



Goa on Edge as Series of Dacoities Trigger Public Fear

■ Key Accused Still Untraced.

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Goa has witnessed three major dacoities in the past six months, including Tuesday's violent incident in Baina, leaving residents anxious and police forces stretched. While investigators have managed to apprehend facilitators involved in two of the cases, the prime suspects—believed to be Bangladeshi nationals—continue to evade arrest. Police sources say the pattern of execution in all three crimes shows striking similarities. In the latest Baina case, a group of around seven masked assailants stormed a residence,



attacked the family particularly among elderly members, and fled with silver ornaments and cash. The bold intrusion has reignited fears among the public, especially as it mirrors previous violent break-ins. Residents say the rise in such crimes is deeply unsettling. Porvorim resident Audrey Pinto noted that the surge in dacoities has created widespread distress, said, "Senior citizens are highly vulnerable. Ensuring a fear-free environment is crucial for their mental well-being," she adding that stronger surveillance and policing could act as a deterrent. One of the earlier cases dates back to April, when an elderly couple from the prominent



Dempo family endured a harrowing ordeal. Three armed intruders, wielding daggers, forced their way into the Dona Paula residence, assaulted the security guard, and held 77-year-old Jaiprakash Dempo and his 71-year-old wife, Padmini, captive by tying them to their bed. The robbers ransacked the home for nearly four hours before escaping. The recurring nature of these attacks has intensified pressure on law enforcement agencies to track down the masterminds and restore a sense of security across the state. Further investigation is underway to determine possible links between the incidents.



Massive Pre-Dawn Fire Engulfs Scrapyards in Birla, Zuarinagar

Team Goemkarponn

ZUARINAGAR: A massive pre-dawn blaze tore through multiple scrapyards in the Birla area near Zuarinagar, Sancoale, early Wednesday morning, sending dense clouds of smoke billowing across the locality and severely reducing visibility. The fire was reported at around 4:47 am, prompting an immediate response from the Margao Fire Station, which dispatched reinforcement teams to

assist Vasco Fire Station personnel already engaged in firefighting operations. Firefighters from the Directorate of Fire & Emergency Services (DFES), Goa, worked for hours to control the fast-spreading flames, made more intense by the presence of highly combustible scrap material. Their timely and coordinated efforts prevented the fire from spreading to nearby industrial units, averting a potentially larger disaster.

Shripad Naik warns criminals are growing stronger; CM assures strict action after Mormugao–Baina attack

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Amid growing concerns over a spate of dacoities in the state, Union Minister Shripad Naik has stressed the need for a new and more effective strategy to curb serious crimes in Goa. Naik warned that criminals appear to be "growing stronger" and urged both the Chief Minister and



the police machinery to adopt strong preventive measures to restore public confidence. He also appealed to citizens to remain vigilant. Reacting specifically to the Mormugao–Baina dacoity, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said the government is taking

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HC Disposes Plea in 2022 Conversion FIR Case After Crime Branch Files Closure Report

Team Goemkarponn

The High Court has disposed of a petition filed by Joa n Mascarenhas E D'Souza, wife of Pastor Dominic D'Souza, who had sought to quash a 2022 FIR registered by the Crime Branch over alleged illegal religious conversion activities. The court noted that the Crime Branch has already filed an



A-Summary closure report in the case, citing lack of evidence to substantiate the allegations. In view of this submission, the

High Court closed the petition, bringing an end to the proceedings. The FIR, registered two years ago, had accused Pastor D'Souza of involvement in unlawful conversion practices, a charge the family had consistently denied. With the closure report now on record, the case effectively stands terminated unless challenged by any party.

SC Says Children Facing Severe Risk Amid Toxic Delhi Air

■ Court Urges Schools To Delay Sports Events Amid Hazardous Pollution.

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has urged authorities to reconsider school sports events across the Delhi NCR region as air quality continues to remain in the severe category. The bench has expressed strong concern over children being asked to participate in outdoor



activities during a period of toxic pollution. CONTD TO PAGE 06...

Umar Mohammad Assembled Bomb Inside Car at Red Fort Parking, Investigation Finds

■ Three Hours Inside Vehicle Helped Accused Prepare Device Before Deadly Blast.

New Delhi: Investigators probing the Delhi car blast near the Red Fort have uncovered a crucial detail about the movements of prime accused Umar Mohammad, also known as Umar un Nabi. The probe reveals that he assembled the explosive device while sitting inside



his vehicle at a public parking area close to the



monument. A key part of the investigation involved

retracing his activities in the hours leading up to the explosion. CCTV footage showed Umar entering the Sunehri Masjid parking lot at 3.19 pm and exiting at 6.28 pm. The blast took place around 6.52 pm. Officials noted that during the entire three-hour

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What happens to the youth who are looking for jobs?

The Goa government's move to extend the retirement age to sixty two for Chief Engineers and senior officers in critical technical departments is more than a rule change. It touches the deeper issue of how a small state manages expertise, continuity and opportunity. The amendment is not unconditional. It applies only when there is no eligible officer ready for promotion, and once someone qualifies, the senior officer over sixty must retire immediately. On paper, this creates a balance between experience and upward mobility.

The reasoning behind the amendment is straightforward. Departments such as PWD, Water Resources, Drinking Water Supply and Electricity handle projects that span years. They depend heavily on institutional memory and technical judgment. When a senior officer retires halfway through a complex project, it can set work back by months. Goa's tight pool of specialised engineers makes these transitions harder. The extension therefore offers a safeguard against abrupt leadership gaps that could freeze essential public infrastructure.

