But they will mean nothing unless the State proves it is willing to act against wrongdoing wherever it originates. Goa's cooperative sector will regain trust only when the law is applied evenly, firmly, and without political hesitation.

-Sunita Naik, Sanguem

Siddaramaiah Seeks PM's Intervention to Clear Kalasa-Banduri and Other Stalled Water Projects

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to expedite long-pending clearances for several key water projects, placing special emphasis on the Kalasa-Banduri Nala projects under the Mahadayi basin. In a detailed letter sent on Monday, the Chief Minister noted that although the Central Water Commission and the Ministry of Jal Shakti had cleared the Kalasa-



Banduri proposals in December 2022, the projects remain stuck as the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is yet to grant the crucial Forest and Wildlife clearances. Siddaramaiah said the prolonged delay is

severely impacting the drinking water needs of the Hubballi-Dharwad region and urged the Prime Minister to intervene so work can finally commence on the long-awaited scheme. The Chief Minister also highlighted other major water projects awaiting action from the Union Government, including the Mekedatu balancing reservoir—where the Supreme Court recently dismissed Tamil Nadu's objections and left appraisal to CWMA and

CWC—the Krishna water allocation, which has been pending notification for more than a decade after the KWDT-II award, and the Upper Bhadra Project, for which ₹5,300 crore of central assistance announced in 2023-24 has still not been released. Siddaramaiah said the timely clearance of these projects is vital for improving irrigation coverage, ensuring drinking water security, and supporting farmers in drought-prone regions of Karnataka.



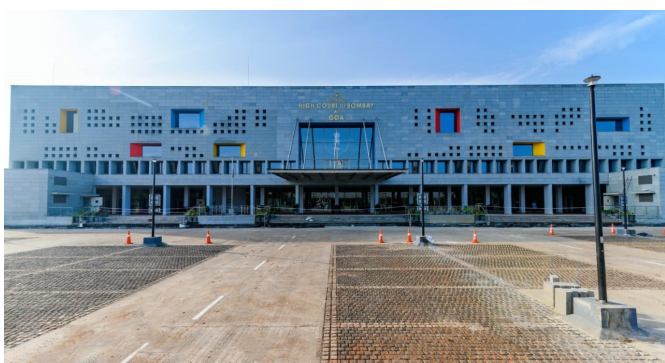
Goa Govt Revises Land Rates for Housing Board and Comunidade Plots

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: In a fresh Extraordinary Notification, the Goa government has clarified that minimum land rates will not apply to plots conveyed by the Housing Board.

Further, for Comunidade plots up to

400 sq. meters, the land rates will be 50% lower than the notified rates. This benefit will apply only in five talukas: Tiswadi, Pernem, Mormugao, Salcete, and Bardez. The move aims to provide relief to landowners and encourage formal land transactions in the state.



Goa High Court to Hear PIL Seeking State-Wide Survey of Senior Citizens on January 4

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Bombay High Court at Goa will take up a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) on January 4, 2026, seeking a comprehensive socio-economic and health survey of senior citizens across the State. The petition, filed by advocate Moses Pinto, urges the State government to conduct a detailed survey to gather accurate data on the elderly population, which could serve as the basis for well-informed welfare policies. Pinto, who is also a caregiver for his elderly father, had filed the PIL two months ago, emphasizing the need for a scientific study to assess the demographic, health, and social needs of senior citizens. He requested that the survey results be published and used to formulate evidence-based welfare programs. The petition highlights that

the absence of a thorough state-wide survey has created gaps in policy-making and hindered effective implementation of welfare schemes. Despite the provisions of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007—which mandates the government to provide old-age homes, medical care, and other welfare measures—Goa has not conducted any comprehensive assessment of the elderly population. Pinto's PIL asserts that this long-standing neglect has resulted in poor identification of beneficiaries, insufficient support services, and undue hardship for senior citizens in the State. The hearing on January 4 will determine whether the High Court directs the government to carry out the survey and strengthen welfare measures for the elderly.

Goa's 31st Iron Ore E-Auction Sees Nearly Complete Sale, Rs 136 Crore Revenue Generated

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa's 31st iron ore e-auction last week witnessed robust participation, with almost the entire 7.50 lakh metric tonnes (MT) on offer being sold, generating Rs 136.10 crore for the State treasury. According to the Directorate of Mines and Geology (DMG), 7.50 lakh MT of iron ore—comprising fines, lumps, run-of-mine ore, and tailings—was listed for bidding on November 13 and 14. Of this, 7.48 lakh MT was successfully purchased



by buyers. The material was stored across multiple lease sites, including Dharbandora, Codli, Mayem, Sirigao, Pale, and Vagus. DMG Director Narayan Gad confirmed the strong turnout at the auction, noting that it was conducted via MSTC, the central PSU responsible for managing e-auctions of metals and minerals. Prominent

buyers included Sesa Resources, Chowgule & Company Ltd, Salgaocar Shipping, RKB Global, Venkateshwara Power, and Ascent Ore. Auction rules stipulate that the purchased ore must be removed from the respective stockyards within 90 days of the DMG's final award, failing which both the ore and payment will be forfeited.