But this continuity has a cost if it is not handled carefully. Government systems thrive on renewal. Promotions bring fresh ideas. They test the readiness of the next line and prevent departments from slipping into predictable habits. The amendment tries to preserve this by ensuring that an extension ends the moment an eligible successor appears. The intent is fair, but the execution will determine its fate. And that brings us to the question many young Goans are already asking: what happens to the youth who are looking for jobs? This concern cannot be brushed aside. When senior posts remain occupied longer, movement throughout the hierarchy slows. Promotions are delayed. Vacancies take longer to open. Recruitment at the entry level where young engineers are waiting becomes unpredictable. Even if youth

And that brings us to the question many young Goans are already asking: what happens to the youth who are looking for jobs? This concern cannot be brushed aside. When senior posts remain occupied longer, movement throughout the hierarchy slows. Promotions are delayed. Vacancies take longer to open. Recruitment at the entry level where young engineers are waiting becomes unpredictable. Even if youth are not directly competing for the top posts, they are affected by the chain reaction caused by slower turnover at the top. The problem does not lie in the amendment itself. It lies in the government's ability to ensure timely promotions and prevent procedural delays from artificially extending senior officers' tenure.

are not directly competing for the top posts, they are affected by the chain reaction caused by slower turnover at the top.

The problem does not lie in the amendment itself. It lies in the government's ability to ensure timely promotions and prevent procedural delays from artificially extending senior officers' tenure. If files stagnate, or if departments fail to prepare successors in

time, young job seekers bear the brunt. For a generation already dealing with limited opportunities in the public sector, even slight delays deepen frustration.

This is precisely why the state must treat succession planning as seriously as infrastructure planning. Training programs, exposure to major projects and regular assessments must be part of the system well before an officer reaches retirement age. If younger engineers are not groomed early, extensions become a crutch. If the government wants to protect youth aspirations, it must maintain a steady hiring cycle and avoid using extensions as a substitute for proper workforce planning.

There is also the question of performance. Extending service can only be justified if senior officers continue to deliver. Technical departments today rely on modern tools, digital workflows and evolving design standards. Experience matters, but experience must adapt. A higher retirement age should not become a shelter for inertia. The state must insist that officers who stay beyond sixty bring active, updated leadership, not merely seniority.

Still, it would be unfair to label the change either wholly harmful or unquestionably beneficial. It has the potential to support Goa through periods when expertise is scarce and projects cannot afford disruption. At the same time, it can disadvantage younger engineers if misused or left unregulated. The balance the rule promises must be protected through strict oversight, transparent promotions and consistent opportunities for new entrants.

This amendment will become a boon only if it strengthens Goa's technical leadership while keeping doors open for youth who are waiting to enter the system. It becomes a bane if it strengthens the top but weakens everyone below it. Goa needs both seasoned engineers and rising talent. The rule recognises this balance. Now the system must live up to it.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Goa's ZP Poll Postponement Raises Serious Concerns

The reported postponement of the Goa Zilla Panchayat elections to December 20 is more than a routine administrative adjustment. It raises serious questions about transparency and respect for democratic processes. When elections are shifted without clear, convincing reasons, citizens are left guessing whether the delay is driven by genuine logistical needs or by political convenience.

The ongoing revision of electoral rolls is being cited informally as a factor, yet there is no public explanation of how the overlap between the revision and the polls suddenly became unmanageable. If the administration knew that both processes would clash, why was the election schedule announced in the first place? And if the clash was foreseeable, why were voters not informed earlier? Such opacity weakens public confidence.

This is not the first time the State Election Commission has faced criticism for appearing too closely aligned with the government. Each unexplained postponement chips away at the independence a poll body must uphold. Local self-governance is meaningful only when elections are timely, predictable and insulated from pressure.

Goans deserve better. The SEC must urgently clarify the reasons for this delay and outline the steps it will take to ensure that future elections are not handled in such an ad-hoc manner. A democracy is strengthened by transparency, not secrecy, and certainly not by shifting election dates without accountability.

-A Concerned Citizen

Cannot Afford to Ignore Rising Home Invasions

The armed robbery reported in Mapusa, where intruders broke into a family home at night, tied up the residents and fled with cash and jewellery, has shaken public confidence in Goa's safety. What is most disturbing is the ease and boldness with which the criminals operated. They entered a residential locality, immobilised an entire family and left without any fear of being intercepted. Such an incident is not just a crime; it is a warning that our sense of security is slipping.

For years, Goa has enjoyed a reputation as a peaceful state. But incidents like this show how quickly that comfort can erode when crime syndicates find gaps in policing. A family being assaulted inside their own home is every citizen's worst fear. When criminals act with such confidence, it raises questions about night patrolling, community vigilance and the ability of law enforcement to anticipate organised crime.

The response cannot be limited to tracing the culprits after the fact. The state needs visible and effective preventive measures. Night patrols must be strengthened. Residential areas need better surveillance support. Police units must be equipped and encouraged to investigate organised groups rather than simply reacting to individual incidents.

Most importantly, citizens must feel protected, not helpless. A single home invasion may seem like an isolated case, but it reflects a troubling pattern of rising boldness among criminals. Goa cannot allow this to become the new normal. It is time for the authorities to act decisively and restore the security every Goan deserves.

-Dhiraj Narvekar, Vasco

Alert neighbour and brave 15-year-old daughter raise alarm, help save Baina family during armed dacoity

Team Goemkarponn

BAINA: An alert resident from a neighbouring building and the remarkable courage of 15-year-old Nakshatra Nayak proved crucial in saving the lives of the Nayak family, who were violently attacked and left tied up and bleeding during a dacoity in their sixth-floor flat at Baina. According to information, Sagar Nayak, his wife Harsha and their daughter Nakshatra were tied up in the balcony with cloth in their mouth, even as a group of dacoits took complete control of the flat, ransacking cupboards and breaking open lockers. The attackers allegedly locked the flat from



outside before fleeing, leaving the injured family helpless and unable to escape. Sagar, a sports athlete known for his fitness and resilience, is believed to have put up a strong fight despite his heart condition and a severe head injury. Bleeding heavily, he still managed to remove the cloth stuffed into his mouth and scream for help from the balcony.

It was these cries that reached a resident from the adjoining building, both structures sharing a common dead wall. The neighbour, who had been asleep, stepped out onto his balcony and was shocked to see the family bound and pleading for help. "I trembled at the sight of the family tied up in the balcony screaming for help. Sagar told me to immediately call an ambulance and the police since he feared he would die. I had never imagined such a situation in my wildest dreams. I immediately called a police friend posted at Vasco police station," the neighbour said, requesting anonymity. He added that the police reacted instantly.



Goa Govt Raises Retirement Age to 62 for Senior Engineers in Key Departments

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa government has officially amended the Goa State Civil Services (Retirement) Rules, 2000, increasing the retirement age to 62 years for officials holding the post of Chief Engineer and above in four major departments: Public Works Department (PWD),

Drinking Water, Water Resources, and Electricity. The change, notified on November 13, 2025, comes through the Goa State Civil Services (Retirement) (Sixth Amendment) Rules, 2025. According to the notification, officials in these departments will retire at 62 only if no eligible candidate is available for promotion.

Writer Rejects Award, Questions Transparency in Kala Academy Contest

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: Konkani writer Yugank Naik has refused to accept the second prize awarded to him by the Goa Kala Academy in the 50th Konkani Rajya Natya Saptah drama writing competition, alleging that the evaluation process lacked fairness and transparency. According to the official results of the Drama Writing – Special Competition for New Scripts, the Academy did not declare a first prize this year. The second prize of ₹7,000 was awarded to Naik for his script Desh Raag. In a detailed letter to the Academy's President and Secretary, Naik said he was rejecting the award on principle. He questioned the credibility of the judging process, claiming the standards



fell short of what the Academy is known for. He also pointed to claims that another winning script had been written in just two days, saying this raised concerns about the seriousness of the evaluation. Naik stated that such decisions disrespect writers and undermine the importance of a disciplined writing and review system. He said the Academy should have shared translated scripts, judges' comments and clear reasoning before announcing the final results, which would have ensured transparency and maintained trust in the competition.

Goa Reviews Climate, Salt Pan & Wetland Conservation Roadmap; CM Calls for Strong Inter-Departmental Coordination

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Tuesday chaired three key high-level meetings at Mantralaya, Porvorim — the State Governing Council for Climate Change, the Special Task Committee on Salt Pans, and the Goa State Wetland Authority (GSWA) taking stock of Goa's environmental resilience roadmap and heritage conservation initiatives. In the 1st meeting of the State Governing Council for Climate Change, the CM reviewed Goa's comprehensive climate-resilience framework, including mitigation measures and sustainable development goals. The operationalisation of the State Action Plan



for Climate Change and approval of the Climate & Disaster Resilient Green Goa Project were among the major highlights. "We emphasised strong coordination across departments and active community participation to protect our environment and secure a greener, climate-resilient future for Goa," said Chief Minister Pramod Sawant. Sawant also chaired the 1st meeting of the Special Task Committee on Salt Pans, where the government launched the "Salt House Conservation

Assistance and Revitalization Scheme" a dedicated scheme for salt pan conservation, support and revival.

The scheme aims to restore traditional salt farming, extend financial assistance to salt pan owners, and preserve Goa's cultural and agricultural heritage. Appealing for public participation, the Chief Minister said, "This initiative will give a new lease of life to Goa's traditional salt industry. I appeal to all stakeholders to support our salt pan

farmers and help keep this heritage alive." During the 19th meeting of the Goa State Wetland Authority, major decisions were taken on strengthening the conservation of existing wetlands, identifying new wetlands for protection, and ensuring sustainable utilisation of mining pits. "We are committed to protecting Goa's wetlands and ensuring sustainable ecological management for future generations," Sawant said, reiterating the government's focus on environment-centric governance.

Hindu Rashtra Coordination Committee Seeks Ban on SIO Activities in Goa Educational Institutions

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Hindu Rashtra Coordination Committee on Tuesday submitted a memorandum to the Directorate of Education and the Directorate of Higher Education urging the Goa government to impose an immediate ban on the activities of the Students Islamic Organisation of

India (SIO) in educational institutions across the state. The memorandum was handed over to Director of Education Shailesh Zingade and Director of Higher Education Bhushan Sawaiker. The delegation included Jayesh Thali of the Gomantak Mandir Mahasangh, Sujana Naik and Vinod Warkhandkar of Goa Hindu Yuva Shakti,



Ramdas Savaiverekar of Bharat Mata Ki Jai, Devidas Govker of the Hindu Janajagruiti Samiti, and Satyavijay Naik of the Hindu Rashtra Samnway Samiti. In

the memorandum, the committee claimed that although the Central Government has banned Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, SIO described by them as its student wing continues

to approach educational institutions in Goa to conduct sessions on topics such as "student challenges," "ethical values," and "responsible citizenship." The committee further alleged that national investigations have linked SIO to the Turkish Youth Federation (TUGVA), describing this as a national security concern. The organisations

also referred to a February incident in which SIO had reportedly taken students from two schools Keshav Smruti School in Dabolim-Vasco and Baina Government High School to a mosque for a workshop without administrative permission. The matter surfaced after parents raised objections, following which the institutions took action.

Four booked for assaulting family, injuring pet dog and outraging woman's modesty in Anjuna

Team Goemkarponn

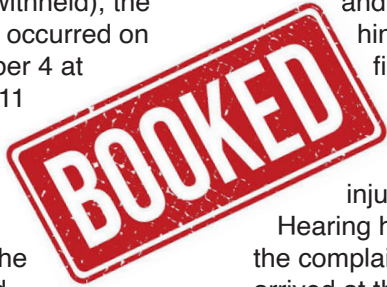
ANJUNA: Police have registered a serious case against four persons from Gaumvaddi, Anjuna, for allegedly assaulting a family, injuring their pet dog, and outraging the modesty of a woman during a violent confrontation earlier this month. Anjuna Police registered the case on November 18 at 11:23 am under Crime No. 150/2025, invoking multiple sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 115(2), 118(1), 352, 74, 75 read with 3(5) along with Section 8(2) of the Goa Children's Act, 2003 and Section 11(1)

(a) of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. According to the complaint filed by a Gaumvaddi resident (name withheld), the incident occurred on November 4 at around 11 am near House No. 1809. The accused — Sajjan Mandrekar, Gauresh alias Ganesh Mandrekar, Sudesh alias Sudu Mandrekar, and Surangi Mandrekar — all residents of Gaumvaddi, allegedly attacked the complainant's pet dog using stones, sticks

and an iron rod, injuring its hind leg. When the complainant questioned them, the four accused allegedly turned violent and assaulted him with kicks, fist blows and bamboo sticks, causing simple injuries.