This round follows the 30th e-auction held in October last year, which also saw complete clearance of the 7.5 lakh MT offered.

The series of auctions comes in the wake of the Supreme Court's August 2024 ruling allowing Goa to sell unaccounted iron ore left abandoned at various sites

Subsequently, the State Cabinet approved the sale of nearly 2 million MT, with 7.56 lakh MT auctioned in October last year and the latest 7.50 lakh MT offered this month.

Goa Launches High-Support Disability Scheme, Offers Rs 40,000 One-Time Aid for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa has become the first state in India to introduce dedicated financial assistance for persons with benchmark disabilities requiring intensive support with the launch of the High-Support Disability Scheme. Under the initiative, eligible beneficiaries will receive a one-time grant of Rs 40,000, which can be utilised over a period of five years. Speaking at the launch, Social Welfare Minister Subhash Phal Desai said the scheme aims to provide meaningful assistance



to individuals who need high levels of support. "Beneficiaries have full discretion to use the aid according to their requirements," he added. The funds can be used for assistive devices, personal care, educational and vocational training, or therapeutic interventions such as physiotherapy and speech therapy. Applicants must be Goa residents from families with an annual

income below Rs 8 lakh. Parents or guardians are required to obtain a High Support Need Certificate from North Goa District Hospital, South Goa District Hospital, Goa Medical College (GMC), or the Institute of Psychiatry and Human Behaviour (IPHB). The Minister cautioned that any false declarations or misuse of funds would result in cancellation of the assistance and recovery of the amount. The scheme can be availed once every five years. So far, assistance has been sanctioned for three beneficiaries, with many more applications

under process. Desai also clarified that recipients of wheelchairs or monthly pensions under other schemes remain eligible for this support. State Commissioner for Persons with Disability Guru Prasad Pawaskar highlighted that this is the first scheme introduced by the newly formed department, which is now nearly fully operational. He noted the scheme's flexibility, allowing funds to be used not only for aids and appliances but also for therapeutic interventions, vocational training, or even to support starting a small business.

Drishti Marine Lifesavers Rescue 12 People, Trace Two Missing Children Over Weekend

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Drishti Marine lifesavers conducted multiple successful rescue operations across Goa's coastline over the weekend, saving 12 people from drowning and locating two missing children.

Baina Beach:A 37-year-old woman from Vasco was pulled into a rip current while in the water. Drishti lifesavers swiftly reached her with a rescue tube, brought her ashore, placed her in the recovery position, administered oxygen and handed her over to the 108 ambulance service for medical attention.

Majorda:A 48-year-old tourist from Rajasthan was dragged into deep water while swimming. Lifesaver Sagar Mehta used a surfboard to safely rescue him.



Ashwem:Two men aged 21 and 25 from Haryana were caught in a rip current 40–60 metres offshore. Lifesaver Hari Chopdekar and Darpan Revankar (on a jet ski) coordinated a successful double rescue.

In another incident, a 47-year-old tourist from Karnataka was swept 30 metres offshore and rescued by Chopdekar on a jet ski, assisted by Rajesh Dhuri.

Mandrem:A 25-year-old man from Hubballi was pulled about 75 metres offshore by a river

rip current. Lifesaver Nutan Mote, assisted by Harshad, Vikram Talkar and Sudhir Parab (on a jet ski), brought him safely to shore.

Morjim:A 23-year-old man from Lucknow caught in a river rip current was rescued by Vijay Mote using a rescue board.

A 66-year-old Goan man was pulled 50 metres into the sea and rescued by Sant Parab on a jet ski, assisted by Santosh Patil. In a separate incident, a 35-year-old man and a 26-year-old woman from Bengaluru were caught

in a rip current and safely rescued by Parab in a double operation.

Baga:Three male tourists were swept seawards by a strong wave. Lifesaver Surya raised an alert and a coordinated rescue by Sushant Gaonkar (rescue board), Sunil Toraskar, Nand Kishor (rescue tube) and Fondu Gawas (jet ski) brought all three men to safety.

Calangute:A seven-year-old girl from Maharashtra went missing at the beach. After a search, she was located at another section of the beach and reunited with her parents following verification.

Candolim:A three-year-old boy from Pune was found near the beach parking area after being reported missing and was reunited with his family after identification checks.

Bike bursts into flames near Chicalim Panchayat, owner escapes unhurt

Team Goemkarponn

CHICALIM: A bike was completely gutted after it suddenly caught fire along the road near the Chicalim Panchayat on Monday morning, even as the rider and other motorists managed to escape without injuries. Traffic momentarily slowed down as flames engulfed the vehicle, reducing it to a charred frame within minutes. The owner, Jerome Fernandes, a resident of Pilar, told reporters that the motorcycle had recently undergone repairs and had even cleared its RTO passing. He said he had halted at the traffic signal when the fire broke out.

"I had just stopped due to the signal when I suddenly felt heat and saw flames coming from the bike. I immediately jumped off. The vehicle had recently passed RTO inspection and I



had fitted new parts after spending quite a bit, considering it is about 15 years old. I had brought it from Pilar after attending Mass and this was the first time I had ridden it this far towards Vasco," Fernandes said, adding that he also holds third-party insurance for the vehicle. Fire services and locals later assisted in clearing the damaged remains from the road. The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained.

Madhya Pradesh Man Arrested for Rs 4.68 Lakh Online Investment Fraud on Bicholim Resident

Team Goemkarponn

BICHOLIM: A 25-year-old man from Madhya Pradesh has been arrested by Bicholim Police for allegedly duping a resident of Goa of ₹4,68,775 in an online investment scam carried out in the name of "KITE FOREX TRADING". The case began on August 11, when 58-year-old Milind Gore of Bicholim filed a complaint stating that between May 20 and July 16 this year, unknown callers using mobile numbers 7580827990 and 9754727822 contacted him while posing as employees of the company. The callers allegedly promised high returns and convinced him to invest through multiple Google Pay transfers. After receiving the money, the fraudsters stopped responding. Police registered Crime No. 112/2025 under Sections 319(1), 318(3), and 318(4) of the BNS and launched



an investigation. Scrutiny of the complainant's bank transactions revealed that the money had been routed through several UPI accounts. Of the total amount, ₹1,87,800 had been credited to the account of one Shubham Rathore, while the rest was transferred to accounts belonging to other individuals. KYC details and alternate contact numbers obtained during the probe helped investigators narrow down the suspects' location to Madhya Pradesh.

A police team led by PI Vijay Rane, comprising PSI Jayprakash Jankar, PC Danish Shaikh, and PC Umang Morajkar, travelled to Rajgarh district on November 10.

Eight Accused Chargesheeted in Rama Kankonkar Assault Case; Police File 1,371-Page Report

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Police have filed a detailed chargesheet before the District and Sessions Court, North Goa, in the Rama Kankonkar assault case, naming eight accused who are currently in judicial custody. The chargesheet pertains to Crime No. 125/2025, registered under multiple sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. The case has been chargesheeted under Sections 126(1), 109, 351(3), 238, 111 r/w 3(5)



& 61 of the BNS, along with Sections 3(1)(a), 3(1)(r), 3(1)(s) and 3(2)(v) of the SC/ST Act. The investigation was led by DySP Sudesh Naik (SDPO Panaji). According to the police, the chargesheet spans 1,371 pages, includes 49 witnesses, and lists 32 muddemal items attached during the probe. The chargesheet was filed

within the mandated 60-day period, and the police have sought permission from the court to continue further investigation.

North Goa SP Rahul Gupta, IPS, stated that during the investigation, accused Francis Nadar revealed that he and his associates allegedly assaulted Rama Kankonkar using cable wires and smeared cow

dung on his face. The assault, police said, was part of a conspiracy motivated by a personal grudge and prior online mockery. Police further said that accused Zenito Cardozo allegedly coordinated the plan by tracking Kankonkar's movements and communicating with the group through WhatsApp during the assault.

All eight accused arrested in the case have now been named in the chargesheet and remain in judicial custody.

Further investigation is underway under the supervision of SP North Rahul Gupta, IPS.

Minor Girl Reported Kidnapped From Margao; Police Launch Search

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: Margao Town Police have launched an investigation after a man residing in Khareband, originally from Bihar,

reported that his minor daughter had been kidnapped. According to the complaint filed by the girl's father (name withheld), the incident occurred around 6:00

pm on November 15, 2025, when an unknown person allegedly took the minor from his lawful guardianship without his consent. Police registered a case of kidnapping

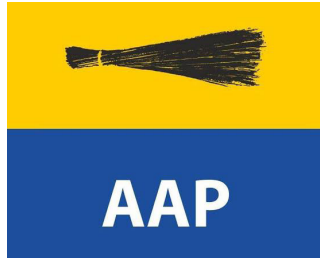
and have begun efforts to trace the child and identify the suspect. The investigation is being carried out by PSI Sanjay Velip of Margao Town Police Station.