Hearing his cries, the complainant's wife arrived at the spot with their 3½-year-old son. Police said accused Sajjan Mandrekar allegedly pushed the woman and touched her inappropriately, outraging her modesty in public and causing her to fall and sustain

injuries on her elbow and foot. The accused then allegedly assaulted the complainant, his wife and their minor son with kicks, slaps, fist blows and a bamboo stick. The complainant's wristwatch was also damaged in the scuffle. The complainant further stated that the accused abused him and his wife in filthy language and that three of them Sajjan, Gauresh and Sudesh threatened to rape his wife and made sexually coloured remarks, amounting to sexual harassment. The case is being investigated by PSI Navneet Goltekar of Anjuna Police Station.



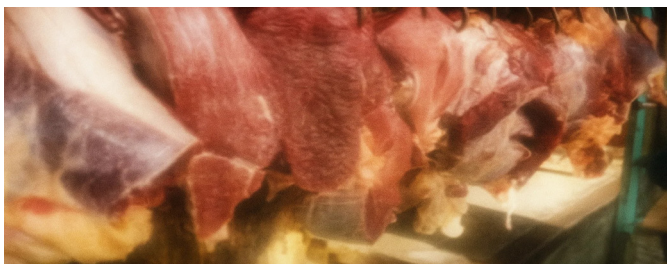
Man held for illegal gambling near Vagator restaurant

Team Goemkarponn

ANJUNA: Police registered a gambling case on Monday evening after a man was allegedly caught accepting money bets from the public near the Great Mango Tree restaurant at Vagator. According to Anjuna Police, the offence was registered on November 17 at 8:25 pm under Cr No. 149/2025 for an offence under Section 11(2)(a) of the Goa, Daman and Diu Public Gambling Act. HC Rajan Laximan Patil, who filed the state complaint, stated that between 5:30 pm and 7:30 pm, the accused — Sofik Ikbal, 34, a native of Dhubri, Assam, presently residing



at Zorwado, Anjuna — was caught red-handed while conducting gambling activities in an open public place. Police said they seized ₹52,000 in cash along with other gambling articles from his possession. The accused was arrested at 8:25 pm and later released on the same night at 9:25 pm. Further investigation is being carried out by HC Rajan Patil of Anjuna Police Station.



Shop owner booked for illegal cow slaughter at Navelim beef outlet

Team Goemkarponn

MARGAO: A shop owner from Chandor has been booked for alleged illegal slaughter after officials discovered a freshly cut head, suspected to be of a cow, at his meat shop in Navelim. The offence was registered based on a complaint filed by Raj Pratik, DSCPA Officer attached to the Office of the Collector (South). According to the complaint, on November 17, 2025, the accused —

Yakub Bepari, a resident of Culsabhat, Chandor had allegedly slaughtered the animal illegally and kept the freshly cut head at his outlet, Bismillah Beef Centre, located at Mandopa, Navelim. Police said the act amounted to an offence under relevant provisions of law. Bepari was placed under arrest and later released on bail. Further investigation is being conducted by LPSI Aanushka Parab of Margao Town Police Station.

Rash driving case registered after car crosses divider, collides on NH-66

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: Mapusa Police have registered an offence against a woman driver after a head-on collision on NH-66 left one person injured and a vehicle extensively damaged. The incident took place on November 10 at around 5:30 pm near the Tar Bridge at Bastora. According to the complaint filed by Pritesh Vasant Naik, 42, of Sal, Bicholim, the accused driver, Pooja Amey Wadkar of Mala, Panaji, was proceeding towards Guirim in her car (GA-07-K-9164) when she allegedly drove in a rash and negligent manner. Police said the vehicle jumped the NH-66 divider and entered the opposite



one-way lane leading from Guirim towards Karaswada, where it collided with Naik's car (GA-04-E-8017). Naik suffered injuries in the crash, while his vehicle was completely damaged. The accused also sustained injuries. Based on the complaint, Mapusa Police registered Cr No. 142/2025 under Sections 281, 125, 125(a), and 324(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023. Investigating Officer HC Vijay Gadekar has issued a notice under Section 35(3) of BNSS to the accused.

Temple burglary in Khandepar; theft of donation box cash reported

Team Goemkarponn

PONDA: Unknown miscreants broke into the Shree Bhavani Siddhapurush Prassanna Temple at Par, Khandepar, in the early hours of Tuesday and decamped with cash from the donation box. The offence was registered at Ponda Police Station under Cr No. 171/2025 for offences under Sections 305 and 331(4) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, based on a complaint filed by Prasad Satchit Parkar, treasurer of the temple and a resident of Dhavali, Ponda. Parkar reported that the break-in occurred around 12:40 am on November 18. Police said the unidentified culprits



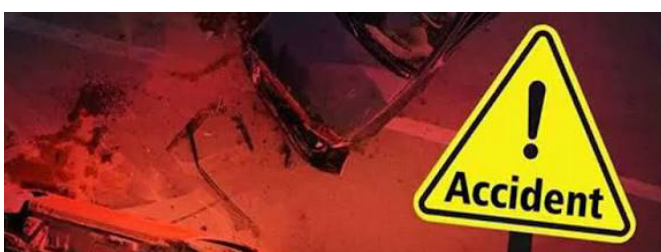
gained entry by damaging and removing the metallic window grill of the temple. They then broke open three locks of the donation box and allegedly stole between ₹12,000 and ₹13,000 in cash. The intruders also forced open a metallic cupboard kept inside the temple. Further investigation is being carried out by PSI Sushant Gaonkar of Ponda Police Station.

Teenager dies after two-car collision on NH-66 at Porvorim; driver booked

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: A late-night accident on NH-66 claimed the life of an 18-year-old woman after a Toyota Innova Crysta collided with a Maruti Ertiga near the Holy Family Church junction early Monday. Porvorim

Police registered the offence on November 17 at 4:48 pm based on a state complaint filed by HC Vivekanand Divkar. According to the complaint, the accident occurred at around 2:20 am when the accused driver, Malik Rihan Khatib, 22, of Betim,



was allegedly driving his Innova Crysta (GA-07-F-8410) in a rash and

negligent manner while travelling from Mapusa towards Porvorim. Police

said that on reaching the junction opposite Holy Family Church, in front of Saraswat Bank, the Innova crashed into a Maruti Ertiga (GA-03-AH-5117) that was crossing the road towards an internal lane. Passengers in the Ertiga sustained injuries.

One of the occupants, Ms. Lavanya Joon, 18, a resident of Burari, North Delhi, suffered grievous injuries and later succumbed while undergoing treatment. An offence has been registered against the driver under relevant sections of law.

CM reviews progress of GoVAN project, calls for stronger last-mile delivery

Team Goemkarponn

PORVORIM: Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant on Tuesday chaired the 4th meeting of the Central Project Steering and Management Committee (CPSMC) of the GoVAN Project at Mantralaya, Porvorim, to review the project's progress, ongoing initiatives and the roadmap ahead. During the meeting, teams from FIDR and GoVAN presented updates on key interventions focused on improving community nutrition, strengthening grassroots development and enhancing welfare



outcomes for vulnerable groups. Chief Minister Sawant emphasised the government's commitment to ensuring that the benefits of welfare schemes reach every eligible household. "The Government of Goa is fully committed to strengthening last-mile service delivery. The GoVAN project is an important

step toward ensuring that nutrition, development programmes and welfare services reach beneficiaries in a timely and impactful manner," the Chief Minister said. He called upon all departments involved to work in close coordination to accelerate implementation and deliver measurable improvements on the ground. Sawant added that ongoing monitoring and community participation are essential for the success of the project, and assured that the government will continue to support initiatives that improve quality of life across Goa.



Road repair works resume in Aldona constituency after monsoon break

Team Goemkarponn

ALDONA: Road repair works have resumed in the Aldona constituency after being stalled for several months due to continuous rains. Aldona MLA Adv. Carlos Alvares Ferreira on Tuesday said that the first stretch to be taken up is Shetye Waddo, where hotmixing work had been left incomplete before the monsoon. "We have commenced work in Shetye Waddo, which is a continuation of the hotmixing of dug-up roads. I had instructed officials to start work here on priority. I had inaugurated it earlier, but the rains halted the work. People suffered, endured the bad roads, and I insisted to the engineer that if the work wasn't taken up, we

would go to court. Once the rains stopped, I was assured that work would begin. I inspected it this morning," Ferreira said. He added that two other badly damaged stretches will also be prioritised before other pending works across the constituency. "The second stretch at Bil One, commonly known as Bilo, where the road had completely deteriorated due to water flow along the slope, will now be repaired. Then there is Paliem, Uskoi, where people faced severe hardship. I received constant messages seeking repairs, but nothing could be done during the rains. These stretches will be completed on priority, followed by other pending road works across Aldona," Ferreira said.

Marathi Rajbhasha Panel Submits Memorandum to Gokarn Partagal Math

Team Goemkarponn

CANACONA: The Marathi Rajbhasha Nirdhar Samiti on Tuesday called on Mathadish Shrimad Vidyadish Teerth Swamiji of the Gokarn Partagal Math, submitting a memorandum seeking due recognition for Marathi as an official language of Goa alongside Konkani. The delegation included State Convenor Principal

Subhash Velingkar, guide Go. Ra. Dhavalikar, Central Advisory Board member Divakar Shinkre, Umesh Prabhudesai Boruskar, Abhay and Vasudev Khanvate, and Satish Vyankatray Bhat. During the 45-minute interaction, Swamiji held an in-depth discussion with the group on the status of the Goa Official Language Act and the obstacles that have

prevented successive governments from granting Marathi official language status. He also examined practices in other states that recognise multiple official languages and spoke about Goa's linguistic heritage and the need to safeguard cultural roots to prevent moral and social decline. The meeting was marked by an open and positive



exchange of ideas. Swamiji assured the delegation that the Gokarn Math would continue to support initiatives aimed at preserving cultural identity. He said that appropriate steps would be taken to help ensure that Marathi, one of the region's mother tongues, receives fair recognition, and extended his blessings to the group.

Inspection reveals urgent need for upgrades at Mapusa District Hospital

Team Goemkarponn

MAPUSA: A joint inspection led by GSIDC Chairman Michael Lobo and Mapusa MLA Joshua D'Souza on Tuesday highlighted several critical infrastructure gaps at the District Hospital, Mapusa — particularly the long-pending issues affecting the mortuary. Lobo said he had recently held detailed discussions with Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant and Health Minister Vishwajit Rane regarding the urgent need to upgrade



the morgue, which serves the entire North Goa belt. "A go-ahead has now been given. As Chairman of GSIDC, I will ensure the morgue is fully renovated and re-structured, with a mechanism to upgrade the facility every 7-8 years,"

he said. The inspection revealed that the existing 12-compartment mortuary, built 14 years ago, has only eight functioning chambers. Plans are now being drawn up to install a new 20-compartment mortuary to meet the increasing demand.

AAP launches intensive door-to-door outreach across 14 ZP constituencies in Goa

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Aam Aadmi Party on Tuesday kickstarted a vigorous door-to-door campaign across all 14 Zilla Panchayat constituencies for which it announced candidates a day earlier. AAP candidates interacted with residents, heard local grievances and highlighted the party's vision for clean, service-driven governance. Residents across constituencies reportedly appreciated AAP's free health camps conducted statewide, while also voicing frustration over



what they described as corruption, instability and rising "Gundaraj" under the BJP government. Joseph Pimenta (Benaulim) said the party's strong grassroots presence in the constituency has generated confidence. "MLA Venzy and I have been among the people since we got elected. I am confident they will elect me again

with a higher margin," he said. Suvarna Harmalkar (Morjim) said people in her area are tired of corruption. "They appreciate AAP's health camps and honest politics. They want leaders who work for families, not contractors and criminals," she said. Umesh Kauthankar (Sirsai) said people are fed up with broken promises.