AAP Announces First List of 14 Candidates for Zilla Panchayat Elections

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Goa announced its first list of 14 candidates for the upcoming Zilla Panchayat elections, stating that the selections were made based on grassroots work, public service and strong community engagement. The list was released by AAP Goa President Adv. Amit Palekar and State Prabhari Atishi, who said the party is fully prepared to take on the BJP in the rural polls. Atishi said AAP's candidates



have earned public trust through health camps and consistent presence among citizens, and will now take their service-driven politics to every household. Palekar said AAP has been a firm opposition to the BJP government on issues of corruption, healthcare and welfare of youth and

women, and will seek votes on the strength of its work. Working President and National Spokesperson Valmiki Naik said the list reflects AAP's commitment to clean and honest politics, noting that candidates were selected for their credibility rather than favouritism. Working President Gerson Gomes added that the candidates will build on the developmental work of AAP MLAs Capt. Venzy Viegas and Eng. Cruz Silva, including free clinics, infrastructure improvements and

community initiatives. The candidates announced are: Suvarna Harmalkar (Morjim), Prasad Shahapurkar (Dhargal), Umesh Kauthankar (Sirsai), Perpet Michael D'Mello (Maem), Pascal Fernandes (Corlim), Arjun Gurav (Nagaragao), Luis Oliveira (Raia), Isaca Fernandes (Velim), Joseph Pimenta (Benaulim), Antonio Leao Fernandes (Colva), Beatris D'Souza (Navelim), Urmila Umesh Kalekar (Sanvordem), James Fernandes (Xeldem) and Rajesh Gaonkar (Poinguinim).



Vasco MLA launches long-pending railway underpass project near Tanya Hotel

Team Goemkarponn

VASCO: Vasco MLA Krishna Salkar launched the long-pending and ambitious railway underpass project near Tanya Hotel, marking a major step toward resolving a five-decade-old bottleneck that has hindered emergency services. The event

was attended by MMC Chairperson Girish Borker, municipal councillors, officials from various departments and several residents. The work has been prioritised to address the long-standing height restriction beneath the railway bridge, which prevents fire tenders from passing through.



State-Level Science Project Contest Held in Canacona

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: A State Level Science Project Competition themed "Science for Human Betterment" was held on Saturday at Shree Mallikarjun Higher Secondary School of Science, Arts and Commerce, Canacona. The event was organised in collaboration with the Department of Science and Technology and Waste Management, Porvorim-Goa, and featured 20 innovative projects from higher secondary schools across the state. Shree Damodar Higher Secondary School of Science, Margao, emerged as the winner, taking home a cash prize of ₹20,000 and a trophy. Shiroda Higher Secondary School secured the second prize with ₹15,000 and a trophy,

while St Andrew Higher Secondary School, Vasco, claimed the third prize along with ₹10,000 and a trophy. Cuncolim United Higher Secondary School, Cuncolim, and S. S. Angle Higher Secondary School, Mashem-Canacona, received the first and second consolation prizes respectively. The competition was inaugurated by CPI Managing Committee Chairman Shamba Molu Naik Desai. Speakers at the event included Sanjay Amonkar (Director General, Goa Chamber of Commerce & Industry), Vivek Phadte (Technical Officer, Department of Science and Technology and Waste Management), and Dr. Dilkush Molu Velip (Department of Occupational Therapy, GMC), who also motivated participants.

Cortalim MLA launches pipeline replacement project at Upasnagar to improve water pressure

Team Goemkarponn

CORTALIM: Cortalim MLA Anton Vas laid the foundation stone for the replacement of the existing 3-inch PVC water pipeline with a new 100 mm DI pipeline at Blue Horizon Residency, Upasnagar, Sancoale. The event was attended by Sancoale Panch Nidhi Naik, PWD Assistant Engineer Naresh Painginkar and several residents from the locality. The project, estimated at around ₹16 lakh, aims to resolve long-standing issues of low water pressure and frequent



disruption in supply. Residents had submitted a proposal to the MLA after facing persistent inconvenience. Speaking at the launch, Vas said the upgrade was urgently required to ensure reliable water supply to the area. "The people here have been struggling with irregular supply, and many

complained that there was hardly any pressure. Their request for replacing the old pipeline was genuine," he said. "The earlier three-inch PVC line simply could not deliver adequate flow. We are now replacing it with a 100 mm diameter DI pipeline, and we hope this new system will finally provide residents with better pressure and consistent water." Sancoale Panch Nidhi Naik expressed gratitude to the MLA for responding swiftly to the concerns of residents. "We faced repeated water issues, and the pipeline would often break," she said.

Foundation Laid for 'Gomant Sarita Poojan' Project at Narve; Spiritual Tourism Set for Major Boost

Team Goemkarponn

NARVE: Goa took a significant stride in expanding its spiritual tourism offerings with the foundation-laying of the 'Gomant Sarita Poojan' a riverfront Ghat Aarti development project at Narve along the Mandovi River. The ceremony was attended by Union Minister of State for New & Renewable Energy Shripad Naik,



Tourism Minister Rohan A. Khaunte, MP Sadanand Shet Tanavade, Mayem MLA Premendra Shet, Director of Tourism Kedar Naik, GTDC MD Kuldeep Arolkar, senior officials, local

leaders, and community representatives. Union Minister Shripad Naik said the project would tap Narve's rich cultural and spiritual significance, creating a serene space for devotees and boosting

spiritual tourism. Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte said the development aligns with Goa's focus on regenerative and community-centric tourism, adding value to local livelihoods while enhancing cultural experiences for visitors. MLA Premendra Shet said the upcoming Ghat Aarti would offer a distinctive devotional experience and open new avenues for community-based tourism.

Goa Receives First Polish Charter Flight of the Season at Mopa Airport

Team Goemkarponn

MOPA: Goa welcomed the first charter flight of the tourist season from Poland on Monday, reinforcing the State's rising popularity among

European travellers. The Enter Air flight, chartered by Rainbow Tours, landed at Mopa Airport at 9:05 am with 185 passengers on board—marking the second straight year that Goa has featured as a key



long-haul destination for Polish holidaymakers.

Tourism Minister Rohan A. Khaunte said the arrival reflects Goa's growing global tourism partnerships, noting that the government is focused on promoting quality tourism, improving

connectivity and ensuring visitors experience Goa's cultural, natural and heritage richness. Director of Tourism Kedar Naik said the steady interest from Europe, including Poland, underscores

confidence in Goa as a preferred destination, adding that the department is committed to strengthening infrastructure and enhancing traveller experience.

Our Lady of Mercies Feast Marked With Joyful 11th-Year Celebration in Swindon

Community in Wiltshire Honours Tradition With United Cultural and Spiritual Gathering.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goan community in Swindon came together in a vibrant display of faith and unity to celebrate the 11th annual Feast of Our Lady of Mercies, continuing a tradition that began in 2014. What started as a modest effort to hold monthly Konkani masses has grown into one of the most cherished cultural events for Goans living in the region. The celebration traces its roots to the early initiative of Paulo Dias, who first proposed organising the feast in Swindon. At the time, Konkani mass was held once a month, with the priest travelling from St. Peter's



Church in West Swindon to Holy Rood Church in the north. As these services became more regular on the second Sunday of each month, the community saw an opportunity to observe the annual feast locally, bringing Goans together in prayer and fellowship. In the first years, families



originally from Mercies and now residing in Swindon joined hands, contributing funds and support to organise the feast mass along with a traditional dine and dance celebration. This collective effort helped recreate the familiar warmth of festivities back in Goa, giving the

diaspora a sense of home even while miles away. The 2025 celebration held special significance, as the community brought in a statue of Our Lady of Mercies for the first time, adding deeper meaning to the occasion. The statue is set to remain central to future celebrations,

strengthening the spiritual connection and cultural continuity among Goans in the area. Over more than a decade, the annual feast has grown into a symbol of unity and shared heritage, drawing families together to celebrate faith, culture, and tradition. The organisers

expressed pride in how the event has evolved and reaffirmed their commitment to keeping the celebration alive in the years ahead. Pictures from this year's festivities capture the strong spirit of togetherness that continues to define the Mercies feast in Swindon.



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GOA SHOCKED BY BRUTAL BAINA ARMED DACOITY

hitting us. They beat my husband on the head, slapped and kicked my daughter, pushed my mother off the bed and threatened to kill us while demanding locker keys. When we tried to shout for help, they hit us with rods and kicked us with boots." The attackers, described as young and masked with helmets, spoke in what the family described as a "Bihari" tone. After tying the victims, the gang fled with gold ornaments and cash, the exact value of which is still being assessed. South Goa Superintendent of Police Tikam Singh Verma

confirmed that the family suffered multiple injuries and said a manhunt has been launched to trace the accused. Political leaders reacted sharply to the violent crime, calling it a disturbing indication of Goa's deteriorating law and order situation. Vijai Sardesai, MLA, criticised political interference in policing, stating, "Politicians must stop interfering in police matters. Three robberies have happened recently and yet the culprits haven't been caught." Leader of Opposition Yuri Alemão said the repeated armed

robberies pointed to a dangerous rise in Goa's crime graph. "Police inaction, weak nakabandis and poor patrolling put public safety at risk. Stop boasting about detections—focus on prevention. Safety is a basic right. This government has failed the people," Alemão said. Meanwhile, Sagar Nayak is undergoing treatment at the government hospital in Chicalim as police teams continue investigations. The brutal attack has intensified pressure on law-enforcement agencies to deliver swift results and reassure a shaken public.

Goa Govt Gets Time Till Nov 25 in ZP Reservation Case

until the government files its reply. Responding to these concerns, the Advocate General assured the Court that the SEC would not declare the election dates before November 25. The matter has been posted for the next hearing after the state submits its response. 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.