Gill Visits Goa Pavilion at IITF 2025, Lauds State's Innovative Showcase

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The Goa Pavilion at the India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2025 received a notable visit from Commissioner-Secretary (I&P) Shri Sarpreet Singh Gill, IAS,

who praised the State's creative presentation and execution excellence. Shri Gill took a keen interest in the exhibits and interacted with officials, artisans, artists, and entrepreneurs representing Goa on the national stage. He was



welcomed by Information Officer Shri Allwyn Xavier Pereira and Assistant Information Officer Shri Govind Gaonkar, along with a traditional Goan reception featuring Dhol and Tasha. Shri Gill commended the pavilion's

thematic design and immersive experience, highlighting how effectively it showcased Goa's progress in tourism, industries, rural development, handicrafts, culture, and emerging sectors.

NFDC and ESG Partner With PictureTime for Landmark IFFI; SRK Classics, 12th Fail and Manjummel Boys to Premiere in Inflatable Theatres

■ Shah Rukh Khan Classics and Contemporary Hits to Premiere in a Unique Cinema Format.

PANAJI: The upcoming edition of the International Film Festival of India is set to introduce a new cinematic experience as NFDC and ESG join hands with PictureTime Digiplex to install fully equipped inflatable theatres across Goa. The initiative will debut at the 56th IFFI, scheduled from November 20 to 28, offering audiences an innovative way to enjoy some of Indian cinema's most celebrated films. A state-of-the-art inflatable cinema will be set up at the Kala Academy campus, one of the festival's central venues. PictureTime, known for taking mobile digital theatres to underserved regions, is bringing its technology to IFFI to screen a diverse line-up of films. The programming spans four sections that



include Inspirational Films, Indian Panorama Classics, Nostalgia, and Children's Cinema. For the first time, three beloved Shah Rukh Khan titles Chak De! India, Darr and Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge will be presented in this format. The schedule also features acclaimed films such as 12th Fail, Manjummel Boys, Srikanth, Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway, Uunchai, Salaam Bombay, Qissa and a selection of iconic classics including Shatranj Ke Khilari, Teesri Manzil,

Chandni and Kala Patthar. Daily screenings have been curated for school children as well, with films like Kaphal: Wild Berries, Gattu, Banarasi Jasoos, The Prince and the Crown of Stone and Naal 2 set to offer young audiences an engaging festival experience. Beyond the main venue, PictureTime will extend the festival's reach by organising open-air screenings at multiple locations in North and South Goa, allowing residents to access a



wider range of films. According to the company, this collaboration marks a significant step in making cinema more accessible. The inflatable theatre at Kala Academy is expected to draw over 1,000 visitors every day, while open-air venues are likely to attract several hundred viewers at each site. The initiative aims to offer an immersive and inclusive celebration of cinema, enhancing IFFI's standing as one of the world's leading film festivals.



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Goa Showcases Its Creative Tech Vision at Bengaluru Tech Summit 2025

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The 28th Bengaluru Tech Summit opened at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre, bringing together industry leaders, entrepreneurs and innovators for three days of technology-focused discussions and exhibitions. This year, Goa is making a strong presence through a dedicated pavilion designed to present

its growing ambition to become India's creative and innovation-driven hub. Set up in Hall 3, the pavilion showcases the state's expanding digital ecosystem, modern infrastructure and supportive business environment. Under the theme "Goa – India's Creative Capital," the exhibit highlights the state's progress in areas such as design, manufacturing, digital connectivity and



entrepreneurship. Key projects featured include the Goa AI Mission 2027, the Electronic Manufacturing Cluster in Tuem and the upgraded Goa Broadband Network integrated with

BharatNet. The Startup & IT Promotion Cell is also presenting the initiatives under the Startup Policy 2025, which currently supports hundreds of startups through funding, mentorship



and market access. Two Goa-based startups are participating with product demonstrations. Spintly is presenting its IoT-powered smart access solutions, while Genora is showcasing VoxIntel,

a platform offering data-driven tools for political outreach and analysis. For Goa, the summit offers opportunities to engage with global technology companies, attract investment and build new partnerships. It also provides a platform for local startups to connect with industry leaders and potential clients. The Goa Pavilion remains open to visitors throughout the summit, which concludes on November 20.

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Shripad Naik warns criminals are growing stronger; CM assures strict action after Mormugao-Baina attack

strict action to curb such incidents and assured that law enforcement agencies are working intensively to crack down on organised crime. The recent dacoity has heightened public concern, prompting renewed calls for improved policing, stronger surveillance, and swift action

against criminal networks. Further investigations into the incident are underway. The dacoity took place at Chamundi Arcade, a residential building in Baina, where a group of around seven armed assailants allegedly barged into a flat during the early hours.

SC Says Children Facing Severe Risk Amid Toxic Delhi Air

During a hearing on the ongoing air pollution matter, the bench comprising the Chief Justice of India BR Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran noted that several schools were preparing to hold annual sports meets in November and December, even as pollution levels hovered in dangerous

ranges. The court observed that the current conditions are unsafe for children and require immediate intervention. Concerns were brought to the court's attention that many schools were moving ahead with outdoor sporting events despite a sharp deterioration in air quality.

Umar Mohammad Assembled Bomb Inside Car at Red Fort Parking, Investigation Finds

window at the parking site, Umar did not step out of the car even once. Further analysis indicates that Umar was in contact with his handlers soon after arriving in Delhi that morning. Discussions are believed to have centered around selecting

the target location. His movements took him through Mayur Vihar and Connaught Place before he drove toward Old Delhi, eventually stopping at the parking area near the Red Fort.