India Reaffirms Commitment To Bangladesh After Tribunal Sentences Sheikh Hasina To Death

of peace, inclusion and democratic stability in the neighbouring country. The response came amid calls from Bangladesh's interim government urging India to hand over Hasina, who fled to New Delhi following her ouster. The Bangladesh Foreign Ministry referenced the bilateral extradition treaty and argued that returning individuals convicted of serious offences was a

responsibility under the agreement. According to officials in Dhaka, Hasina and two of her associates were found guilty after a months-long trial. The tribunal concluded that the former leader acted alongside former Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal and former police chief Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun to carry out a violent crackdown against

protesters across the country. While all three were initially charged, the former police chief was later pardoned by the court. Hasina, who is currently staying in a secure location in New Delhi, has rejected the ruling outright. She described the judgement as illegitimate and accused the tribunal of functioning under an unelected administration.

Top Maoist Commander Madvi Hidma Killed In Major Encounter In Andhra Pradesh

and the search operation continues. According to officials, the exchange of fire took place between 6 am and 7 am. A large combing operation has been launched in the dense forest region following the encounter. Hidma's wife, Rajakka, is also believed to be among those killed. Born in 1981 in Sukma, Hidma rose through the ranks of the People's

Liberation Guerrilla Army to become one of the youngest members of the CPI Maoist Central Committee. He was the only tribal representative from the Bastar region on the party's top leadership panel and carried a reward of Rs 50 lakh. His strategic planning and operational control made him one of the most feared Maoist figures in the country.

Hidma is associated with some of the most devastating attacks in recent decades. These include the 2010 Dantewada ambush that killed 76 CRPF personnel, the 2013 Jhiram Ghati attack that claimed 27 lives including senior political leaders, and the 2021 Sukma-Bijapur assault in which 22 security personnel were killed.

Video of Delhi Blast Suspect Reveals Deep Radicalisation and Planned Attack

■ Footage shows bomber discussing “martyrdom” while investigators uncover a network of educated recruits.

New Delhi: A disturbing self-recorded video of Dr Umar Mohammad, also known as Umar-un-Nabi, has surfaced a week after the deadly explosion near Delhi's Red Fort that killed 13 people. The undated footage offers the first clear look into the mindset of the man behind the attack, revealing a calm and articulate justification of suicide bombing under the guise of “martyrdom”. In the video, Umar describes what he calls a misunderstood idea that he labels a martyrdom operation. Speaking in fluent English, he argues that such acts are sanctioned within his interpretation of faith. He suggests that a



person undertaking this operation expects to die at a chosen place and time, yet insists that no one can precisely predict the moment of death because it is predetermined. His message urges viewers not to fear death, presenting an attempt to rationalise an act that is widely condemned across religious and ethical lines. While suicide is prohibited in Islam, Umar's statements appear to frame suicide

bombing as something noble. His measured tone and detailed argumentation indicate extensive exposure to extremist ideology. The footage portrays him as a composed and highly radicalised individual, representing a troubling shift in the profile of terror operatives in India. It highlights the rise of educated and technically skilled individuals being drawn into violent extremism. Investigators believe the video confirms that the Red Fort blast was meticulously planned, countering earlier suggestions that the explosion may have occurred accidentally while transporting explosives.

The wider probe into the attack has exposed a growing strategy among terrorist organisations such as Jaish e Mohammed to recruit trained professionals. Recent arrests in an interstate and transnational module linked to Jaish e Mohammed and Ansar Ghazwat ul Hind revealed a network of radicalised doctors, students and other professionals. According to security officials, these individuals operated under foreign direction, relied on encrypted communication channels and raised funds through academic and professional circles under the pretext of charitable initiatives.



India and United States Close In on First Phase of Trade Agreement

■ Initial tranche expected to resolve tariff challenges and boost market access.

New Delhi: India and the United States are making significant progress toward finalising the first phase of their bilateral trade agreement, with officials indicating that negotiations are approaching conclusion. The upcoming tranche is expected to address the steep tariff barriers imposed on Indian exports in recent years, including the 50 per cent duties introduced during the Trump administration and the additional 25 per cent levy linked to India's purchase of Russian crude oil. According to senior officials, the agreement

is structured in multiple stages. The initial package focuses on reciprocal tariffs and has advanced to a stage where both sides anticipate closure soon. The official noted that resolving the 25 per cent penalty on Indian goods is essential for the pact to deliver meaningful results, adding that an announcement will be made once both governments settle on a suitable date. India and the US have held six rounds of discussions so far, with both countries aiming to conclude the first phase by the fall of 2025.