Anmol Bishnoi, Wanted in Notorious Murder Probe, Brought Back to India From US

■ Revised rules under the Trump administration have significantly shortened detention periods and case timelines for illegal immigrants.

New Delhi: A senior intelligence assessment indicates that Anmol Bishnoi's return to India is directly linked to the sweeping immigration changes introduced under the current United States administration. The updated framework requires the immediate detention of individuals whose asylum or immigration applications are rejected at the first stage. This marks a significant break from the system previously in place, which allowed applicants to submit multiple petitions while remaining free during the review process. That earlier approach often resulted in long,



complicated legal cycles that delayed deportation proceedings by many years. Under the new policy, authorities are instructed to keep detainees in custody from the moment their initial claim is denied. Immigration courts have also been directed to fast-track such cases, dramatically reducing the overall timeline. Officials familiar with the matter noted that while deportation once stretched close to a

decade in many instances, the accelerated system now typically completes the process in roughly a year and a half. Anmol Bishnoi's case followed this revised pathway. He remained in detention for nearly 18 months, during which his case advanced through the expedited docket created under the updated rules. According to intelligence inputs, there were no special exemptions or separate procedures applied in his case. The same process is uniformly implemented for illegal immigrants from all countries, and officials emphasise that the policy is designed to prevent prolonged stays, repeated

filings, and administrative backlogs. The procedural shift represents one of the most significant changes to US immigration enforcement in recent years. The combination of mandatory detention and prioritised court handling has not only shortened the duration of legal proceedings but has also increased the pace at which deportation orders are executed. For many detainees, including Bishnoi, this has meant much swifter movement through the system compared to past administrations, whose policies often resulted in long delays before a final decision was reached.



Jaish's Digital Drive to Finance 'Fidayeen' Attack Triggers Security Concern

■ Sources highlight women-led involvement and renewed activity by Pakistan-backed groups.

New Delhi: Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed is reportedly preparing a suicide squad for a fresh attack on India and has begun collecting funds to support the operation, according to intelligence assessments. The group, which investigators have linked to the recent Red Fort car bomb blast, is believed to be using digital platforms to raise money and strengthen its active cells. Preliminary findings from the Red Fort blast investigation indicate that Jaish leaders encouraged supporters to contribute

using online payment apps, including a Pakistan-based platform called SadaPay. Security agencies also suspect the group may be planning a women-led attack, drawing on an existing women's wing established after Indian military action known as Operation Sindoor weakened its bases in Bahawalpur. One of the key suspects in the Red Fort case, Dr Shahina Saeed, allegedly known by the codename "Madam Surgeon," is believed to be part of this unit, identified as Jamat ul-Muminat.



"This Is Terrorism, Nothing Else": Owaisi Rebuts Umar's Suicide Bombing Justification

■ Community Voices Counter Radical Narrative After Video of Umar Surfaces.

New Delhi: Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi has strongly condemned the views expressed in a circulating video of Delhi blast accused Umar un Nabi, in which he attempts to portray suicide bombing as a form of martyrdom. Responding to the clip, Owaisi stressed that such interpretations have no basis in Islamic teachings and labelled the act as an unequivocal crime. In a post reacting to the video, Owaisi stated that suicide is forbidden in Islam and that harming innocent people is a serious violation of religious principles as

well as the law. He emphasised that attempts to justify such violence cannot be dismissed as misunderstanding, describing the act as terrorism without ambiguity. He also questioned the government over the emergence of the terror module connected to the blast and a recent large-scale explosives recovery, raising concerns about intelligence gaps. The undated video shows Umar, a doctor by profession, discussing suicide bombing as what he calls a "martyrdom operation".

Smoke From Punjab Does Not Reach Delhi, Says Chief Minister Mann

■ Punjab leader rejects stubble-burning allegations as Delhi continues to battle severe air pollution.

New Delhi: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has challenged claims linking his state to Delhi's deteriorating air quality, arguing that wind patterns do not support the movement of smoke from Punjab to the national capital. Addressing the issue amid rising pollution levels, he maintained that the sources of Delhi's pollution lie within the

city and its neighbouring states, not in Punjab's agricultural fields. Mann stated that Delhi's Air Quality Index had already reached the "very poor" range before paddy harvesting began in Punjab. He added that the state's rice is largely exported and is not a staple food for most residents, suggesting that assumptions about

Punjab's farming practices contributing heavily to pollution are misplaced. According to him, for smoke to travel from Punjab to Delhi in a short period, wind would need to blow consistently from the north toward the south at a high speed, which he said does not occur during this season. Delhi, meanwhile, woke up to dense smog on Tuesday, with average



pollution levels showing no improvement. The city recorded an AQI of 341 at 7 AM, firmly in the "very poor" category. Several areas reported even higher readings, including Dhaula Kuan at 365 and Anand Vihar at 381. Other parts such as Ghazipur and Akshardham also remained in the same category, reflecting widespread air quality distress.

"Anyone Who Upholds India's Heritage Is a Hindu, Says Bhagwat"

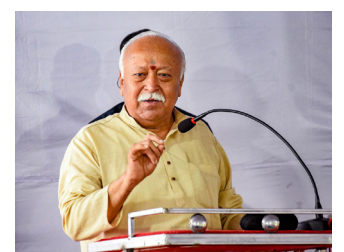
■ RSS chief stresses cultural belonging, unity and national responsibility during Assam interaction.

New Delhi: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat has reiterated that the idea of being Hindu is rooted in cultural and civilisational affinity rather than religious practice. Speaking in Guwahati during an interaction with intellectuals, scholars

and professionals as part of the organisation's centenary events, he said that anyone who respects India's heritage, follows its cultural ethos and takes pride in its ancestors can be considered Hindu, irrespective of their faith.

Bhagwat emphasised that the term should not be viewed as a religious boundary but as an inclusive identity shaped by thousands of years of shared cultural evolution. He noted that individuals from any community, including Muslims and

Christians, fall within this broad definition if they honour the nation and its traditions. He described this identity as capable of embracing diverse customs without demanding changes in personal worship or beliefs.