India and Russia Reaffirm Strong Partnership Ahead of Upcoming Summit

■ Jaishankar highlights longstanding stability and ongoing cooperation between the two nations

New Delhi: India and Russia underscored the steady strength of their relationship as External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Moscow. The meeting took place ahead of President Vladimir Putin's scheduled visit to India for the 23rd Annual Summit, with both sides reviewing progress on several ongoing initiatives. Jaishankar noted that regular engagements between the two countries have played a significant role in advancing cooperation. He highlighted that multiple agreements

and collaborative projects are currently under discussion across diverse sectors, adding that their finalisation would further deepen the strategic partnership.

He emphasised that the dialogue between India and Russia has always been marked by openness, allowing both nations to exchange views on key global and regional developments. The ongoing conflict in Ukraine, the situation in the Middle East, and evolving conditions in Afghanistan were among the critical topics expected to feature in their discussions.

Bihar Mandate Reinforces Demand for Development, Says PM Modi

■ Prime Minister highlights India's economic resilience and urges states to embrace healthy competition.

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi used the Sixth Ramnath Goenka Lecture in New Delhi to underscore the centrality of development in India's political landscape, drawing on the recent Bihar assembly election results as a key indicator of public expectations. He stated that the outcome reflected the growing aspirations of

citizens and their trust in parties that prioritise welfare and long-term growth. Addressing an audience gathered for the annual event honouring journalistic excellence, the Prime Minister said that both the central government and state administrations must work with a shared commitment to development. He encouraged states

to attract investment, improve business conditions and pursue constructive competition to accelerate progress. Reflecting on the Bihar mandate, he noted that the electorate had endorsed the politics of development, pointing to strong voter participation and a desire for stability. He stressed that effective governance is rooted

not in constant electoral calculations but in sustained emotional engagement with people's needs. According to him, the BJP's success stems from its focus on public welfare and its determination to deliver results consistently. The Prime Minister also highlighted India's economic resilience amid global volatility.



Amit Shah Vows Relentless Pursuit of Red Fort Blast Perpetrators

■ Home Minister assures uncompromising investigation as death toll rises to 15.

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah delivered a firm message during the 32nd meeting of the Northern Zonal Council in New Delhi, declaring that those responsible for the car explosion near the Red Fort would be pursued

without restraint and brought before the justice system. His remarks came as the death toll from the November 10 blast climbed to 15 following the passing of two more victims at LNJP Hospital. Shah said the government

remains unwavering in its commitment to eliminating terrorism and ensuring that acts of violence are met with the strongest possible legal action. He stressed that the investigation into the explosion will be exhaustive, supported

by a coordinated effort among multiple agencies working to identify and apprehend every individual involved. The Home Minister reaffirmed that no distance or obstacle would impede the search for the culprits.



Shubman Gill Likely To Miss Guwahati Test As Neck Injury Raises Concern

■ India Captain Under Constant Assessment After Being Advised Rest.

New Delhi: India's Test captain Shubman Gill is facing a race against time to be fit for the second Test in Guwahati, with his participation remaining highly uncertain due to a neck injury sustained during the first match in Kolkata. Gill will not travel with the squad on Wednesday, and medical assessments over the next two days will determine whether he can take the field in the upcoming fixture. The injury occurred on the second day at Eden Gardens, adding to the strain of an intense playing schedule over recent months. His workload had already raised questions, and the latest setback appears to have compounded the issue. Gill has been advised to rest for three days and avoid flying, with medical staff



closely monitoring his recovery. Team officials expect a clearer picture by Tuesday after further evaluation. India are scheduled to fly to Guwahati on Wednesday for the series decider beginning on November 22. The team will hold an optional training session ahead of departure, although Gill is unlikely to participate unless his condition shows significant improvement. The skipper's absence in the fourth innings of the first Test proved costly, leaving India one batter short during

their unsuccessful chase of 124. He had earlier retired hurt on four after facing just three balls and was later taken to the hospital for scans. Should Gill be ruled out, India are considering B Sai Sudharsan and Devdutt Padikkal as potential replacements. Sudharsan has shown promising form, including a strong 87 against the West Indies in Delhi, though his recent India A outings against South Africa A produced modest returns. Padikkal also remains in contention as the team weighs its options ahead of the must-win contest. With the final Test approaching, India's preparation now hinges on the captain's recovery, making the next 48 hours crucial to determining the team's balance and strategy for the series finale.

India's Narrow Path To World Test Championship Final

■ Gill-Led Side Needs Near-Perfect Run To Stay In The Race After Kolkata Defeat.