Sourav Ganguly's Straightforward Take On Whether Gautam Gambhir Should Be Removed As Test Coach

■ Former Captain Says India's Coach Should Not Be Judged On One Poor Home Outing.

New Delhi: Sourav Ganguly has dismissed suggestions that Gautam Gambhir should be removed as India's Test coach following the team's 30-run loss to South Africa in the opening match of the series. The defeat, played on a challenging Eden Gardens surface, has raised questions about pitch preparation, team decisions and India's recent home form. Ganguly, however, insisted that a single result should not define Gambhir's tenure. Reflecting on the controversy surrounding the pitch, Ganguly revealed that the surface was handled directly by the Board of Control for Cricket in India's curators days before the match. He clarified that once the BCCI team takes charge, decisions on pitch



preparation are made according to the requests of the Indian team management. He acknowledged that the pitch conditions were far from ideal and did not offer the quality expected for a high-profile Test. According to him, India's batting lineup, from the top order to the middle, deserved a more balanced surface. The former India captain added that spectators who filled

the stadium over three days also warranted a contest played on a better wicket. Eden Gardens curator Sujan Mukherjee supported this view, stating that the local ground staff followed instructions conveyed by the national team management. He reiterated that pitch preparation often depends on the preferences of the team, coach and captain, and that the home side received the kind of pitch it had requested. Despite the scrutiny falling on Gambhir after the narrow loss, Ganguly made it clear that there is no need for drastic decisions. He highlighted the strong performances India produced under Gambhir's coaching and Shubman Gill's leadership during the recent tour of England, where conditions were more favourable for batting.



India Falls Short In Close Contest Against Bangladesh In Asian Cup Qualifier

■ Second-Half Pressure Not Enough As Blue Tigers Miss Key Chances In Dhaka.

New Delhi: India endured a narrow defeat against Bangladesh in their AFC Asian Cup 2027 Qualifiers clash in Dhaka, despite dominating large spells of the match and creating several promising opportunities. The result leaves the Blue Tigers looking to finish their campaign strongly in their final group fixture. India began with intensity,

pressing high and controlling possession from the outset. Their early momentum was undone in the 11th minute when Bangladesh capitalized on a rare defensive slip and converted their first clear chance of the game, putting the hosts ahead against the run of play. The visitors reacted with urgency, pushing forward in search of an equalizer.

Shubman Gill Travels With Team As Recovery Progresses, BCCI Says Availability For Second Test Not Yet Confirmed

■ Decision On His Participation In Second Test To Be Taken Soon.

New Delhi: Shubman Gill will accompany the Indian team to Guwahati for the second Test against South Africa, with the final call on his availability expected in the coming days. The Board of Control for Cricket in India has provided an update on his condition, confirming that the Test captain is recovering well from the neck injury sustained during the opening match in Kolkata. Gill suffered the injury on the second day of the first Test and underwent



medical examinations after play. He was kept under observation and discharged the following day. According to the board, the opener has responded positively to treatment and will remain under continuous assessment by the medical team throughout

the lead-up to the next match. The injury forced Gill out of action for the remainder of the Kolkata Test. He faced only three deliveries in the first innings before returning to the dressing room and did not bat again. Ahead of the third day's play, the board confirmed that he would not take further part in the game, leaving India without their captain for the rest of the match. His absence proved costly as India struggled in the chase during the second innings.

Arundhati Choudhary Shines As Five Indian Boxers Reach World Boxing Cup Finals

■ Former Youth World Champion Leads India's Dominant Day With A Statement Victory.

New Delhi: India enjoyed a standout day at the World Boxing Cup as Arundhati Choudhary delivered a commanding performance to defeat Germany's Leonie Muller, a consistent medallist across all three stages of the 2025 competition. Competing at the Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Sports Complex, India's boxers produced a near-perfect session with five fighters securing their spots in the finals. Returning to international action after a one-and-a-half-year break, Arundhati showed no signs of



hesitation. The former Youth World Champion controlled the opening rounds with precision and intensity, knocking Muller down in the second round before flooring her again in the third. Her dominant display ensured a decisive win and marked a powerful comeback following wrist surgery that had sidelined

her since the Paris 2024 qualifiers. Minakshi kept India's momentum going with a flawless 5-0 triumph over Korea's Bak Chorong in the 48kg category. The reigning World Champion showcased sharp footwork, tight defence and clean striking to secure all three rounds with authority. In the men's division, Ankush Phangal delivered another impressive 5-0 victory, using relentless pressure to overpower Australia's Marlon Sevehon in the 80kg class.

Kasvankar's Record Knock Powers Goa to Big Innings Win Over Chhattisgarh

■ Goa Seal Commanding Innings Victory to Open Cooch Behar Trophy Campaign.

PANAJI: Goa launched their Cooch Behar Trophy Under-19 season with a dominant performance, defeating Chhattisgarh by an innings and 13 runs inside three days at the Bhilai Sector 10 BSP Ground. The team showcased complete control in all departments, setting the tone for a strong campaign ahead.



After bowling out Chhattisgarh for 170 in their first innings, Goa responded with an imposing total of 389 for 9 before declaring. Captain

Yash Kasvankar delivered one of the standout all-round displays of the tournament, crafting a brilliant unbeaten 243 that anchored the innings.



His knock ensured Goa built a decisive lead, supported by valuable lower-order partnerships that kept the pressure firmly on the hosts. The

declaration came on the second morning, with Kasvankar opting to put team tactics above a personal landmark as he remained just seven runs short of 250. Chhattisgarh's second innings began on a shaky note with the early dismissal of opener Balaji Rao. A brief resistance came through a 73-run stand between Yash Kumar

Varda, who top-scored with 46, and Shivam Yadav. Their effort was broken by Shiven Borkar, triggering a slide that saw the side slump to 77 for 4. Captain Vikalp Tiwari and Vedansh Khedia attempted to revive the innings with a determined 75-run partnership, but a run-out halted their momentum at a crucial stage.