New Delhi: India's chances of reaching the World Test Championship Final have tightened considerably after their recent loss in Kolkata. With three defeats and a draw already in the 2025–2027 cycle, the team has secured only four wins from eight matches, placing them fourth with a points percentage of 54.17, which is well below the typical qualification range. Previous editions show that teams generally need a percentage between 64 and 68 to enter the final, leaving India with little margin for error in

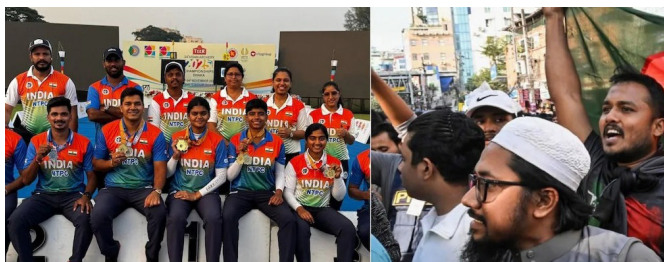


their remaining fixtures. They are scheduled to play South Africa at home in Guwahati, followed by two Tests in Sri Lanka, two more in New Zealand, and a five-match home series against Australia. Winning all 10 would give India a significant points boost, but even a slight dip in performance could be costly. If they win five of the 10 matches, their points percentage would drop to 51.85.

Indian Archers Face Ordeal in Dhaka After Flight Cancellation Amid City Unrest

■ National Squad Forced Into Overnight Stay at Substandard Facility With No Airline Support.

New Delhi: Indian archers returning from the Asian Championships in Dhaka faced a harrowing 24 hours after their flight to Delhi was abruptly cancelled, leaving eleven members of the contingent, including two minors, stranded in the violence-hit capital without security or adequate accommodation. The team, which included senior archers Abhishek Verma, Jyoti Surekha and Olympian Dhiraj Bommadevara, arrived at Dhaka airport on Saturday evening for a scheduled 9.30 pm departure. After boarding, they were informed that the aircraft



had developed a technical problem, forcing everyone to deboard. With no clarity on the situation and the city tense due to ongoing unrest linked to a high-profile court verdict, the athletes waited inside the terminal until 2 am. When the airline eventually announced the cancellation, passengers were told that no alternate flight would be arranged that

night. Matters worsened once the team stepped outside the airport. They were transported in a windowless local bus to a temporary shelter nearly 30 minutes away. The facility, described by the archers as cramped and poorly maintained, offered limited space, six beds in a single room for the women, and only one unhygienic toilet for the group.

Goa Positions Sports Tourism as a Key Growth Engine Amid FIDE World Cup 2025

■ Major International Events Strengthen State's Hospitality Sector and Boost Visitor Footfall.

PANAJI: Goa's growing reputation as a premier host for global sporting events is accelerating its shift toward sports-driven tourism. Officials highlighted that the ongoing FIDE World Cup 2025 has further reinforced the state's potential to attract high-value visitors while nurturing a vibrant sports culture. The international chess tournament, underway in North Goa since October 30 and scheduled to conclude on November 27, has added to a strong lineup of major events the state has hosted in recent years. These include the IRONMAN 70.3 race, the



2023 National Games, and the Volleyball World Beach Pro Tour Goa Challenge. The Indian Super League also brings annual football fixtures to Fatorda's Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, drawing large domestic and international audiences. Leaders noted that such events contribute meaningfully to the tourism sector while inspiring young athletes and strengthening local sports ecosystems. Enhanced infrastructure

and improved hospitality services have made Goa an increasingly attractive destination for organisers seeking world-class venues and seamless logistics. Tourism stakeholders view these events as crucial to diversifying Goa's appeal beyond its beaches. With eco and heritage tourism already gaining traction, sports tourism is now emerging as an important pillar for expanding visitor engagement.

Sonics Clinch State Women's Basketball Title With Dominant Win Over Jades

■ Balanced scoring and strong defence power champions to a decisive 39–21 victory.

New Delhi: Sonics delivered a confident and disciplined performance to claim the Women's title at the State Senior Basketball Championships, overcoming Jades 39–21 in a lively final at Don Bosco Oratory, Panjim. The tournament was co-sponsored by Priority Constructions and

organised by Lourdes Basketball Club in association with the Goa Basketball Association and the Sports Authority of Goa. Sonics controlled the contest through consistent execution, taking the lead early and widening the gap with each quarter. The scoreline progressed 8–3, 9–9, 14–7 and 8–2 in their



favour. The champions leaned on their seasoned core throughout the matchup. Fleur Vaz and Keiya Fernandes led the scoring with 13 points each, showcasing sharp

drives and confident mid range shooting. Kim D'Souza added 9 points while providing vital composure and defensive intensity, earning her the Finals MVP honour.

Rochelle Fernandes also made her presence felt with relentless movement and pressure, ensuring Sonics held control whenever Jades attempted to shift the momentum. Jades fielded several accomplished Goan players and delivered a spirited display despite the final margin. Atika Suriya with

11 points and Amisha Lotlikar with 10 kept their side competitive through determined attacking play. Support from Sarah Hussain, Pratigya Gupta and Laxmi Kewat added energy at both ends of the floor. However, Sonics' experience and execution proved decisive as they surged ahead in the second half.